THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
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CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES
Sponsored by The Rockridge Community Planning Council • 5245 College Ave. PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94618 • 644-4228

City Fire Assessment District Coming to Parts of Rockridge

Should there be a new fire assessment district in Oakland? Many Rockridge property owners, both residential and commercial, have recently received mail-in ballots from the City of Oakland to vote on this question. Most property owners would be assessed $65 per year under the new district, which would raise about $1.8 million per year. Only property owners are allowed to vote. If a majority vote in favor, the district will be created.

Most of the proposed district lies east of Highways 13 and 580, but substantial parts lie to the west. Longer-term residents of Rockridge are still acutely aware that many homes south of Highway 24 near Lake Temescal and west of Highway 13 burned to the ground in the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire.

In Rockridge, most areas east of the Broadway-College intersection and extending to Highway 13 are included, as is much of Rockridge east of College Avenue and north of Highway 24.

Projects to be undertaken by the new district would include vegetation removal by city and private crews to reduce fire hazards, goat grazing to reduce excess brush, and roving fire patrols during high fire hazard days. In addition, supplemental yard waste removal, inspection of private property for fire hazards,

▸ FIRE DISTRICT, PAGE 8

PostMark Temescal 94609

Historic site at 49th Street and Telegraph Avenue dedicated

by Claire Isaacs-Wahrhaftig

Where 49th Street converges with Telegraph and Shattuck avenues, Temescal Plaza was once the final stop of a railroad that shipped local produce far and wide. Nearby, Italian stonemasons who helped build the University of California had their homes.

This history—and more—is recalled in PostMark Temescal, a public art project and interpretive site that brightens the entrance to the Post Office many Rockridge residents frequent and adds a colorful rest area to the adjoining commercial strip. A circular bench displays important sites in Temescal. Its sides are ringed with photographs of scenes old and new, and personalities past and present, who have contributed to the community's vitality. Alongside is a sidewalk "creek" with a concrete bridge and a green metal sculpture illustrating the watershed.

▸ POSTMARK, PAGE 8



PHOTO: CLAIRE ISAACS

Remi Rubel and Jeff Norman cut cake to celebrate the Postmark Temescal dedication.

Newsletter Seeks New Editor

Imagine yourself in charge of *The Rockridge News*, the most widely read source of news about Rockridge. Every month, you talk to interesting people who are excited about their community and working to make it better. You get to use your creative energies writing stories and your people skills helping other staff members do their very best.



And when it's over, you have the satisfaction of knowing your neighbors — maybe 10,000 of them — are reading your work. You're an integral part of one of the most active community organizations in the Bay Area.

This tantalizing opportunity awaits: You could be editor of *The Rockridge News*!

Working with the Rockridge Community Planning Council and a small volunteer staff, the editor identifies important community stories and helps to bring them to every household in the neighborhood once a month, except for August. Duties include assigning, editing, and writing stories, assembling photographs, and working with the designer to make every issue the best it can be. Some editors also have served on the board of the RCPC.

The editor must be a Rockridge resident. Polished writing and editing skills, an understanding of journalistic style, the ability to manage volunteers, and familiarity with Microsoft Word are highly desirable. A modest stipend is provided.

Early next year, the 200th issue of *The Rockridge News* will go to press. That's 18 years as the neighborhood's premier source of information. *The Rockridge News* is hand-delivered to 5,000 households—that's how important we think it is.

If you agree and would like to contribute to the newsletter's stellar record, please send a note and resumé to Daniel Ferdelman, RCPC Chair, 5245 College Avenue PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618 or e-mail Dan at danielferdelman@yahoo.com.

RCPC General Meeting

NO MEETING in December.
NEXT meeting: January 15, 2004





Around the Neighborhood

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

To Every Season There is a Thing

This year, there will be no Christmas in *The Rockridge News.* Except for this one mention—for the sake of clarity—the upcoming period in late December will be referred to as a holiday: as in holiday shopping, holiday parties, and happy holiday.

The idea is that we should avoid giving offense to readers who practice religions that do not celebrate C_____ or who practice no religion at all. Not offending readers is a worthy goal, and I'm happy to do anything that will help us achieve it.

Since we reached this decision, I've been watching other media to see what they're doing, and I certainly do hear and see a lot of the word *holiday*, even from a local church, which is offering concerts of holiday music. Will the concerts feature holiday carols, I wonder? Will "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays" replace "I'll Be Home for C_____ " on the program? Will the choir be "dreaming of a white holiday?"

Whatever you call it, C_____ has established itself as a central part of America's cultural environment, which now embraces people of many diverse cultures, not all of them Christian. I'm not sure, however, whether that's a triumph of religious or capitalistic fervor.

Not long ago, I went looking for a small manger scene to put on my mantle and found nothing at any of the major retail outlets. There were snowmen and Santa Clauses and candy canes and even Grinches, but no sign of the person whose birthday we are theoretically celebrating. My first greeting card at this time of year is always from a Jewish friend who keeps two sets of dishes in her cupboards, for keeping kosher, but occasionally also has a holiday tree.

It seems to me that the menu of ways to celebrate this holiday has become quite extensive. The religious character of the day is a relatively small—and noncompulsory—part of the celebration. I have to wonder if we can't respect our differences without turning to bland generic language.

A Change of View

Astute readers of this issue's front page will have surmised that I am about to leave my position as editor of *The Rockridge News.* I have not developed a sudden allergy to printer's ink or quarreled with the publishers. Putting this newsletter together every month takes a great deal of time, and I've simply decided that I would like to have some of that time for other interests.

Newspapers tend to reflect the attitudes and interests of their editors, even when they're meeting all the usual standards of journalistic objectivity. Changing the leadership of *The Rockridge News*, then, is an opportunity to take a fresh look at the neighborhood.

You'll recall that I was new to Rockridge when I took this job a little more than a year ago—I didn't know much about Rockridge, but I was certainly enchanted by the place. Today, I know a lot more about Rockridge, and I'm still enchanted.

