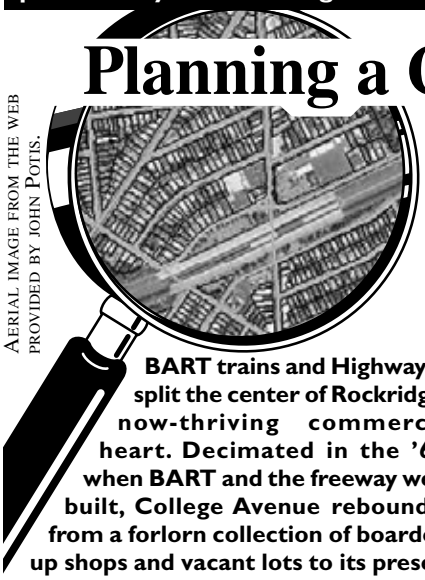
THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
VOL. 19 ■ NO. 1 ■ ISSUE NO. 197 ■ January 3, 2004! CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES
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Planning a Close Look at Rockridge's Future



AERIAL IMAGE FROM THE WEB PROVIDED BY JOHN POTIS.

BART trains and Highway 24 split the center of Rockridge's now-thriving commercial heart. Decimated in the '60s when BART and the freeway were built, College Avenue rebounded from a forlorn collection of boarded-up shops and vacant lots to its present dynamism. BART's original plan for station development would have replaced many of the surrounding Craftsman-style homes with high-rise apartment buildings. RCPC and other local neighborhood organizations successfully countered with a plan for "pedestrian friendly" shops on College surrounded by the single-family and small multi-family housing units that characterize the neighborhood. The article at right and others in this issue consider important planning issues in Rockridge's future.

by Jessica Pitt, RCPC Board Member

Over the past several months, a number of new businesses have moved onto College Avenue or have made plans to open in 2004. In the basement of Market Hall, there's Curves, a women's workout studio. Across the street, Pearl Oyster Bar is moving into the Red Tractor space. Up the street, on the 5400 block of College, a furniture store and a new yoga studio just opened, and right next door will be Ladies Fitness Express, another women's workout studio. The old Crème de la Crème restaurant, next to the Rockridge Library, is slated to be torn down, and a Chinese restaurant will be built in its place. Further down, near Broadway, there's a new personal training gym.

RCPC has followed these developments closely and debated their impact on College Avenue. Will these businesses serve Rockridge residents? Will they exacerbate the parking problem? Are they consistent with the C-31 zoning on College Avenue, which is intended to promote retail development?

These questions prompted the Land Use Committee of the RCPC to reflect on our vision for College Avenue and what an ideal mix of retail, office space, residences, and services would look like. The committee felt strongly that whatever positions it takes on new business applications on College Avenue should reflect the vision and preferences of Rockridge residents. So, we decided to launch a community planning process that would result in a land use plan for College Avenue.

Some residents may remember the last time the RCPC undertook a community planning process. In 1994, working with Brady and Associates Planners and Landscape Architects, we produced the Rockridge Area Plan. Like the plan we are currently doing, it assessed existing conditions and, through a series of community workshops, gathered ideas and input from residents on what they would like to see in Rockridge. Many valuable ideas and recommendations came out of this process. Some have been implemented; others have yet to be acted upon. We intend to build on the Rockridge Area Plan and update it.

The first step in our process was a land use study. We obtained parcel maps from the city and walked College Avenue from

▸ PLANNING ROCKRIDGE, PAGE 4

agenda: RCPC General Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 7:30 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library
Community Room
5366 College Avenue at Manila

■ **The Livable Community Writ Small: Solving Problems**

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN FRUSTRATED trying to get the City of Oakland to respond to neighborhood problems: illegally parked vehicles, litter, blight, noise disturbance? Turn your frustration into action!

At the January 15 RCPC General Meeting, City staff will present the Clean City Academy, a workshop on how the City of Oakland is organized and what resources and tools are available to fight blight and other nuisances. Speakers will provide phone numbers, maps, and service delivery procedures. You'll have the opportunity to present problems directly to city staff and work with them on solutions.

