THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
VOL. 18 ■ NO. 10 ■ ISSUE NO. 195 ■ November 8, 2003
CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES
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Dialectic of Change Heats Up In Rockridge

Planning the Future of College Avenue:

Retail/Service Mix Focus For November Meeting

by Jessica Pitt

What is the ideal mix of retail shops, offices, services, and residences for the College Avenue business district? Do we want more restaurants on College Avenue? What community services and neighborhood-serving businesses would we like to bring into the neighborhood?

At its General Meeting November 20, the Rockridge Community Planning Council's Land Use Committee will present the results of a land use study that shows the current use of properties along College Avenue. Then, we'll discuss what changes would be needed to make it an ideal business district.

▸ New Mix, page 4

Hallowe'en in Rockridge!

The Big Bad Wolf and the Three Little Pigs, on closer examination, resemble Rockridge's Nelson family as they join other families during RCPC's Hallowe'en Parade. The success of the annual event forced a change in the format for this year's parade. Story, page 3.



City's Zoning Proposal Would Affect Rockridge:

Seeking a Balance Between Owners' And Neighbors' Needs

by Jacqueline Tasch

One of the biggest challenges the city faced in drafting new design review guidelines for one- and two-unit residential structures was "striking a reasonable balance between allowing appropriate development and respecting neighbors' views, solar access, and privacy," City Planner Christopher Buckley told the RCPC General meeting on October 16.

But no one in the audience—and there were many people—spoke out on behalf of home builders or residents seeking to alter existing homes. Instead, Buckley and Residential Design Review Supervisor Ed Manasse heard a number of often emotional arguments on behalf of maintaining neighbors' environment—particularly on the issues of view and solar access.

The new guidelines were prompted by a City Council zoning revision adopted in December 2001 that affects much of North Oakland and all of City Council District 1. Because of this revision, more extensive scrutiny will be given to proposals for new housing.

Buckley said staff who drafted the criteria for the Oakland City Planning Commission a the more objective design review process. With explicit criteria, people planning projects would know what would be expected of their proposals, and consistent results could be achieved. In other words, different staff members would approach different projects using the same measurable criteria.

▸ Design Review, page 4

agenda: RCPC General Meeting

Thursday, November 20, 7:30 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library Community Room
5366 College Avenue at Manila

- **Report on Councilmember Jane Brunner's Livable Communities Grant**
- **College Avenue Development Plan** What vision do you have for College Avenue? Hear the results of an RCPC study of College Avenue businesses and offer your ideas. ▸ See story, top left column, this page.
- **Safety on Claremont** Is crossing Claremont Avenue on foot a problem for you? We'll discuss a plan to reduce traffic from four lanes to three. ▸ See story, page 5.



Around the Neighborhood

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

Walking the Walk: The Kitchen Tour, Schools And Politicians

Imagine that your house has been selected to play a starring role in the Rockridge Kitchen Tour. Knowing that hundreds of people are going to pass through your kitchen that day, you get up early to do some last-minute tidying up. You're still in your pajamas when a few perfect strangers walk right into your kitchen—and without bringing coffee or donuts. The intruders are surprised at your surprise—they thought they were merely getting an early start on the tour.

That's exactly what happened to one participating couple this year. Thinking it would turn away any early birds, the tour directors had posted a "Do Not Knock" sign on everyone's front door early Sunday. These visitors, however, took that to mean they could just come on in. Needless to say, the front door was quickly locked after that, and it wasn't reopened until official tour time.

Fortunately, this was one of the few unplanned events on this year's successful Kitchen Tour (◗ see a full report, page 12). I was among the dozens of volunteers who staffed the tour's nine houses. Late in the day, I greeted visitors at the Locksley house, where they had to wait in line for a few minutes to keep even a very large kitchen from overflowing.

To amuse myself—I can't speak for the waiting visitors—I asked people how much of the route they walked. I was surprised at the number who had walked all or most of it. Nobody had a guess as to how far that might have been. Now, with the authority of mapquest.com, I can tell you that you walked exactly 4.29 miles if you started and ended at College Avenue Presbyterian Church, visiting all the houses in a rough figure 8 looping north and then south. No wonder I was tired.

The distance from College Avenue up Chabot to Chabot Elementary School isn't nearly that far, but dozens of parents and kids walked the whole way, creating the first-ever "walking school bus" at that school. I made the route part of my morning walk on October 8 (International Walk to School Day). Paula De Cristofaro, who organized the event, is hoping to repeat the walking school bus every month. Check the Chabot School website for news (http://www.chabotelementary.org/).

That day, I was impressed by how many fathers were walking their kids to school. A day earlier, making the polling place a stop on my morning walk, I was impressed by the number of young people who waited to vote. My surprise probably has more to do with my stereotypical notions than the real world, but I thought I'd share.

You really can't be an officially certified newspaper columnist without having something to say about the election. I'll say that I've been a big fan of Arnold the Actor since my brother tied me to a chair many years ago and made me watch *The Terminator* on video. I was a devoted fan for a few years, and then my interest waned (while Arnold's girth waxed). Nevertheless, I made time in my schedule this summer to see *Terminator III* and enjoyed it.

Which, of course, says nothing about his qualifications to be governor. I don't agree that a Texas twang is always better than an Austrian brogue or that a long political resume is needed to be qualified for public office. However, Arnold seems to lack grassroots experience. It occurs to me that the RCPC is looking for some new board members (◗ See page 3). If he signed on, Arnold would get some real experience in grassroots politics, and the attendance at General Meetings would soar. We might even turn it into a reality TV show. What do you think?