I want to thank all the folks who've taken time to talk with me in my quest to put together a monthly column and news stories. Special kudos go to the crew who wrote stories and put up with my editing, and especially to Mr. Kinkead, who remains the steady beat at the heart of this enterprise.

Stepping down as editor is not the same as fleeing headlong from all contact. There's much more I'd like to learn about this neighborhood, and I look forward to sharing it with you on these pages.

I'm not leaving the neighborhood, as some have guessed. You may still run into me shopping on College Avenue or taking a walk. I'll still say hello. I may even say Merry—ooops.

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

Library details: See Calendar, page 15.

The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded in 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly in Oakland and is sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council, a non-profit public benefit organization founded to: preserve and enhance the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood; promote the health, safety and quality of life of its residents; furnish a forum for community involvement, and provide leadership and representation of neighborhood interests.

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Jacqueline Tasch.....Editor-in-Chief
Ortrun Niesar, Claire Isaacs...Writers
Barry Kaufman.....Food
Jo Ellis.....Calendar
Theresa Nelson.....Neighborhood Merchant
Lydia Gans.....Photography
Lauri Scharber.....Advertising
Susan Montauk.....Business Manager
Don Kinkead.....Graphics & Layout
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Contacting *The Rockridge News*

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

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

Editor: jatasch@mindspring.com
www.rockridge.org
The Rockridge News, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618
RCPC Voicemail: 644-4228

Newsletter Advertising/Deadlines

Publication date of the next issue is
☛ **January 3, 2003**
☛ **January deadline is December 11**

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.)*

City Makes False Alarms Costly

by Jacqueline Tasch

It would take 14 full-time police officers just to respond to the 34,000 or so false alarms referred to the Oakland Police Department (OPD) each year by companies that provide alarm services to commercial and residential customers in the city. That costs more than $1.6 million each year.

"We spend a lot of taxpayer money on what's really a very selective population," says Deputy Chief Michael Holland, who is in charge of setting up a new program of fees and fines related to alarm systems. "The companies install equipment, get an electronic signal, and make a phone call. It's the Oakland police who go to the scene."

If your home or business is protected by an alarm system, you may have already received a bill for initial fees, which were approved by the City Council a few months ago. These are $35 per year for commercial users and $25 per year for homeowners. If OPD is able to generate the bills in time, your initial payment will be somewhat larger, with a prorated amount for 2003 and a full payment for 2004. In coming years, annual renewal notices will be issued.

However, the largest income related to the new ordinance is expected to come from fines for false alarms. One false alarm per year will generate a no-cost response. The second false alarm will cost $100, the third $200, and every one after that $300. "We'll keep responding," said Holland, "but it's going to get really expensive."

The new system is expected to generate as much as $2 million in the first year, Holland says, with revenues declining as false alarms do. Holland estimates that only 1% of the alarms issued in Oakland actually involve an intruder. Some others are due to faulty mechanisms, but many are due to owner lapses. As Holland puts it, "Somebody failed to close the front door in time."

Oakland is not alone in deciding that "the folks getting the service need to help underwrite the cost of the service," Holland says. Most cities have set up fees and fines or are considering doing so.

Keith Buerke of All-Guard Alarm Systems, who is president of the East Bay Alarm Association, believes that Oakland's plan, which the association helped to draft, provides an excellent model. "It's an ordinance unlike any ordinance in the country," he says.

In fact, some cities have adopted a policy in which police do not respond to alarms unless someone at the site verifies that a crime is in progress or has occurred. When police in Salt Lake City followed such a policy and limited their rense to alarms, burglaries increased by 15% to 29%. This suggests that alarms and police response help to reduce crime.

"We wouldn't exist if we didn't offer a deterrent," said Graham Westphal, President of Bay Alarm Company, a major Oakland provider. While he supports the Oakland ordinance, Westphal notes that many companies already take steps to reduce false alarms. At Bay Alarm, for example, service technicians are available around the clock to handle technical issues, and two people, often neighbors, are called to verify that an alarm is not accidental before the police are dispatched. "We make a significant effort," said Westphal. "Now all companies will have to be responsible."

Alarm companies have been asked to provide the city

▸ ALARMS, PAGE 8

Community Can Play a Role in Prosecuting Offenders

by Susan Montauk, NCPC Member

About 8,500 felonies were committed in the East Bay last year, the bulk of them in Oakland. However, only just over 100 cases came to trial. As the television series Law and Order advises us, the police are only half of the criminal justice system. It's the prosecutors who are responsible for taking criminal charges to trial, getting convictions, and sending dangerous offenders to prison.

Deputy District Attorney Russ Giuntini, who leads a staff of prosecutors in Alameda County, told a rapt audience at the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Town Hall on November 18 how the community can work with prosecutors as well as police.

To help in the prosecution of offenders, members of the community can write letters, and they can testify in court. Giuntini explained that criminal defense attorneys often argue that their clients have made a first mistake and aren't likely to repeat it. With solid testimony from community members about a pattern of criminal behavior, the DA can rebut defense counsel's claims.

About 40% of homicide offenders and victims are parolees, Giuntini said. Many people on probation for felonies don't have to report to a probation officer. He strongly advised people who are victims of crimes to check with the county probation office to find out if the person charged in their case is on parole. Perpetrators who are on parole for similar offenses may be sent to prison for violating their parole if they are arrested. In addition, prior offenses add time to their sentences.

With the help of the police department, communities can implement another very effective crime prevention measure, Giuntini said. In cases of repeat offenses by one person in a single neighborhood, the community can work with police to obtain a stay-away order. One Oakland neighborhood group was successful in sending a drug dealer away for 90 days after he violated a stay-away order.

Giuntini was most passionate about the need to redirect juvenile offenders before they become adults. He used the example of 16- and 17-year-old drug dealers who receive light sentences for selling drugs. They drift into adulthood thinking there are no significant consequences to their actions. The first time they are picked up for selling drugs as adults, they are charged with a felony that carries a stiff prison sentence. When they have a prison record, their chances of finding employment decline.