The Elephant in The Living Room

Does Rockridge have a parking problem? What are the issues with parking in Rockridge and specifically on College Avenue and adjacent streets?

Send your answers—or related questions—to Daniel Ferdelman, RCPC Chair, by email at danielferdelman@yahoo.com or by regular mail at 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618.

REPORT: BRUNNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rockridge As a Livable Community

by Daniel Ferdelman, RCPC Chair

When you think of livable communities, what do you think of? Architect and urban planner Peter Calthorpe says Rockridge is a good example.

About 100 North Oakland residents learned about livable communities at Councilmember Jane Brunner's December community advisory meeting, where Calthorpe presented a host of methods residents can use to foster better connections between their community, environment, and the regional economy.

▸ CALTHORPE, PAGE 8



Around the Neighborhood

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

Spreading the Social Glue

What is it about Rockridge that makes it such a cohesive community? Why is everybody so nice?

Those were the questions that I started this column with, a little more than a year ago. Since then, I've had some time to look around. Thanks to a tip from an observant neighbor, I uncovered a sinister plot by middle aged white women to take over the neighborhood. I partied with the stalwart folks who deliver *The Rockridge News.* Spent a Sunday afternoon playing docent on the Kitchen Tour. Visited with a neighbor called Neva, a lifetime Rockridge resident in her nineties, who told me about the horse-drawn vegetable wagon and the endlessly reconfigured blessings of College Avenue. Chatted on the phone with Annette Floystrup, who spent her childhood playing by the creek that Highway 24 and BART displaced.

For exercise, I took early morning walks, and everywhere I went, I seemed to trip over people or stories about them. One morning, I strolled along with Chabot Elementary parents walking their kids to school. Some days found me on the same route where Frank, another Rockridge elder, had been a regular. His neighbors missed their sidewalk encounters even though they didn't know his name: Frank had died.

Sure, I groused occasionally: about the displacement of Christmas by the neutral holiday, about the little games of chicken played by drivers on my neighborhood's narrow streets, about being recognized from the clearly unflattering [to my mind] photo that accompanies this article. But even then, there was a silver lining: After all, people did recognize me, and they were always smiling when they did so.

As I get ready to fold my editorial tents, fresh evidence comes in the mailbag. I'll let Jennifer Jackson tell you her story because she does so quite eloquently:

One of the perks of living in Rockridge is being able to join the citizen's car pool any morning on the corner of Claremont and Forest; commuters hitch a ride to downtown San Francisco with other commuters, most of whom they've never seen before and will never see again.

Recently, I rode in with a woman who had a baby carseat in the middle of the back seat, which made a handy resting place for my purse. I read my book all the way in, and when we arrived I leaped out of the car with my book in my hand, completely forgetting about my purse.

Because I had never met the driver, I was despondent. After several days of angst, I walked home from BART one day to find a note on my door: the driver of the car had brought my purse back and, not finding me home, had delivered it to my neighbor. Her phone number was on the note. When I called my benefactor to express my relief and gratitude and to offer to do something nice for her, she would not give me her name, saying: "Please don't do anything! I want to save up this Karma."

Jennifer thinks her nameless benefactor deserves proper notice. I think Jennifer is to be congratulated, too, for going to the trouble to say a public thank you.

So what is it about Rockridge that makes it such a cohesive community? It's the people, of course. Now, we just have to figure out why everyone's so nice. I suppose the water supply is too obvious.

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Sunday, Monday	CLOSED

LIBRARY DETAILS: SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15.

The Rockridge News

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

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Ortrun Niesar, Claire Isaacs...Writers
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- Do you have questions about newsletter distribution?
- Would you like to volunteer to be a *Rockridge News* block captain?

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

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RCPC Considers Claremont Avenue Traffic Fixes

Are three lanes faster than four?