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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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They came by the threes and tens and twenties to celebrate Hallowe'en.







Heading north along Hudson Street, the ratio of caregiving adults to costumed kids was as much as 3 to 1 in some stretches.

Like some others, this little pumpkin wilted in the sun.

Photos: Jacqueline Tasch

Rockridge Hallowe'en Parade Changes Find Mixed Response

The care and feeding of a successful community event

What kind of community Hallowe'en celebration is right for Rockridge? The RCPC will be discussing that question early in 2004 and invites your ideas and comments.

For several years, RCPC sponsored a parade with trick or treating along College Avenue on the Sunday before Hallowe'en. Rockridge Kids was a cosponsor, and merchants along the Avenue handed out candy and other treats. This year, a different sort of celebration took place, in part because parents hoped to put more emphasis on the parade and less on the candy.

Some Rockridge residents—and some merchants, too—were unhappy with the change. "A Hallowe'en parade with no trick or treating?" wrote Becky Indrio. "What a great way to ruin a successful annual event." Her son, 8-year-old Marco, warned, "If you have a parade without candy, you will have a parade without kids." Both suggested that merchants often hand out pencils or other candy substitutes, providing an alternative for parents who prefer not to have their children collect candy.

In fact, a number of issues besides candy were involved in the decision to change the parade format.

Over the years, the event grew larger and larger, with more than 1,500 people participating, by one estimate. Providing for the safety of so many children—especially when crossing the street—became more and more difficult. There were liability issues for the sponsoring RCPC, but more worrisome was the possibility of injury to one or more Rockridge children. A recent close call made this possibility more real.

The size of the event also required more and more volunteer energy to organize and supervise. This year in particular, volunteers were in short supply, and the event was almost canceled entirely for lack of willing leadership.

If you'd like to participate in the discussion about Hallowe'en plans, please send comments to the Rockridge Community Planning Council, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618.

Also, volunteers will be needed for next year. It's not too soon to step forward.

NOTICE

RCPC Board Has Openings for Rockridge Neighbors

Do you live in the Rockridge community? Are you concerned about traffic, schools, crime, and zoning issues? Are you interested in helping to maintain the great quality of life found in our neighborhood and help lead the community into the future? Then join the RCPC Board of Directors. We currently have openings on the RCPC

RCPC Board Openings, page 5

Costumed Kids, Parents Invade Rockridge

Hundreds of local kids in costumes, accompanied by cadres of grownups, celebrated Halloween on Sunday, October 26, with stories, songs, a parade, and treats in FROGpark.

The festivities began with entertainment at the Rockridge Library, provided by the East Bay Dads: Cliff Reichstaffen, Ken Cluff, and Chad Thompson. The community room quickly filled to capacity. The overflow strained to hear from the lobby outside, straggled down the stairs, and swarmed the sidewalk outside, waiting for the parade to begin.

On the walk up Hudson Street, many of the children were babes in arms and tots in strollers. Furry costumes and full-face masks were less popular on a day that resembled Fourth of July more than Halloween. Adults were in plentiful supply—the ratio in some groups was as much as four or five wannabe kids to one actual child.

At FROGpark families remained to play for quite a while. Albertson's provided cookies, and Dreyer's sent an old-fashioned ice cream truck. Thanks to them and to all these helpful adults who organized, entertained, and cleaned up: Naomi Hatkin, Theresa Nelson, Alice Chegia, Barbara Stewart, Kristin Barr, Carroll Moore, Barney Smits, and Jim Chegia. Maureen Bormolini and Kristi McLeod helped bring us the Boy Scout crossing guards.

Design Review

from page 1

Here's an example. One criterion reads: "A project shall maintain the most significant views from primary living spaces of abutting lots and lots directly across the street to the extent achievable through skillful and considerate site planning and building design."

The draft provides specific definitions of significant views—first priority goes to the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges and the San Francisco skyline—and primary living spaces—with priority going to the main living room or family room.

The solar access criterion calls for minimizing "the loss of solar access to actively used outdoor areas… from shadows cast" and defines a shadow as "the area of shade on the ground or exterior paved surface as determined by a solar study using 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m. on the spring/fall equinox."

While efforts should be made to respect these limitations, Buckley said that a project's height, building width, and other dimensions should not "have to be shrunk more than 20%" from what the zoning regulations would otherwise allow.



Proposed design review changes were intensely discussed at the October meeting.

After hearing an overview of the draft report, members of the audience jumped directly to the outcomes of concern to them. One woman told how, 9 months after she bought her house in Lower Rockridge, the neighbors extended their garage so that it stood just 2-½ feet in front of her kitchen window, blocking out most light. "Isn't light as important indoors as outdoors?" she asked.

Someone else noted that "sunny Craftsman bungalow" is a frequent phrase in classifieds. "Nobody says, 'Wow, I'm moving into a dark house,'" he said.

Whether solar access to interior spaces like kitchens should also be protected had been a "hotly debated internal question," Manasse said, but small Rockridge lots give few design options to expansion-minded owners.

Views were another significant issue, as the views specified in the ordinance are of landmarks like the bridges, the Bay, or Mount Tamalpais. That policy protects only the wealthy, one questioner said: "Seeing grass and trees and blue sky is as important to me as seeing the Golden Gate Bridge is to people in multimillion dollar houses."

Buckley and Manasse pointed out that owners of houses also had rights about how to develop their property, but the rights of neighbors were in the forefront among the audience. One member said people should have "a reasonable expectation that [the neighborhood is] not going to change dramatically." Manassse countered that property owners should have "a reasonable expectation that they have the right to make changes within the allowed building envelope of their property."