One particular juvenile training program received Giuntini's high praise. It is a mentor diversion program at the Cypress Mandela Training Center. Youth offenders with no history of violence are accepted into the program where they receive counseling, education support, and job training. Many of the graduates have been hired by the Port and Caltrans.

Tree Protection Ordinance Geared to Greenery



Many of Rockridge's streets are sheltered under arching trees that provide a comforting, secure feeling. Some neighbors believe this has the added benefit of calming traffic in their neighborhood.

PHOTOS: JACQUELINE TASCH

What sets Oakland apart from many Bay Area cities is its trees—not just the oaks that are featured in its name, but redwoods, pines, and eucalyptus. To preserve that greenery, the city has a Tree Protection Ordinance, which requires a permit before certain trees can be removed—even if they're on private property. The ordinance protects California or coast oak trees with a trunk larger than 4 inches in diameter and other trees with a diameter exceeding 9 inches. Most Monterey pines and eucalyptus are not protected.

Usually, applications for tree permits are submitted to the Tree Division of the Office of Parks and Recreation, which reviews the request and approves or denies it. When new construction might endanger a tree, the permit application is filed with the Planning Department, which refers it to the Tree Division. This administrative process is now under review.

However, the final arbiter in decisions about trees is the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, which hears appeals from staff decisions and makes a final ruling. These appeals "generate the most lively debates" the commission hears, says its chair, Matthew Webb. Whether or not trees should be removed or endangered "is an interesting and somewhat controversial issue."

Some permits involve taking down trees that are creating a health or safety risk, for example, by interfering with sewer lines or by threatening to fall on someone's house. However, in other cases, property owners may want to remove a tree to change the landscaping or enlarge a building on the property. Sometimes, the work doesn't require removing the tree but may endanger its growth, for example, by setting foundations too close to a tree's roots.

In such cases, neighbors must be advised of any tree-endangering plans, and if they object, the Parks Department staff weighs both sides of the argument and issues a decision. City arborist Mitch Thompson told a recent RCPC General Meeting that when "weighing a wall against a tree," an important factor is dollars and cents. The value of the tree is calculated according to a formula that rates such things as species, condition, and location, Thompson

TREE ORDINANCE, TOP OF NEXT PAGE

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Tree Ordinance

from previous page

said. Then the cost of adjusting a building plan to save that tree is tallied. If the tree is worth more than the cost of changes, the tree wins. If not, the wall gets built. The city may require the homeowner to plant a tree elsewhere on the property to replace the one that is removed.

Although the parks staff "works with neighbors and the homeowner to reach a resolution that satisfies everyone," Webb says, sometimes that goal isn't achieved. In those cases, the dissatisfied party can appeal to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, which hears a half dozen or more of these cases each year.

At the hearing, the commission listens to supporters and opponents of the staff's decision and receives evidence. "We encourage people to come to the appeal prepared with authoritative witnesses and concrete evidence," Webb says. The hearings are often emotional. On the one hand, owners resent having someone else "making decisions about their own backyard," he says. However, any tree has an impact on the neighborhood, not just the property where it stands.

"We try to deal with the issues as fairly as possible," Webb says, and the commission reviews—but does not always support—the staff's determination. "We're not a rubber stamp. We make our own determination," he says. Six of the commission's eleven members must vote to overturn a staff ruling.

Property owners who see this process as unduly complicated would be ill-advised to take the matter—or an axe or chainsaw—into their own hands. Penalties, including fines, are imposed for removing or damaging a tree without a permit, Webb says: "There are teeth to the ordinance."

Oakland Libraries Celebrate 125 Years

There will be treats at the Rockridge Library on December 6 as part of a gala celebration of the Oakland Public Library's 125th birthday. Bigger doings are planned at the Main Library, 125 14th Street. Carmen Martinez, the library's director, will head a list of speakers at a reception starting at 11am.

In an ongoing tribute to the library's 125 years of service, there's an exhibit in the Oakland History Room at the Main Library. Called "Enduring Past, Anticipated Future," the exhibit assembles rare vintage items, including photographs, scrapbooks, library cards, and other artifacts.

Oakland Public Library's first librarian was Ina Coolbrith, a famous poet, who once encouraged author Jack London to keep reading. At one time, the library had separate tables for men and women. The branch libraries began as reading rooms where people had access to newspapers. The first dedicated children's section was opened in 1902.

The exhibit was assembled by History Room Librarian Kathleen DeGiovanni.

Today I have grown taller from walking with the trees.
— Karle Wilson Baker




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College Avenue Sparkles for The Holidays

When you see the large bow of tiny white lights appear on the corner of the Rockridge Market Hall, you know that the holidays are fast approaching. The shops of College Avenue have almost everything you could want for holiday parties or gift giving. You might be able to take care of your entire shopping list without ever leaving the neighborhood, as you'll see on this College Avenue shopping excursion. It's actually three trips, each one covering a few blocks in the Avenue area. The designations of lower, upper, and central College Avenue are my own, representing a cluster of stores within easy walking distance of each other.

Lower College Avenue: Broadway to Lawton Avenue

Begin at Poppy Fabric on Broadway, the perfect place to find patterns and materials for holiday clothing and décor. Around the corner on College, you'll encounter Serrahna, with an amazing collection of scarves and garments (for women and men) in glorious colors. Cross the street to Rossomano, with its unusual Italian antiques and contemporary home décor to fit many styles. Nearby is Form Vintage Modern, offering the mid-20th century look in furniture and accessories.

Continue on to Loot Antiques, with its eclectic collection of vintage items from the tiniest silver spoons to large dressers. Cross the street again past the Rockridge Library, and you'll come to Bella Vita, offering whimsical home décor, clothing, accessories, and collectibles from many places and time periods. Next door is Soirée, known for its exquisite contemporary and vintage special occasion dresses. Drop in to Diesel Books, which has an amazing array of books for every age and interest, along with cards, gifts, and, of course, calendars. Finally, stop in at High Strung, for handmade beaded jewelry and gifts.