Restriping Claremont Avenue into two lanes plus a central turning lane could significantly reduce traffic accidents and make the street safer for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians, according to John Potis, who spoke at November's RCPC General Meeting. As evidence, he pointed to findings in a five-year history of auto accidents on Claremont between Hudson and College Avenue, which was provided by Oakland Councilmember Jane Brunner's office.

Of 50 reported crashes in the report, more than half were sideswipes at intersections between vehicles traveling in the same direction. Sideswiping accidents often occur when impatient drivers try to zip around slower cars or vehicles waiting to make turns. The other accidents were full broadsides—one vehicle ramming another attempting to make a turn.

A dedicated turning lane, Potis said, "would improve sight lines and eliminate the frustration of getting caught behind a left-turning vehicle, thereby improving tempers, reducing collisions, and assuring a smooth flow of traffic."

The RCPC is forming a subcommittee to pursue this proposal. The first meeting will be held in mid January. If you are interested, please contact John Potis at 595-1964 or at jjpotis@yahoo.com

White Lines as Guidelines to Safety



Photo Illustration: John Potis

This digital photo taken at the intersection of Claremont Avenue and Chabot Road, looking northeast, has been altered to show a possible lane configuraton that could make Claremont Avenue safer.

Living in Rockridge: An Opinion

Adding Bike Lanes Key to Revitalizing Telegraph Avenue

by John Potis, RCPC Board Member

While all major streets in Oakland should safely accommodate auto, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic, too often Oakland cyclists get little more than the shoulder. Almost everybody knows that bikes in cities reduce travel time and congestion and are good for the heart, the wallet, and the environment. It's time to emphasize these facts in Oakland, and the best place to start is Telegraph Avenue.

A multi-lane artery

Telegraph Avenue is the only major, flat-as-a-desktop, multi-lane artery connecting downtown Oakland with UC Berkeley. Using connecting sidestreets off Telegraph, it's easy to get to Shattuck and College Avenues and thriving villages like Temescal, Rockridge, and Elmwood. Telegraph also features many restaurants, shops, professional offices, and services that are destinations in themselves.

If you've driven these routes, you know that parking is such a hassle that you'd rather just go somewhere else. A bike, however, provides freedom and access. It goes where you go and waits for you right outside the door. No circling the block. No parking or meter fees.

To ride a bicycle on Telegraph Avenue today, *without bike lanes*, is hazardous. It requires keen vigilance and the reflexes of a tennis pro to avoid being sideswiped by drivers or hitting car doors that suddenly swoop open in your path. Bike lanes are essential for safety and nicely reminding motorists that they are not sole owners of the road.

Too congested for bike lanes?

Some argue that Telegraph Avenue is already too congested to support bike lanes, but a draft report assessing traffic conditions on Telegraph Avenue (available on the City of Oakland's website http://www.oaklandpw.com/bicycling/telegraph.htm) clearly shows that there is no evidence of congestion on Telegraph except at 51st Street. The bottleneck there is caused by congestion on Highway 24 and convoluted intersections nearby and not by problems associated with lack of space for cars on Telegraph.

Studies also indicate that Telegraph now serves mainly as a conduit to Highway 24 via 51st Street and to MacArthur BART and Emeryville via 40th Street. Heading downtown past 40th Street, traffic drops from over 36,000 to less than 20,000 vehicles per day. A three-lane configuration (with the extra room from the present fourth lane used to add bike lanes) will accommodate this volume while enhancing traffic flow and improving safety. Safe bike lanes, moreover, will attract more cyclists and further reduce auto traffic. Win-win.

More than point A to point B

The value of a street to a community isn't simply a matter of how quickly a person can get from one place to another. A street is most valuable when people want to spend time on it shopping for bargains, eating at restaurants, or having a coffee with friends and neighbors.

My hope is that one day Telegraph Avenue will be as popular an attraction as College Avenue. Bike lanes are a great beginning.