Buckley noted that the drafts still need to be adopted by the Planning Commission. Rockridge residents may contact his office to be notified of any proceedings on this issue. He can be reached at 238-6983.

New Mix

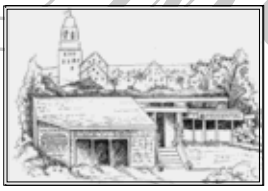
from page 1

This meeting launches a community planning process, providing community members with their first opportunity to help shape a new vision of College Avenue. We will also discuss ways that vision can influence future Rockridge development.

In addition, the RCPC is developing a community guide for neighborhood residents, business owners, and developers to answer frequently-asked questions about new development projects. Come share your questions and concerns so they can be incorporated into the guide; let us know what information would be most helpful.

Attend this important meeting to help determine the future character of the Rockridge business district and to learn ways community members can help shap future development. The meeting is November 20, 7:30 p.m., at the Rockridge Library.

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A Proposal for Taming Claremont Avenue Traffic

by John Potis

Claremont Avenue is one of the few uncongested streets in the Bay Area, but some drivers take advantage of the clear lanes by picking up speed. This makes things difficult for pedestrians, who often have trouble crossing Claremont Avenue at intersections without signals. Making a safe passage across four lanes of traffic takes considerable care, and if cars are speeding in one or more lanes, crossing can feel downright dangerous.

How can Claremont Avenue be made safer for pedestrians without compromising its utility as a thoroughfare? In recent years, residents have asked both Berkeley and Oakland officials to address the dangerous nature of traffic on Claremont Avenue, but no solutions have been implemented. A fresh look at this topic will be part of the November meeting of the Rockridge Community Planning Council.

One proposal suggests reconfiguring Claremont Avenue between College and Telegraph Avenues. The present four lanes would be reduced to three—one in each direction and a center lane for left turns.

The experience of other U.S. communities, including several in California, suggests that this produces results. The four- to three-lane conversion has been successfully implemented on roads with average daily total traffic volume (ADT) of up to 20,000 vehicles. Claremont has an ADT of 12,000.

Safety is generally improved as a result of these projects. With the three-lane configuration, prudent drivers tend to set the average speed of traffic rather than speeders who weave through traffic, pass on the right, and do other dangerous things. In addition, pedestrians have to cross only two lanes of moving cars, instead of four, and the center turn lane acts as a safe area. Motorists entering or leaving Claremont would have better sight lines for oncoming traffic and, like pedestrians, only two lanes of traffic to negotiate.

The change to three lanes would not affect parking, and there would be enough room to add bicycle lanes—a new clearly marked place for cyclists to ride. Bus service—with only one line using the Oakland section of Claremont—should not be affected.

A traffic study would be necessary to implement a conversion from four to three lanes. Such a study might recommend some changes to signal phasing, but the location of traffic signals would not have to be changed.

More details will be provided at the November General Meeting. Here are some links to documents that describe experiences in other cities.

http://www.walkable.org/download/rdiets.pdf *and* http://www.walkable.org/4-3CON%7E1.pdf

RCPC Board Openings

from page 3

board, the nexus of neighborhood concern and decision making in Rockridge. RCPC Board members help guide projects and issues in the neighborhood.

Since 1986, RCPC, a volunteer 501(c) 3 corporation has represented Rockridge to the City of Oakland on issues affecting the community. *The Rockridge News*, Rockridge Library, FROG Park, Rockridge Kitchen Tour, and, most recently, the UnderBART project are products of RCPC involvement.

Board candidates are invited to submit a statement of about 125 words describing why they want to join us. Statements must be received by November 24. The available positions are continuations of existing terms, so no membership vote is required. Candidates will be interviewed at the December Board of Directors meeting, and a decision will then be made. Candidates must be at least 18 years old and reside within RCPC boundaries (a map and boundary description are available online at www.rockridge.org).

Mail statements to: RCPC, 5856 College Avenue, PMB 130, Oakland, CA, 94618, or e-mail RCPC Chair Daniel Ferdelman, danielferdelman@yahoo.com, with "RCPC BOD Candidate" in the subject line. Include your address, telephone number and e-mail in your statement. For further information, call the RCPC voicemail at 644-4228.





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Education Blooms at Peralta School

by Susan Killebrew

As students arrive each morning at Peralta Elementary School, they pass through the 63rd Street and Dana Street entrances along walks lined with penstemon and salvia and terracotta pots spilling over with trailing geraniums.

When kindergartners are dismissed at midday, many share lunch with their parents in the school's courtyard at umbrella-shaded tables nestled among Japanese maples, fuchsia, and princess flower.

And throughout the day children enjoy the most recent addition to the school grounds, a grassy playground knoll featuring an outdoor amphitheater, cobblestone paths, and a delightful picket fence made of giant wooden sunflowers created by Peralta students.

This newest garden, dedicated officially at the Peralta Spring Community Festival last May, is the result of a collaboration involving Peralta staff, students, parents, and members of the community. California Arts Council artist-in-residence Lauren Elder designed the site with input from Peralta students. Funds were provided by Oakland City Council member Jane Brunner's office, the Potrero Nuevo Foundation, and the Peralta Parent Teacher Group. Members of the building and construction trade unions donated their time and skills, and several Bay Area businesses contributed free or discounted materials.

Corn, squash, and pumpkins planted last spring are now being harvested. Students and parents tend Peralta's gardens under the expert guidance of the school's first-grade teacher and master gardener, Calvert Hand.