Somewhere along the way, you'll want to stop for a morning snack or lunch, and there are so many delicious choices. Should it be comforting pastas and salads at Filippo's, delectable gourmet pizzas at Pizza Rustica? Perhaps mouth-watering burgers, fries, and pies at Rockridge Café, smooth espresso and morning buns at Hudson Bay Caffe? Or maybe scrumptious sushi at Uzen Korean barbecue at Suzy Q, and appetizing noodles and dishes from all over south and east Asia at Soi 4 Bangkok Eatery. You can even enjoy luscious French small plates and an interesting wine at À Coté (Thursday through Sunday), of course with their famous *pommes frites.*

Central College Avenue: Lawton Avenue to Chabot Road

Refreshed and renewed, we move on to the blocks around the Rockridge BART station, a handy landmark. Beginning near Lawton, you'll see Noah's Art with jewelry, meditation aids, sculptures, music, and more.

Nearby is the renowned Rockridge Kids, a Bay Area favorite and a landmark for children's toys, equipment, and clothing, just about anything you could need for the special child in your life. Voted one of the Bay Area's best children's stores, it's the place to go to get away from hyped commercial toys and rediscover the opportunity to stimulate a child's imagination and delight.

Up the street, redhound has the perfect gift for your favorite dog or cat and pet items you can be sure your Aunt Mary doesn't already have. Fenton MacLaren offers classic furnishings from dining room tables to lifelike silk flower arrangements. Cross the street to see Scout Home + Garden + Travel, featuring home décor, furnishings for house and garden, and unique collectables. Visit Cotton Basics and you can choose from an array of simple, classic tops and bottoms in soft cotton in rich, ever-changing colors.

Itsy Bitsy is the classic little jewelry store, with one of the largest collections of earrings anywhere, something for every taste and budget. Books, both new and used, abound at Pendragon, along with cards and gift calendars. Stroll up to Maison d'Etre, offering home décor, furnishings, personal accessories, clothing, and gifts, many French-inspired and all delightful.

Cross College again to visit the Market Hall for a gourmet experience: heavenly Italian olive oils and balsamic vinegars from The Pasta Shop, delicious teas from Peaberry's, luscious cakes at Market Hall Baking, fine vintages at Paul Marcus Wines, beautiful flowers at Bloomie's, fine meats and poultry at Enzo's, extremely fresh fish at Rockridge Fish and mouth-watering produce at Market Hall Produce to complement a Pasta Shop gift basket.

Cross under BART, and stop for a moment to view the Firestorm Memorial, honoring those neighbors who lost family,

Continued, top of next page

The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson

College Avenue as a Gift Center



Photo: Don Kinkead

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College Avenue Gifts

from page 6

homes, and more in the fires of 12 years ago. One poignant tile proclaims "always use your best china," a reminder to enjoy everything that life has to offer, every day and not just on special occasions.

Past BART you'll find FIT Clothes for the Modern Lifestyle, bursting with holiday and everyday wear that's fashionable yet classic. Past Oak Grove Avenue, you'll find See Jane Run, with a wide array of clothing, shoes, and accessories for the active women in your life. Up the block is the Christensen Heller Gallery, with fine art, crafts, home décor, and jewelry to fit a large variety of tastes and budgets.

Stop in at A Different Angle for stunning color photographs and earthy ceramics. Cross the street to visit Barloga et Fils Gallery, with black and white or color photography of European sights both famous and private, as you've never seen them before. Twenty two beckons nearby, with stunning designer shoes, top-quality bags, and silky socks. Continue on to Ildi & Company, where you'll be greeted by a holiday fantasy of home accessories, unusual gifts, beautiful jewelry, and table décor, perfect for that dining table you saw a few blocks back.

Time for a late lunch or mid-afternoon snack, and again you have many options. Hearty Chicago-style pizza at Zachary's, classic Mediterranean fare at Oliveto Café and Restaurant with hearty soups and gourmet sandwiches, interesting combination omelets and crepes at Crepevine, and burgers (beef, turkey, chicken, or tofu) from around the world (and those yummy curly fries) at Barney's.

Upper College Avenue: Chabot Road to Alcatraz Avenue

Ready to continue your shopping trip, visit Cotton and Company for lovely children's clothing and sturdy yet fashionable furniture. As you pass by Dreyer's, you might think that ice cream would melt before it could be opened , but gift certificates are always fun for anyone who loves good ice cream.

Cross the street to see Homesteader, and pick up a one-of-a-kind birdhouse, home décor, or other collectable. Further on the block, visit the Thelma Harris Art Gallery for original art from various cultural traditions. On the floor below is Zip Mama's, an exciting fantasy of women's clothing from special occasion to flannel pajamas, along with clever accessories and gifts. In the next block is the Hazara Gallery, featuring classic oriental rugs from small runners to large room-size rugs.

A visit to Hank and Frank Bicycles reminds you why a new bike is the classic holiday gift, and today there are so many different choices. Across the street is Warm Things, with all things down and cozy, from slippers to light-as-air comforters. Nearby Agatha Rainford offers classic and contemporary women's clothing: glamorous hats, holiday dresses and sweaters, unusual bags, and humorous seasonal socks.

Crossing Claremont Avenue, you'll see Impressions Ink, offering an amazing array of cards, creative gifts, and customized invitations for every special occasion. Heartfelt & offers a delightful array of items, from tiny vintage toys to lovely contemporary gifts to clever items for those with a healthy sense of humor. Nearby is Body Options, with active wear and school/office clothing for women of all ages. Ovation offers high-fashion clothing for women, with a focus on special occasion dresses and interesting accessories.

By now it may be late in the day, and time for a snack or even dinner. The possibilities are many: Asian fusion cuisine and sake at Grasshopper or Burmese food at Nan Yang, classic burgers and shakes at Claremont Diner or a late afternoon latte at Royal Coffee or Spasso, a sinfully rich cake at Katrina Rozelle Pastries & Desserts to bring to a party that night, or maybe a jewel-like fruit tart and morning bun for tomorrow's breakfast from La Farine (and don't forget to order your *bûche de Noël* in time for the holidays).