Planning Rockridge

from page 1

Alcatraz to Broadway, recording the use of every single building. We produced three maps. One shows the general uses: retail, office, residential, and public spaces. The second shows the type of establishment in each building: restaurants, personal services (hair and nail salon, massage, etc.), health services (doctors, dentist, and therapist offices), clothing, professional (lawyers, accountants, Real Estate agents, etc.), and residential. The third map shows the density of each building (i.e., one, two, three, or more stories).

Of the 285 establishments on College Avenue, the single most common use is restaurants at 12.3%, followed by residential buildings (10%), clothing stores (4%), hair salons (4%), and health services (4%).

The Land Use Committee presented the maps at the November 20 RCPC General Meeting. A lively discussion took place regarding what participants would like to see on College Avenue. Most of those present agreed that while College Avenue has become a regional business district, attracting people from throughout the East Bay, it should be balanced with businesses and amenities that serve neighborhood residents, such as a hardware store and a post office.

Many felt that while restaurants bring vitality to the neighborhood and create an active street life, particularly in the evenings, the neighborhood has reached a saturation point. Several people expressed concern that many of the newer restaurants are high end and not the kind of places that neighborhood residents can take their families to eat on a regular basis.

Parking is an issue on College Avenue and we need to explore creative options for alleviating the parking congestion.

There was discussion about creating more mixed-use development. This would include higher density development along College Avenue with more buildings that have both commercial and residential space, particularly housing options for seniors and moderate income families.

Finally, everyone agreed that parking is an issue on College Avenue and that we need to explore creative options for alleviating the parking congestion. We discussed a variety of strategies, such as a parking shuttle that would take advantage of available parking at the BART station in the evenings.

The land use study and the discussion at the General Meeting were the first steps in the planning process. In the coming months, the Land Use Committee will build on this start. Our next steps include:

- Reviewing the Rockridge Area Plan and pulling from it those recommendations that are still relevant;
- Holding a series of community workshops at which residents will have an opportunity to give their input regarding what they would like to see on College Avenue, and;
- Conducting a survey to gather ideas from a broader group of residents.

This process will culminate in an updated plan that will guide the RCPC as it makes decisions about how to respond to new permit applications and provide strategic direction for RCPC as it tackles the parking issue and other College Avenue improvements. We look forward to the ongoing participation of residents in this process. If you would like to get involved, please contact Jessica Pitt at 655-1210.


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Library Hep To Hip-Hop

by Susan Stutzman, Teen Specialist Librarian

Hip-hop culture came to the Rockridge Library in the form of an interactive, hands-on Teen Hip Hop Workshop held in October and November. Eight Oakland youth immersed themselves in the history of hip-hop, break dancing, DJ'ing, and graffiti art. In the final session, they produced an original CD entitled *Streetlights.*

Workshop instructor Anthony Madrigal, a poet, MC, and founder of the California Alliance for Conscious Hip Hop Expansion, reports that the kids "tried everything we put in front of them and didn't hold back at all." He describes hip-hop as "a participatory culture in that it begs its devotees to get out and partake in all its splendor, all its events and most importantly to share the hip-hop mindset."

Library Hip-Hop, page 13

Friends of the Rockridge Library Seeks a New Board Member

Do you love the library? Do you want to make a difference?

The Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) has a vacancy for one board position beginning January 2004. FORL's mission is to provide support, books, and materials that are not covered in the city's budget for the local library branch.

Please submit a brief description of yourself and your interest in serving to Marilyn Citron: mbcitron@yahoo.com

RCPC Says Good-Bye and "Thank You" to Valued Board Members

by Daniel Ferdelman, Chair

As we celebrate the New Year in Rockridge, some changes lie ahead for the board of the Rockridge Community Planning Council. Some members are moving on. In an upcoming issue, we'll talk about the new members.