A view of the new playground garden dedicated last spring, featuring an amphitheater, cobblestone paths, flower and vegetable beds and a wooden sunflower fence created by Peralta students.



Micci Martinez, parent of a Peralta Kindergartner, pruning plants in the courtyard during a Saturday garden work party.

Peralta School Parent Forum

Parents of children who will be attending school next year can learn more about Peralta Elementary School at a parent forum on November 19 at 7 p.m. Parents of currently enrolled students will be available to chat and answer questions. Call the office at 879-1450 to schedule a guided tour of the school. For a more casual look around, the school playground is also open to the public after school and on weekends.

Mr. Hand, who has taught at Peralta for six years, explains, "If we want children to live in a better world, a world of civility in which they will be aware of the finer things in life, we need to provide it for them. We need to teach it and live it."

Science lessons developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science teach children how to classify plants and investigate their growth cycles. In social studies, students explore agricultural topics as part of both Native American and Black History studies. Japanese indigo planted this fall will make fabric dye for textile arts projects in the spring.

Further expansion of Peralta's gardens is planned, with a focus on creating four new trellised entrances. To dig in and contribute time or resources to Peralta's gardening program, contact Peralta parent Nancy Carlysle at 655-0492.

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News From the Rockridge Library

by Marilyn Citron and Patricia Lichter

A New Reference Librarian

Linda Jolivet has joined the reference staff at the Rockridge Library, filling a long-vacant librarian position. Linda recently served as reference librarian for the African American Museum and Library at Oakland (AAMLO) and has also managed the Eastmont and Brookfield branches.

Before coming to the Oakland Public Library, Linda served as media services and reference librarian at St. Mary's College in Moraga and as librarian for the educational curriculum and Media Center at Kentucky State University. A graduate of Berkeley High School, she has a BA in art education, and received a Masters in library and information studies from the University of California at Berkeley in 1988.

Look for Linda at the reference desk and say hello.

A Successful Party

On Monday October 20, the Friends of the Rockridge Library hosted their first donor appreciation party at the Rockridge Library. This small and intimate gathering brought together the library staff, FORL Board members, and library donors. We want to thank everyone who attended and the community-supporting retailers who provided treats: Katrina Rozelle Pastries, 5931 College Avenue, Peet's Coffee, 2916 Domingo Avenue, Berkeley, and Rosenblum Cellars Winery, 2900 Main Street, Alameda.

Our next donor appreciation event will be held in the spring. Read *The Rockridge News* for details.

Adopt-A-Magazine

FORL is excited to announce a new Adopt-A-Magazine program at the library. Due to extensive budget cuts, many magazine subscriptions will not be renewed. Library patrons may adopt a magazine for the Rockridge Library to ensure that those magazines will be on the shelves next year.

Contact the library staff at the branch to learn how you can participate in this tax-deductible contribution.

Assistant DA to Discuss Crime Reduction at NCPC Town Hall

One of the Oakland Police Department's strongest allies in the fight against crime is the district attorney's office, which prosecutes the people the police arrest. Assistant District Attorney Russ Giuntini, with 25 years of experience in the justice system, will be the guest speaker at the November 18 Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Town Hall. He will speak about crime reduction efforts in Oakland.

Giuntini has a long list of credits in the field of crime reduction. He was Senior Deputy District Attorney in charge of the Major Narcotic Prosecution Unit from 1988 to June 1999. He has worked directly with community policing organizations (NCPCs) for the last 12 years and is the originator and contributing author of numerous crime reduction strategies, one of which is Oakland's recent Nuisance Abatement Ordinance, which permits law officers to confiscate vehicles of people who buy controlled substances in Oakland.

On the crime prevention side, Giuntini helped revamp the mentor diversion program to include high tech and pre-apprenticeship training in its educational program for 18- to 24-year-old nonviolent first-time drug sellers. In 2003, he authored a parolee initiative that is designed to curb the homicide rate in Oakland. It rewards academic and vocational achievement while establishing curfews and placing stay-away orders from areas with high homicide rates.

The Thursday, November 18 Town Hall will begin at 6:45pm with light refreshments in the upstairs community room of the Rockridge Library, 5366 College Avenue. Following the speaker's remarks, audience members will have a chance to ask questions. Please join us!

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2 Ross Circle	2/2	$895,000	$895,000	10/06/2003
5212 Desmond	2+/1	$529,000	$590,000	10/09/2003
5673 Keith	4/2	$725,000	$825,000	10/09/2003
5457 Broadway	2+/1	$489,000	$625,000	10/10/2003
5644 Oak Grove	3/1	$900,000	$850,000	10/14/2003
6080 Ocean View	3/1	$759,000	$730,000	10/15/2003

In October, homes in Rockridge sold for an average of $440 per square foot. These homes sold within an average marketing time of 22 days.

If you're thinking of buying or selling, give me a call for a free consultation.

Standing Room Only for Brunner Meeting on Crime

by Claire Wahrhaftig-Isaacs

North Oakland has seen 12 homicides this year compared to four last year. Domestic violence has increased 16% and auto burglary by 24%.

While North Oakland extends beyond the boundaries of Rockridge—and most crime in Rockridge involves burglary or theft—rising crime is a concern for many area residents. As a result, an overflow crowd turned out to hear Councilmember Jane Brunner and leaders of the Oakland Police Department (OPD) discuss strategies for reversing that trend. Those who attended the October 4 meeting at Peralta Elementary School had the chance to ask questions on the most urgent issues and to get some candid answers.

Police Chief Richard Word, Lt. Lawrence Green of Criminal Investigations, and other officers were on hand to present information about police procedures and organization, answer questions, and lead small discussion groups.