Probably no one could visit even one-quarter of the stores in Rockridge in a day, but fortunately you'll have several weeks to explore and shop before the holidays. Details on all the stores mentioned and many more are on the website http://www.rockridgedistrict.com.

While you're on the Avenue, be sure to ride the Rockridge District Association's free Saturday trolley in December, traveling on College from noon to 4pm between Alcatraz and Broadway.

And be sure to keep an eye out for the Prescott Clown decoration sale and performances, and Santa's visit to Rockridge — watch the special holiday posters for details of dates and times. And most of all, appreciate the more relaxed pace of shopping in one of the Bay Area's most interesting and diverse retail areas, seeing neighbors and friends, savoring great food, and supporting Oakland.



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November Sales in Rockridge:

Address	Bd/Ba	List Price	Selling Price	Close Date
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321 Glendale	3+/2	$740,000	$745,000	11/07/2003
358 Cavour St.	2+/1	$550,000	$610,000	11/07/2003
5223 Lawton Ave.	4/3	$649,000	$786,500	11/12/2003
6445 Benvenue Ave.	5/2+	$1,095,000	$1,050,000	11/14/2003
60 Westminister Dr.	5+/ 4+	$1,495,000	$1,450,000	11/14/2003
5273 Manila Ave.	2/1	$575,000	$580,000	11/14/2003
6481 Benvenue Ave.	2/1	$393,000	$450,000	11/20/2003
5942 Chabolyn Ter.	3/1+	$695,000	$752,700	11/20/2003

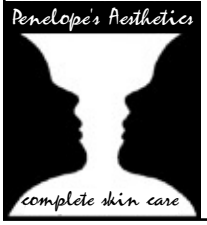
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PostmarkTemescal

from page 1

It reminds passers-by that Temescal Creek itself runs directly underneath. Low-water native plants frame the installation, which is on the west side of the Post Office building, facing Shattuck Avenue.

Instead of placing the work inside the commercial and parking area, the street site was chosen to encourage more beautification of the up-and-coming arterial. People have already begun enjoying picnics and snacks there.

Project creators include sculptor-recyclist-art teacher Remi Rubel, Bruce Douglas, Sue Mark, and artist Jeffrey Norman, who provided the Temescal photographics at the new Fire Station 8. Norman credits a team of volunteers, contributors, and workers for bringing the attractive area to life. John Greenwood fabricated and helped design the Temescal Creek Watershed sculpture. Jimmy Petersen contributed his knowledge of concrete construction. Volunteers in the neighborhood lent their yard space to construct forms for concrete.

More than four years ago, the Berkeley Land Company decided to develop its property for commercial use about the same time the U.S. Postal Service decided it needed a better post office at that site. Neighborhood residents collaborated in the planning. Rhita Wilson of the Community Economic Development Agency (CEDA) secured $15,000 of the $32,000 required for the public art enhancements. Berkeley Land contributed another $10,000, with the remaining $7,000 coming from smaller individual and group contributions.

Temescal Plaza's official opening was celebrated at a public gathering held at the site on Saturday, October 18.

Fire District

from page 1

and community-based emergency training would be provided.

Many of these services have been provided in the City of Oakland budget for the last several years. However, budget reductions and other city priorities will drain funds from these projects, beginning with the fiscal 2004-05 budget.

If you got a ballot in the mail, you are in the district, and if you did not, you are not. If you are uncertain, City Fire Assessment consultant Joe Francisco (925/867-3400) can advise if your property is in the proposed fire district.

Alarms

from page 3

with lists of their customers, to generate the first mailing for permits. Once those fees have been paid, OPD will send the alarm companies a list of their customers who are lacking a permit. OPD will charge the company $250 to respond to a business or residence that has no permit.

Many of the false alarms come from businesses, says Holland, whose primary responsibility is heading the Bureau of Investigations. These can often be eliminated by reviewing and changing internal systems. The new ordinance "is about being responsible," Holland says. "The vast majority of homeowners already are."

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Proposal: To install 3 roof top telecommunication antennas and related equipment cabinets located in a garage on the ground floor of the Market Hall building.
Applicant/Contact Person: Metro PCS/ Maryann Miller, 510/919-3224
Owner: Anthony Wilson Associates
Permits Required: Conditional Use Permit and Design Review
Case Planner: Jason Madani, 238-4790 or jsmadani@oaklandnet.com

5418 College Avenue

Proposal: Establish an exercise and tanning salon in a storefront in a retail building.
Applicant: Laz Martinez
Contact Person: Laz Martinez 415/348-5578
Owner: Paul Boero
Permits Required: Conditional Use Permit to allow a group assembly commercial activity.
Case Planner: Miroo Desai Brewer, 238-6935 or mbrewer@oaklandnet.com

5362 College Avenue

Proposal: To demolish an existing commercial structure and construct a new restaurant
Applicant: Jorge Maezono
Contact Person: Jorge Maezono 510/502-4109
Owner: Philip Chu/Dana Chow-Chu
Permits Required: Minor Conditional Use Permit to allow construction of a new restaurant (general food sales) and Regular Design Review
Case Planner: Robert D. Merkamp, 238-6283 or rmerkamp@oaklandnet.com

5609 Ocean View Drive

Proposal: To construct a two-story addition to the rear of an existing single family dwelling.
Owner/Applicant: Howard Lasseter, 510/601-6729
Owner: Madeline Johnson & Jamie Pillers
Permits Required: Minor Variance to allow a 2'-8" side yard setback where 5'-0" minimum is required, Design Review, residential addition.
Case Planner: Andrew M. Smith, 238-6414 or asmith@oaklandnet.com

6426 [Benvenue Avenue]