Chad Thompson joined the board in 1998 and has been master of all trades, as former board chair, zoning chair, and a participant in the creation of FROG Park. His input and energy will be sorely missed. During his tenure, Chad was involved in guiding the board through decisions on Cigarettes Cheaper, the California College of Arts and Crafts, the old Safeway at Claremont near the freeway, and Dreyer's. Chad and his wife, Naomi, spearheaded RCPC's celebrations on Halloween and at the groundbreaking for FROG Park. We are grateful for Chad's consistent concern for preserving and enhancing our neighborhood, and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

David Hatfield joined the board in 2002 and was the board's liaison to The Rockridge News. He worked behind the scenes to coordinate stories and to make sure the board's wishes were represented in the text. David is also active with Friends of the Rockridge Library as secretary. The board will miss his quick wit and common sense at our monthly board meetings. David recently became a father and is sharing family duties while his wife finishes her graduate studies.

Michael Whitfield joined the board in 2002 and right from the beginning one could sense a distinct sensibility, As a business consultant by day, Michael was able by night to strengthening RCPC's relationship with the Rockridge District Association (RDA), the College Avenue business association. Michael also chaired the Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Committee and was instrumental in having the city restripe several crosswalks in the neighborhood. He also presented the neighborhood's concerns about a possible fourth bore to the Caldecott Tunnel. Since moving to Orinda, he may now be on the other end of this particular issue.

Jacqueline Tasch moved to our neighborhood in July 2002 and just a couple of months later, responded to the need for a new editor at *The Rockridge News.* New to the scene, Jackie was soon diving right into the base of neighborhood politics and handled it all professionally. The skills she developed in newspaper journalism, including a stint with the *Los Angeles Times*, were readily evident in the way she crafted the paper during her tenure. This is Jackie's last issue. RCPC is grateful for the way she streamlined the process of producing the newsletter and infused it with her unique insights.

The Rockridge News Needs You

Do you have between 30 minutes to an hour to spare each month? Would you like to dedicate this time to your community? A *Rockridge News* Marshal is moving and we need someone with a car to replace her.

The job involves picking up *The Rockridge News* bundles on the first Friday of the month and making about six deliveries to houses in the neighborhood. Please call 547-3855 or e-mail Susan at smontauk@juno.com to volunteer.



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Fulfilling the Vision: UnderBART Finds Support, Expertise for Plans to Enhance BART Station Area

by Teresa Drenick

Officials from BART, CalTrans, the City of Oakland, and Councilmember Jane Brunner's office... are lending their support and expertise.

As it marks its first anniversary, the UnderBART Committee is rapidly moving forward on the Rockridge UnderBART enhancement project. Meeting once a month throughout the year, the committee has crafted a vision statement, a comprehensive list of goals, and specific projects to fulfill each goal.

Once the vision is fulfilled, the Rockridge neighborhood will enjoy a large central plaza area bordered by Keith on one side and the BART station on the other. The plaza will offer a space for neighbors, shoppers, and visitors to gather and relax. There will be seating, tables, plantings, improved lighting, and spaces for public art.

Under the BART tracks and Highway 24, the committee envisions brighter and more inviting space, with new surfacing on the walls, new lighting and benches, and an open breezeway over College Avenue.