"I'm not an expert on police, but you can become an expert fast," Councilwoman Brunner said, as she opened the meeting. She praised Lt. Green, police service area commander for North Oakland, for his "incredible" effort "working with us, communicating with us, and telling us the truth." However, she also complained that she has yet to receive an OPD plan for North Oakland despite her repeated requests.

Brunner and her staff have set to work in recent months investigating "what works and what doesn't in other cities across America", she said. Some useful tactics in such cities as Boston, Kansas City, and Indianapolis include: Directing patrols to "hot spots" where crime is frequent; making proactive arrests of serious, repeat offenders; getting guns off the streets; paying attention to high-risk youth; enforcing traffic and drunk driving laws; holding door-to-door meetings with the community; fostering a sense of police legitimacy and public confidence in police.

"A legitimate police institution fosters more widespread obedience of law," Brunner said. She described an effective program in Boston that works with high-risk youth through age 24, especially those who are drug dependent. That federally funded project was a collaboration of police, churches, probation officers, nonprofit groups, and social workers.

Chief Word said that police crackdowns in North Oakland hot spots—on Shattuck, 40th and Telegraph, and San Pablo—have reduced but not eliminated crime. Crime emanates outward from these spots and is

Crime, page 9

Local Crime Facts and Figures at Your Fingertips

Until a few months ago *The Rockridge News* published crime reports and statistics for our neighborhood. We searched in vain for someone to replace the departing volunteer who spent many hours each month assembling those reports from the published data base. Fortunately, the crime statistics can now be accessed from the Internet, and the site is extremely user friendly. Go to www.oaklandnet.com. Under Website Highlights on the right-hand side, click on Crime Watch II.

You will need to specify crimes and dates, as well as an area. Zip code 94618 covers most of Rockridge. You may also use a police beat. The Rockridge neighborhood is roughly similar to the 12Y beat. Beat 11X is to the west, beat 12X is to the south, and 13X is to the east.

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Crime

from page 8

not confined to them, Chief Word said: Forceful approaches there can reduce crime citywide. Oakland's Operation Cease Fire is targeted at drug dealers and others who sell guns illegally.

Some quiet gasps greeted Word's assessment, based on national statistics, that some familiar types of community policing may not be much help. For example, he said neighborhood watch groups do little to prevent crime because they are generally not located in high crime districts. Community meetings about crime are equally ineffective, Chief Word said, unless they focus on specific problems such as local hot spots. The principal effect of storefront police and police newsletters is to comfort the worried.



What does work is door-to-door meetings with individuals at their homes and businesses, Chief Word said.

Operation Impact, in which CHP and Alameda County Sheriff's Department officers have supplemented the OPD ranks, has helped to cool things down in Oakland, he said, but this is not a permanent program. A new ballot measure is being prepared that would provide additional officers and a seismically sound police facility.

Lt. Green said that North Oakland has the best Crime Reduction Team (CRT) in the city. Its leader, Sgt. Darren Allison, has a background in narcotics enforcement.

Small groups were still discussing crime issues—including crime in lower Rockridge, walking to BART, and door-to-door scamming—long after the meeting officially ended.

ROCKRIDGE'S BOUNDARIES are Woolsey and Alcatraz on the north; Telegraph, Colby and Claremont on the west; 51st Street and Broadway Terrace on the south; and Tunnel Road on the east. That places it in the northeast corner of North Oakland, or Council District 1, which extends from the Berkeley border to MacArthur Boulevard and from the Oakland Hills to Emeryville.

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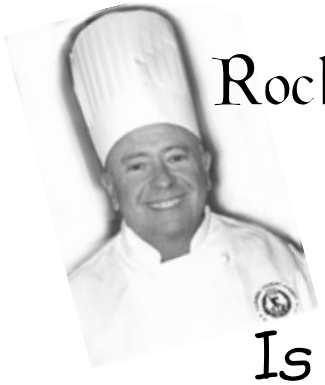
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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Is It Soup Yet?

As a child, other than the traditional Friday night chicken soup, the only other soup I had was out of a Campbell's can. While in elementary school, when I came home for lunch, my mother opened up a different can of Campbell's soup — chicken noodle, vegetable, tomato, cream of mushroom, alphabet, or chicken rice. If it was Wednesday, it had to be cream of mushroom soup. My mother's pantry was like the Andy Warhol Campbell's Soup painting. The cans were lined up for each day of the week. By my early 20s I learned about Progresso soups. No need to add a can of water to these soups. Right out of the can — just heat and serve.

By the late '60s, my diet changed to brown rice, tofu, and the recipes of Mollie Katzen, author of the *Moosewood Cookbook* and the *Enchanted Broccoli Forest.* I will never forget the first time I made potato leek soup. A whole new world was opened up to me. From potato leek it was on to curry pumpkin and black bean soup. By the mid '70s, soup became the mainstay of my culinary repertoire. Goodbye Campbell's, hello homemade soup.

A soup can be any combination of vegetables, meat, or fish cooked in a liquid. A soup can be thick, like a gumbo, thin such a consommé, smooth as in a bisque or chunky as found in a chowder or bouillabaisse. Although most soups are hot, some like vichyssoise and gazpacho are served cold. Because of the peasant origins of most soups, every locale or ethnic group has an identified soup — French onion soup, Italian minestrone, Boston clam chowder, Indian mulligatawny, Mexican menudo, Russian borscht, Romanian cabbage, or Vietnamese Pho to name a few.