(Mislabeled by City as 6426 "Benevue St")
Proposal: Construct a 1,253 sq ft addition to an existing multi-family dwelling
Contact Person: FORM Architects/Sean Laal 510/891-9555
Owner: Morteza Javaheri
Permits Required: Regular Design Review for an addition to a residential structure
Case Planner: Robert D. Merkamp, 238-6283 or rmerkamp@oaklandnet.com

6431 Hillegass Avenue

Proposal: Demolish existing detached accessory structure (storage shed), construct new detached accessory structure (artist studio).
Applicant: Philip Overbaugh 658-3972
Owner: John Gargani & Mary Kathryn Lynch
Permits Required: Special Residential Design Review for new construction on a lot containing one dwelling unit; Minor Variance to allow an accessory facility located within the required rear and side yard setbacks measuring 12'-0" tall where 9'-0" is the maximum height allowed.
Case Planner: Darin Ranelletti, 238-3663 or dranelletti@oaklandnet.com

5468 Manila Avenue

Proposal: Construct a 441 sq ft, second story addition to existing 1380 sq. foot single-family dwelling on a 4,120 sq foot legal parcel.
Applicant: Baird Wheatley, 760/632-5317
Owner: Linda Fogel
Permits Required: Design Review for an addition to a single family dwelling. Minor Variance to allow 2'8" side (east) yard setback where 5' is required.
Case Planner: Miro Desai Brewer, 238-6935 or mbrewer@oaklandnet.com

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The Drama Mamas – Born in Rockridge, Now Playing San Francisco!

by Ann Daniels

What happens when a mother is born, when a woman switches from being the child of a mother to being the mother of a child?

That's the central question of the hit show, "Stretch Marks: Growing Into Motherhood," playing in San Francisco but created right here in Rockridge.

It all started in the summer of 2002, when Rockridge resident Sarah Cluff formed a women's writing group. Rockridge residents Christine Garofoli and Jodi Schiller were among the group that met at A Cuppa Tea on College Avenue. After a few sessions, the three mothers of young children realized their common interest in writing about "mommyhood."

Cluff and Schiller also realized that they had both long wanted to write a play about their experiences of becoming mothers, and they recruited Garofoli to join them in the project. A friend of Schiller recommended San Franciscan Christine DiBiasi, and the Drama Mamas were born.

The foursome wrote, improvised, talked about being moms, and eventually had an open rehearsal at the Rockridge Library. Nerves ran high, only DiBiasi and Schiller had professional theatrical experience. Garofoli had last been on stage in a critically acclaimed elementary school production of "The Mikado," while Cluff's last theater production involved being laughed off stage in her second-grade school play for saying "The rings of Saturn can be seen with the NAKED eye." The women courageously invited friends and family, who urged them on.

And so, with Rockridge resident Grace Walcott in the director's chair, they mounted a performance in San Francisco for Mother's Day (when else?) – and to their delight and amazement, they won rave reviews and sold out all shows.

During the summer of 2003, the original Drama Mamas went different ways. Cluff returned to work as a teacher, after being home with her children for five years. DiBiasi and Garofoli and two other mommies are producing a 12-show run of "Stretch Marks" at the Exit on Taylor Theatre in San Francisco (near Union Square). DiBiasi is "(still) working on her Masters in Theater at SFSU" and Garofoli is a Director of Marketing at Charles Schwab in San Francisco.



The Drama Mamas warm up for their next production of "Stretch Marks." From left to right: Christine Garofoli, Deborah Banks, Anna Melillo and Christine Armand DiBiasi

Schiller, a former theater professional and drama therapist who has, for a decade, helped various clients give voice to their stories, will be presenting a staged reading of "Stretch Marks" as a benefit for Sherith Israel in San Francisco and is also working on a new play about relationships among women.

"Stretch Marks" derives inspiration from the Drama Mamas' everyday lives and, of course, from their children. Its four characters are loosely based on the original Mamas; however, the women merged their stories and experiences, and find that they – and their audience members – identify with bits and pieces of all the characters.

Garofoli says "Stretch Marks" strikes a chord with both the players and the audience. "It's been a good excuse for moms to get out and see a bit of themselves and their stories up on stage, validating a lot of mommy experiences. And reaching out to people in the mommy community has been great!"

So, what happens when a mother is born? You'll have to see for yourself. The box at following the article gives details of forthcoming productions of the show.

When and Where to See "Stretch Marks":

■ At the Exit on Taylor Theatre in San Francisco December 4-13 (with Garofoli and DiBiasi). Look for the exhibit of breastfeeding mommies and children's art in the theater lobby. Ask about the fundraiser for Chabot Elementary, with over 30% of every ticket sale going to Chabot Elementary School. Tickets and information available through http://www.DramaMamas.com.

■ At Sherith Israel, 2266 California St, San Francisco on December 7 at 2 pm (with Schiller). This staged reading will be followed by a discussion about how the play was written and how you can create drama from your own stories. A separate room filled with toys will be available for little ones while their parents watch the show. Proceeds go to Sherith Israel's Early Childhood Development Program (www.sherithisrael.org). $10 for members; $12 for non-members; $5 for kids. For reservations or information, call 415/346-1720 ext.32.

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Unwrapping the Julia Morgan



by Ortrun Niesar

The Julia Morgan Center for the Arts sits on the left-hand side of College Avenue about a quarter mile north of Ashby Avenue. If you're not paying attention, you'll probably wind up driving or walking right by it. Shrubs and trees obscure what is in fact a sprawling 22,000-square-foot brown-shingled building complex with several annexes. The façade is difficult to see, the doors are locked, and the roof is graced by a cross, confusing the issue even more for some.

But you have arrived. This is the place.

Originally designed in 1910 by Julia Morgan to serve as St. John's Presbyterian Church, the barn-like building metamorphosed into a center for the performing arts in the early 1970s, when the church moved to more modern quarters across the street. The Center was threatened more than once by financial and structural failure over the ensuing decades.

Its survival is not only a testimony to the intrinsic beauty and spiritual nature of the building itself but also to the fierce loyalty of the neighboring community and the astounding dedication of some awesome local individual supporters. It could be, too, that the overpowering need for a community arts venue such as this creates its own momentum. Whatever it is, The Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, currently under the direction of Sabrina Klein, not only survives but thrives as a place where artists and community come together to work, perform, and experience art.