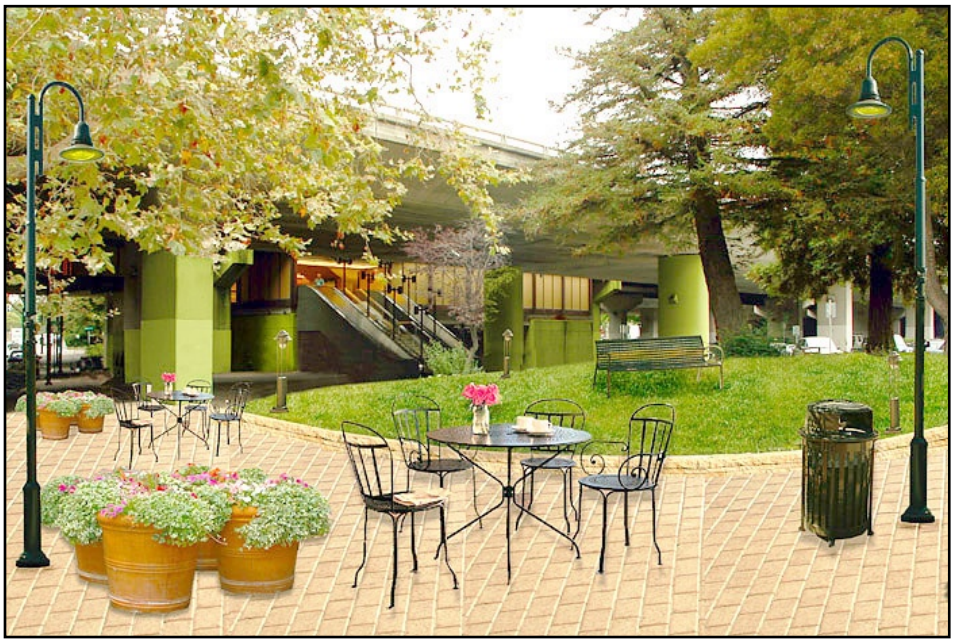
In the area now filled with ivy on the north side of the station, a beautiful community garden will blossom. School children as well as neighbors will have an opportunity to contribute their gardening talents to create a central space filled with native plantings, pathways, and seating.

Suggestions from the community

The community at large contributed many good ideas and a wealth of input at the College Avenue street fair in the fall. Neighbors filled out close to 200 surveys at a booth hosted by the UnderBART committee. The surveys have been tallied, and the information gathered will be key in steering the project according to neighborhood demand.

With the New Year under way, the committee is getting down to the difficult business of searching for funding sources for all aspects of the project. Grant opportunities as well as private funding will be explored. Officials from BART, CalTrans, the City of Oakland, and Councilmember Jane Brunner's office have all participated in the process throughout the year. They are lending their support and expertise in every aspect of the planning process.

The UnderBART committee meets the second Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at the Rockridge Library. New members are always welcome. If anyone is interested in joining, please attend a meeting, or contact committee chairperson Teresa Drenick at Tdrenick@aol.com.



The photo illustrations above and on the next page depict a paved plaza with attractive paths, comfortable places to sit with friends and watch the world go by, a community garden, and improved sight lines. It is the goal of the UnderBART committee to create a more inviting and calming area around the Rockridge BART station. The committee has been working with BART, the City of Oakland, Jane Brunner's office and consultants to bring the visions illustrated above to reality.

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UnderBART Brings Plaza Design To Neglected Station Space





Benches, a garden, and meandering paths soften BART's impact on College Avenue, creating a more restful community space.

Photo Illustrations supplied by UnderBART Committee

Liquor Store Shuttered; Building Owners Seek Alternate Uses

Months after Rockridge Liquor was shut down because of liquor sales to minors, the eviction notice is still posted, and the doors remain barred. A spokesman for the owner says a new tenant can't move in until issues related to stock and furnishings left in the store are resolved.

In the meantime, only one thing is clear: No liquor can be sold at that address for a while because of restrictions imposed by state law.

Between December 11, 2001, and May 17, 2002, three complaints of selling alcoholic beverages to minors were filed against the operator of Rockridge Liquor, Rida Munir Rasheed. A final offense was documented last March. Under pressure from the City Attorney's office, the landlord, Youssef Numeir, moved to evict the tenant.

That eviction was ordered on June 30, and the store was locked up on July 29. However, over the next few months, passers-by glancing inside might have thought the store was just closed for the day.

The stock remained on the shelves because the tenant hoped to find a new tenant for the property who would buy his stock and furnishings, but that plan fell through, according to the landlord's attorney, David Fischer. Although the merchandise was removed in the last few weeks, counters and heavy refrigerator cases remain.

"The owners feel like part of the neighborhood," Fischer says. "They've been around for a long time, and they'd like to see the store return to being a productive part of the College Avenue community. They're willing to consider alternative uses for the storefront."