Most soups have four essential components: aromatic vegetables, stock, seasonings, and main ingredients. Every good soup starts with first sautéing one or more aromatic vegetables. Aromatics are various plants or herbs that impart a distinctive fragrance and flavor to food. Aromatics include onions, garlic, carrots, celery, green peppers, ginger, or leeks. Once the aromatics have been sautéed you add stock. Depending on the main ingredient, you can use chicken, beef, fish, vegetable stock or even water. For a quick soup, I use canned stock. However, for special occasions nothing beats rich home made stock. The Pasta Shop carries frozen chicken and beef stock. Standard soup seasonings include thyme, sage, savory, or tarragon. You should always use fresh herbs. The main soup ingredient can be nearly any vegetable or combination of vegetables you like. For a chunky soup, simply simmer coarsely chopped vegetables until soft and for a smooth soup puree in a blender.

The following recipe is the simplest and most delicious soup you can make. Every time I serve it, my guests want to know the recipe. When I tell them, they look at me and say, "That's it?" Yes, that's it!

Roman Egg Drop Soup

(serves 6)

Ingredients

- 3 eggs
- ½ cup grated Parmigiano cheese
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 3 cups of washed spinach cut into ½-inch strips
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions.

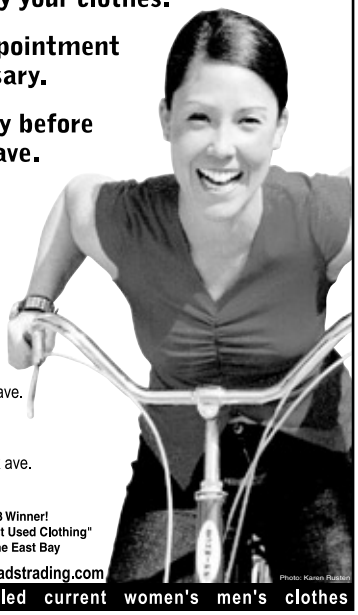
1. In a small bowl beat eggs. Beat in cheese and set aside
2. In a saucepan, bring chicken broth to a boil. Stir in spinach and cook about a minute
3. Slowly add egg mixture in a thin stream into soup, stirring constantly to break into thin ribbons. Adjust seasoning to taste. Serve while hot with garlic bread and a green salad

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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It's Holiday Open Studios in Rockridge on December 6 and 7!

The Rockridge Muse

by Ortrun Niesar

Ann Daniels is inviting you to her house. So are Liz Maxwell, and Darrill Tighe, and Nagisa Yamamoto and many more artists living in Rockridge. It's Holiday Open Studios, a great time to pay a visit to the many artists living among us, creating images and objects of great beauty, functionality and meaning. On Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7, from 12 to 5 P.M., they will be waiting for you in their homes or studios—often they are one and the same—with their latest works in a variety of mediums and materials. Come spend a leisurely afternoon experiencing their work and their environment. Take your time, sip a glass of wine, and savor the energy and beauty of what you see before you. And do purchase something if you are so moved. No need to be shy about it. There is no greater honor you could do artists than to tell them that you admire the work and that you would like to purchase a piece. Further, you will find that much of what is being offered is reasonably priced. If the price is indeed too steep, see if the artist won't work out a payment plan for you. Everything in this world — except death and taxes — is negotiable.

Meet Ann Daniels

Ann Daniels is an artist who bends silver wire to shape carefully calibrated assemblages of semi precious stones into handsome pieces of jewelry. She sits at her dining room table surrounded by boxes and boxes of beads ranging from brightly colored glass baubles to exotic



quartzes, pearls and semi-precious stones that she has gathered from all over the world. Her fingers are callused like a guitar player's from bending semi-hard silver wire to her vision; she doesn't like to use tools. Ann takes pride in using quality sterling silver and making sturdy clasps and closures for her necklaces by hand. Eventually, her walls are covered with exquisite earrings, bracelets and necklaces to be admired by her family and friends. Dreamy? No, mysterious are these lovely pieces, reminiscent of far away galaxies or energized nano particles.

Color harmonies play an important role in this experience, but as we all know, these happen to be very personal. Can't find the right color harmony for you? Talk with the artist and she will create a piece just for you. That's just one of the advantages you have when you buy directly from the artist. And, what's more, you'll have a wonderful story to tell.



And Many More Artists

Here is this year's list of artists offering everything from paintings and sculpture to handmade jewelry, toys and clothing. Each piece is unique, made even more so because you will have met the maker. Too shy to barge into someone's home unprepared? There will be an exhibition of examples of many of the artists' work at the Rockridge Library through the entire month of November. Maps and postcards will be available there to help you plan your own studio tour. Take a couple of friends with you and walk or bicycle if you can. Cheers!

J.P. Andrews 365 61st Street
— *Photography*

Carol Aust 655 63rd Street
— *Figurative paintings*

Chris Barrett 6525 Chabot Road
— *Painted glass/hand built ceramics*

Ann Daniels 5599 Lawton Avenue
— *Unique wirework jewelry*

Karen LeGault 5233 Locksley
— *East/West fusion watercolors*

Linda Lemon 5524 Vicente Way
— *Mixed media, collages, cards*

Liz Maxwell 5808 Chabot Road
— *Paintings, prints, sculpture*

Githinji Mibire 5327 Dover @54th
— *Painting*

Darrill Tighe 6441 Colby Street
— *Watercolor on paper*

Gayle Roberts 6525 Chabot Road
— *Wheel-thrown functional Stoneware*

Siobhan VanWinkle 6371 Telegraph
— *Dolls/hats/clothes*

Tudi Wehrman 6525 Chabot Road
— *Fused glass, ceramics*

Janet Welch 6525 Chabot Road
— *Decorative ceramics*

Nagisa Yamamoto 5533 Taft Avenue
— *Art-to-Wear for kids & adults*

Joanne Yeaton 2733 Alcatraz
— *Paintings, prints*

Illustrations:

◖ Far left, bottom: *Yellow Bell and Red Chili Peppers*
Watercolor; 12"x16"
— Karen LeGault

◓ Above, center column, and right: ◗ *Art-to-Wear for Kids and Adults*
— Nagisa Yamamoto
(Top) Assortment, hats and vest; (Right) Jacketjoy



"Celebrate Rockridge" a Triumph: RCPC Kitchen Tour Highlights the Day

by Susan Montauk, Tour Co-Chair
Deborah Larson, Tour Co-Chair

Drawn by the Celebrate Rockridge festival on September 28, Rockridge residents of every age—from seniors to babies in strollers—swelled the usual Sunday crowds on College Avenue to eat, shop, dance, and make merry. Among them were more than 850 individuals who attended the fifth biennial Rockridge Kitchen Tour. This was the first year that the Kitchen Tour combined forces with the Rockridge District Association to produce this all-Rockridge event, and the results were felicitous for all involved.

Families strolled balloon-festooned College Avenue from 11am to 5pm, stopping along the way to listen and dance to the various jazz and rock bands while the children were entertained by clowns, stilt walkers, face painters, and the Zoomobile. College Avenue merchants opened wide their doors, merchandise spilling onto tables set out on the curbs. Cooking demonstrations and lectures were held al fresco, and tasty treats were served along with music on Shafter Avenue alongside Market Hall.

From 1 to 5:30pm, Rockridge Kitchen Tour guests followed their tour guide maps to nine Craftsman, Victorian, and contemporary homes spread throughout the Rockridge neighborhood. Highlights of the tour included the blue, green, and red motif of the Margarido kitchen of Jim and Brenda Given--the three colors are repeated throughout the kitchen, in the glass pulls, the hanging lamps, and the stain of selected maple cabinet doors. At the Regent Street house of Chris and Rick Frost, the cherry wood-framed cabinets with curly maple inserts and ebony pulls were a favorite. Tour guests loved the sea green Brazilian slate counters at the kitchen of Michael Tompkins and Luann DeVoss and the open-hearth cooking fireplace and zinc counters in the Locksley kitchen of Kate Elder and John Barth.

Many homeowners, architects, and designers were on site to answer questions, and when they slipped out to visit the other kitchens, enthusiastic docents took over to provide tour guests with interesting anecdotes and valuable information about the kitchen construction process. Astute tour attendees took notes and walked away with a long list of creative ideas for their own future kitchen renovation projects.

K-Tour Outcome, page 13

RCPC thanks all those who made the RCPC 2003 Kitchen Tour event possible.

Home Owners: Lisa Aliferis & John Storella, Kate Elder & John Barth, Luann DeVoss & Michael Tompkins, Chris & Rick Frost, Brenda & Jim Given, Barbara & Bill Houston, Judith Paquette, Rhonda Righter & Edward Lee, Susan Shawl.

Planners: Natalie Mehta (tour co-chair), Maureen Alano, Connie Calica, Brian Deans, Gail Durkin, Jo Ellis, Sally Fitzhugh, Ahroon Henderson, Claire Isaacs, Don Kinkead, Marilyn Mansfield, Susan Merrell, Jane Meyer, Nancy Sale

Docents: Haig Agigian, Fatima Ali, Edith Allgood, Claire Bristo, Trisha Buresh, Karen Cilman, Lynn Crosby, Sherry Davis, Patrick Doyle, Anne Emerick, Sue Emmons, Lenora Frazier, Bill Garcia, Kathy Garcia, John Gomes, Anne Hellman, Claire Issacs, Diane Jacobson, Barbara Kline, Terry Kulka, Sally Lappen, Lisa Levitt, Melly Levy, Barbara Littwin, Gloria Martin, Paul Martin, Jeannine Miles, Norma Miller, Sharon Miller, Nancy Morton, Annette Oliveira, Chris Orr, Mark Ringer, Kelda Rinklieb, Adela Rose, Mark Sgarzi, Nan Shorten, Cheri Smith, Virginia Sorgi, Lisa Spearman, Carol Strickman, Carol Studier, Gail Sullivan, Jacqueline Tasch

Poster Underwriter: Ron Kriss

Ticket Sales: Maison d'Etre/Fred Womack, Rockridge Realty/Jan Fougner

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K-Tour Outcome

from page 12

The tour raffle included gift certificates from College Avenue shops; lucky winners will have the opportunity to dine at many of the Avenue's outstanding restaurants or select treats at various food shops and gifts at home decoration shops. Both the raffle and the tour benefit the Rockridge Community Planning Council, the nonprofit 501(c)3 that represents the Rockridge community on matters of land use and building design, parks and open spaces, traffic and pedestrian safety, and schools.

RCPC has published *The Rockridge News* since 1985. Past RCPC donations have gone to FROGPark, the community service project of North Oakland Community Charter School, the Lower Rockridge Parents Association, the Locksley Gardens project, and restoration of the Oceanus mural on Claremont Avenue. RCPC will be planning for future project support in the coming months.

Aphids Slime Rockridge Cars and Sidewalks; Neighbors Seek Solutions

by Theresa Nelson

Sticky goo was found on cars and sidewalks in much of lower Rockridge this fall, leaving residents to wonder where it came from and—more important—how to stop it.