The building's main attraction is a 328-seat theater (which, by the way, is available for rent). Comfortable chairs have replaced the pews; a decent light and sound system support a 30- by 40-foot sprung stage. But what's even more impressive is that the complex has ample rehearsal spaces, as well as classrooms where professional actors, musicians, and dancers can offer instruction for people of all ages. Children and young people are especially welcome.

As I wend my way through dark hallways and over odd staircases I admit I feel like I am in an M.C. Escher print. Over time, every usable space has been occupied and adapted to serve some sort of creative activity. The walls and floors, all simple redwood planks, are lumpy and bumpy. There is no insulation anywhere. I am aware of the sound of children's laughter, song, creaking floors, shouts of stage directions, dancers' footsteps, slamming doors. The building is totally alive!

"Another dimension to be explored," thinks Patrick Dooley, director of the Shotgun Players, the new acclaimed resident theater group. Patrick is already working on how he can incorporate the unique spatial concepts the building presents into his plays. Be looking for what he comes up with.

At present, the Julia Morgan houses the Berkeley Ballet Theater, the Shotgun Players, Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Camps, Music Together, The Yoga Room, Español for Kids, salsa lessons (every Friday night, not expensive), and Heart's Leap Preschool. These are great resources for imaginative stocking stuffers:

- Kaleidoscope offers three-day arts camps for kids during the holidays.
- Hurry if you would like tickets for the BBT's Nutcracker ballet, great for kids.
- The Shotgun Players will be performing The Death of Meyerhold January 8 to 25.
- And reserve Saturday, February 14, for Julia's Cabaret, a Valentine's Day celebration and benefit for "our" Julia Morgan Center for the Arts.

Call the Center at 845-8542 for all information. Their website is www.juliamorgan.org. Wishing you a wonderful holiday!

Ortrun Niesar can be reached at oniesar@aol.com or 510/986-9560.

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LIVING IN ROCKRIDGE: AN OPINION BY HIROKO KURIHARA

Celebrate! Elizabeth House: Sustainable Living Through Cooperative Living

One question the Rockridge community could be asking itself lately is, "Where are we going as a neighborhood?" Some of us wonder how sustain a vibrant neighborhood, both economically and socially. Well, if you believe that everything is inter-connected, these questions can apply to every aspect of life. Oakland and Rockridge hold a richness that not many other communities can claim. We have diverse opinions, multifaceted backgrounds, and different economic and educational experiences. Here in Rockridge, on Colby Street north of Alcatraz Avenue, is a household with a creative multi-family structure that practices unique ways of supporting each other.

Elizabeth House is an example of how real communities are built so that they are mutually supportive and contribute to the vibrancy of a neighborhood. Elizabeth House is a place where women and their children can live safely together. Most are homeless or facing homelessness or escaping domestic violence. 'The House' can accommodate 9 families and their children in family quarters for up to 2 years. A converted convent, this spirit-full place is not seen as a 'program that helps the homeless' or as a 'transitional shelter.' Most of the kids simply say: "I live in the house down the street." And is it the first real home that some of the children have ever experienced.

To live here, families must demonstrate a need, though not always financial, and there is a thorough screening process that includes a visit and an interview with current residents. Mothers and grandmothers have the opportunity to save money (although they pay a monthly rent of $320 to Elizabeth House). They may either find a job or advance in their current jobs. Classes and presentations are given regularly, and the kids 'enjoy' homework club everyday.

Elizabeth House is unusual too in that staff and a few volunteers can live on the premises in return for their services. There are two staff members who receive a stipend. Courtnay Redis, the director, will be celebrating her 9th year this year. There are up to 60 volunteers involved at any given time. Together with residents, they create a living environment that is modeled as well as taught.

Elizabeth House does not seek government funding and mostly relies on foundations, donations and other fundraising events like the Art Auction. Elizabeth House also has partnerships with a very long list of local merchants (thank you, all!).

Aiming for a higher quality of life, residents share cooperatively and learn about effective communication. Residents also learn how to run 'the House.' There are communal meals to coordinate…everyone helps. Regular house meetings always start with a reflection, which might be in the form of a poem or someone's own personal thoughts. A higher quality of life also includes the practice of 'green cleaning' techniques and maintaining physical and emotional health.

Elizabeth House usually becomes the last step before finding permanent, affordable housing. Families live independently, having woven together solid support systems. Finding safe, affordable housing in the Bay Area is the biggest challenge that Elizabeth House residents encounter. How sustainable or diverse is our community if we cannot provide housing to all who may want to live in Rockridge?

Adriana Jones, a former resident, said that when she was ready to leave Elizabeth House about a year and a half ago, she really wanted to be able to stay in the neighborhood. She loved Rockridge and the people "because they were friendly and it didn't seem like it was a prejudiced area." She was amazed to see that people could jog and walk dogs whenever they wanted to in Rockridge.

ELIZABETH HOUSE, TOP OF NEXT PAGE

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Elizabeth House

from previous page

But she wasn't able to find a place that she could afford. The staff at Elizabeth House were able to provide lots of support and reminded her to "do what is in your heart and don't be discouraged." So Adriana persisted in finding what we all want and some of us enjoy; a safe, walkable place to live. She now lives in Berkeley near a BART station.

Lorraine Neasely (known as Ms. Lorraine) faces the same challenge. She is 73 and the legal guardian of her two grandchildren, Devonte, who attends Washington Elementary School, and Darrold, who attends Claremont Middle School (with a full scholarship to Head Royce next year). She also worries about where they will go next.

Fate took a twisted turn, as it can happen to any of us, and she found herself caring for her grandchildren instead of retiring and traveling. Ms. Lorraine lived for 27 years her own home in the Laurel District, where she ran a childcare business for many years. She is wise and accomplished (at one point in her life she sat on a National Advisory body appointed by Ronald Reagan) and driven (she hopes to open her own 'transitional home' for grandmothers taking care of their grandchildren).

Rockridge would be the ideal place, she says, to bring more families to. The neighborhood is safe and you don't need a car and it's easy to live here if you are older. Creating access to this neighborhood is a complicated issue and could be a challenging process. But Ms. Lorraine has proven her determination; she may, along with our community, just find a way.

Hiroko Kurihara is a member of the RCPC Board of Directors and owner of a socially responsible textile creations company that donates a scarf or blanket for every item sold. HK Designs is a partner with Elizabeth House.



Elizabeth House residents gathered in the garden one recent sunny day.

Come Celebrate With Your Neighbors

At the 9th Annual Elizabeth House Open House, 6423 Colby Street, December 12, 3:00 – 8:00pm. Bring family and friends.

Wish List: House warming items for Elizabeth House residents for when they enter their own homes! (small appliances like toasters and vacuums, silverware, flatware, linens, towels, lamps, beds, etc.)

Elizabeth House could also use help with Web site maintenance and donations are always receivable along the side door where there are instructions and a short form to fill out in order to receive your tax deductible donation receipt. (Please, no more than 3 bags at a time).

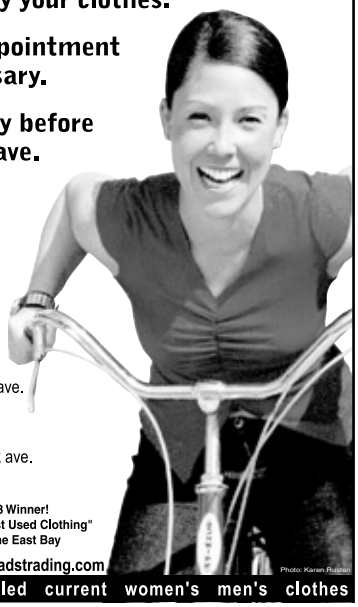
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Compiled by Jo Ellis

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 every other month, 10am to noon. Peralta Elementary School: 460 63rd St. (parking on Alcatraz Ave., just east of Telegraph). No meeting in January. Get topic for February at 238-7001 or www.oaklandnet.com.

Oakland City Council Meeting

Every Tuesday, 7pm, City Hall

Oakland Planning Commission

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

The Greater Rockridge N'hood Crime Prevention Council

Steering Committee meets 3rd Tuesday each month, 7 to 8:30pm., Fire Station #8 community room, 463 51st Street. Residents and business members of NCPC areas 12Y and 13X are invited to voice their concerns about crime and public safety.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017. ◗ Rockridge Library will be giving out little treats on December 6 to celebrate our library system's 125th birthday.

For Children:

- Toddler Story Time, Saturday, 10:30am: 12/6, 12/13, 1/3, 1/10.
- Pre-School Story Hours, Wednesday, 10:30 & 11am: 12/17, 1/7.
- Pajama Story Time, Tuesday, 7pm: 12/9, 12/23, 1/6.

Special Events:

- Craft session for ages 8 through adult. Make beads from magazine pictures and create jewelry. No pre sign-up; all materials provided. Saturday, 12/13, 2 to 3:30pm.
- Oakland Public Theater performance of "The Wind in the Willows," chapter 3 on Tuesday, December 16, 7pm.

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, 1/31 from 1-3:30pm. Call by Wednesday, 12/28, to sign up for 25 spaces. "Writing from the Soul": Free workshop with Suzanne West, M.A., Chair of the Dept. of Liberal Arts, JFK University.

New Library Hours:
Tuesday, 12:30 to 8pm
Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, 10am to 5:30pm
Friday, 12 to 5:30pm **Sunday and Monday: Closed**
NOTE: closed 12/24, 12/25, 1/1/2004
Also, (pending union negotiations), as part of City-wide furlough, all libraries may be closed 12/26 and 1/2. 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/). More information: 482-0265 or Writefox@aol.com

College Avenue Holiday Festivities

Ride the free trolley along College Avenue on Saturday, December 6, 13 and 20, from 12 to 4pm. Visit Santa's House at 5467 College Ave. from 12:30 to 2:30pm and get your picture taken with Santa. Sponsored by the Rockridge District Association. For more information call Susan Older, 604-3125 or info@rockridgedistrict.com.

Farewell Tribute: G & G Hardware

Neighbors in Rockridge are invited to join the Temescal Merchants Association to honor Mike, Ann and Sharon for 57 years of service to our neighborhood. Saturday, December 13, 6 to 8pm (ceremony at 7pm): refreshments will be served.
Temescal Café, 4920 Telegraph Ave. For more information, call Carlo Busby at Sagrada, 653-7196.

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, 12/7, 2pm, Poetry reading by students of Elizabeth Robinson's MFA 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.
- Sunday, 12/14, 2pm, Bay Area Cookbook Signing: Contributors from Cesar, the Cheese Board and Zuni Café cookbooks will discuss their books and offer samples of their food.

For more 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 $2.00. **Special Event**: Christmas Party, December 17! 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. Variety of computer classes, workshops, educational/social events, walking groups and field trips.
New: Massage services, Monday and Wednesday. Call for appointment.
Special Event: "A Holiday Dance Party" on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2 to 6pm. Prizes and refreshments. Donation of $8.00 to benefit the Center's program fund. Learn the dance steps. Line dancing on Wed., beginners, 12:30 to 1pm: advanced, 1 to 2pm. Also, learn ballroom dancing on Mondays, 1 to 3pm. 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 + $2.00 and $4.00 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.

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. Call 658-1380, ext.4, or e-mail volunteer@oakhouse.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.
5290 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.
- **North Oakland Community Charter School** (NOCCS): tutors to work with 1st to 4th graders, one-on-one or in small groups, on math skills, beginning reading and writing skills. Weekly time commitment of at least one hour. Located at College Ave. Presbyterian Church (next to Dryers ice cream). Contact Jennifer Bloom, Director: 655-0540 or teachers@noccs.org.



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