Daniel Gallagher, a city tree supervisor, had answers to both questions. The sappy substance, called "honeydew," was caused by aphids infesting the Chinese hackberry trees along many local streets. Like most insects, Gallagher says, these aphids have a life cycle, and producing honeydew is part of the adult phase.

How to fix the problem was a tougher question. Although the City of Oakland planted the trees, it can't do much about the aphids because of its moratorium on the use of pesticide sprays. However, Gallagher noted that property owners can use pesticides. However, they may also kill the natural predators that attack aphids.



The natural by product of aphids in Rockridge has soiled local sidewalks and cars. Pictured above, *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae*, the "Plum Aphid," is typical of the species.

Materials distributed by the city's Parks and Recreation Department recommend spraying the trees with a strong stream of plain water or with insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils. You can also purchase aphid predators, including lady bugs and lacewings, and release them at the site of the infestation.

Although they make a mess of the neighborhood, even large infestation of aphids don't seem to harm the trees themselves. The best news is that Chinese hackberry trees are deciduous. They lose their leaves right about now, and the aphids will disappear with them.

Of course, they may return with new leaves in the spring….

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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

First Saturday each month, 10am to noon. Peralta Elementary School: 460 63rd St. (parking on Alcatraz Ave., just east of Telegraph). **NOTE**: no meeting in November. • **December 6 meeting** topic: "What Makes a Great Neighborhood?" With noted city planner Peter Calthorpe. More information: 238-7001 or www.oaklandnet.com.

Oakland City Council Meeting

Every Tuesday, 7pm, City Hall.

Oakland Planning Commission

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

The Greater Rockridge N'hood Crime Prevention Council

NCPC Town Hall Tuesday, November 18, 6:45-8:30pm at the Rockridge Library. Alameda County Assistant District Attorney Russ Giuntini will speak about crime reduction and the justice system. (◗ See article, page 7.) For more information see the NCPC webpage link at www.rockridge.org.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017.

For Children:

- **Toddler Story Time**, Saturday, 10:30am: 11/8, 12/6.
- **Pre-School Story Hours**, Wednesday, 10:30 & 11am: 11/5, 11/19, 12/3.
- **Pajama Story Time**, Tuesday, 7pm: 11/25, 12/9.

Special Event: Saturday, 11/15

Children's Book Week: "Go Places, Read!" Storyteller and workshop on at-home learning activities. Special prizes, free book and snacks. Call Erica or Gay at 597-5017 for starting time.

For Young Adults:

- Teen Hip-Hop Workshops for 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.

Special Event: Saturday, 11/15 from 1-3:30pm. "Writing from the Soul": Free workshop with Suzanne West, M.A., Chair of the Dept. of Liberal Arts, JFK University. Space limited to 25. Please call by Thursday, 11/13, to sign up.

New Library Hours
Tuesday: 12:30 to 8pm
Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday: 10am to 5:30pm
Friday: 12 to 5:30pm
Closed: Sunday and Monday.
NOTE: CLOSED 11/11 for Veterans Day, 11/27 and 11/28 for Thanksgiving.
As part of City-wide furlough, all libraries may be closed Wednesday, 11/26. 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

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/)Info: 482-0265 or Writefox@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, 11/9, 3pm, Apogee Press Publication Party: new books of poetry by local poets.
- Monday, 11/10, 7:30pm, Amnesty International monthly meeting.
- Wednesday, 11/12, 7:30pm, John Isles: Ark, (poetry) and Ryan Harty: *Bring Me Your Saddest Arizona*, (short stories).
- Thursday, 11/13, 7:30pm, Meredith Maran: *Dirty: A Search for Answers Inside America's Teenage Drug Epidemic*. Book proceeds benefit Bay Area Community Resources.
- Sunday, 11/16, 4pm, Pamela Cranston: *The Madonna Murders*. Publication Party.
- Wednesday, 11/19, 7:30pm, Edward Docx: *The Calligrapher*.
- Sunday, 11/23, 2pm, Victor Lavalle: *The Ecstatic*.
- Sunday, 12/7, 2pm, Poetry reading by students of Elizabeth Robinson's Poetry Writing Class at California College of the Arts.
- Sunday, 12/7, noon to 5pm, Amnesty International: Celebrating International Human Rights Day with a letter-writing campaign at the store.

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 $2. Info: upcoming field trips and special programs: Kathy, 531-6724.

North Oakland Multi-Purpose Senior Center

5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Center Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:45am to 4:45pm. Variety of computer classes, workshops, educational/social events, walking groups and field trips.

NEW: Massage services, Monday and Wednesday. Call for appointment.

Special Lunch Event: November 12, 12noon. For 60+. Meet City Atty. John Russo and hear his Community Report Card. Call 597-5085 for a reservation.

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 for 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.

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. Hotline shifts Mon-Fri, 9am-12pm and 1-4pm. 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. Orientation and training for new volunteers. Help with childcare, homework, mentoring, field trips and house chores. 658-1380, ext.4, or e-mail volunteer@oakehouse.org
- **Oakland Parents Literacy Project**: Community Activists for Reading Excellence (CARE) program. Volunteer one day or evening per month, at a School Clean Up or a Family Reading Night. As the premier literacy program in the district, 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. George Willcoxon, Program Director: 889-5903 or www.oplp.org.
- **Bambino Thrift Shop**: All Volunteer Shop Benefiting OaklandChildren's Hospital, 5920 College Ave. Volunteers needed Tuesdays through Saturdays. We will train you to help with pricing, selling and merchandise display. Call manager, Carol Maes: 654-9709.

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