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Calthorpe

from page 1

His Berkeley-based firm, Calthorpe Associates (http://www.calthorpe.com), is a leading proponent of Transit Oriented Development (http://www.vtpi.org/tdm/tdm45.htm), and Calthorpe himself is a founding member of the Congress for New Urbanism (http://www.cnu.org). These two planning concepts aim to achieve development that promotes a multiplicity of housing types, mixed use neighborhoods, and strong connections to the region via transit (with neighborhoods like Rockridge being the archetype).

Calthorpe's career began with the election of Jerry Brown as Governor. In the heady days of the 1970s, Calthorpe worked in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to develop an urban strategy for California, an early attempt at a "smart growth" policy. While the urban strategy was not formally adopted, it became the blueprint for Calthorpe's career.

The urban strategy seeks to inform citizens of the hidden costs of current development patterns: Zoning codes and city general plans that call for land specialization, with single-family residences in one zone and commercial activity in another, often divided by six lanes of traffic. This development pattern means residents must use a car to complete almost any task.

Specialist development has created a whole specialist industry, Calthorpe said. Home builders build only one type of home and bank with one type of bank, whereas commercial builders build only offices or strip centers and use another type of bank to service their needs. Because each has narrow interests, these industry segments tend to work at cross-purposes. Moreover, affluent citizens are segregated from the poor and middle class, and residential areas are segregated from work and play zones. The sum of these patterns is what we call urban sprawl, and sprawl is subsidized through federal highway grants and lending practices.

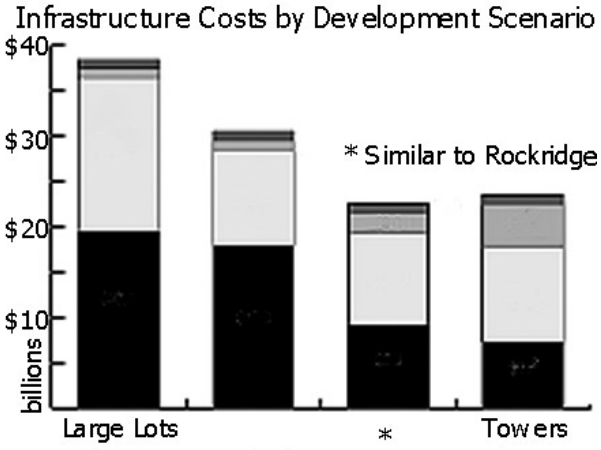
While the suburban pattern of the 1950s made sense for postwar America, Calthorpe said, the model has been stretched beyond its limits. In the Bay Area, people may commute two hours each way to work and back, with an obvious impact on family and the environment.

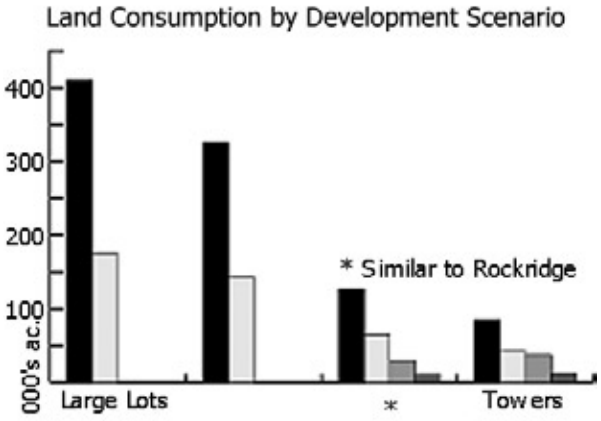
What is the answer? Calthorpe laid out the options. If the current trajectory continues, residents can look forward to 3- or 4-hour commutes, along with spoiled air and stressed inhabitants. The alternative is denser development with mixed uses and connection to transit. Calthorpe cited Rockridge as an archetype of what he called transit-oriented development and new urbanism and offered a planning strategy.

Calthorpe Associates was hired in the late 1990s by the State of Utah to consider the future development of the Greater Wasatch/Salt Lake City Area (http://www.envisionutah.org). The state was considering how to handle a population increase of 2 million by the year 2020 and its consequences in land development. The citizens, developers, and bankers of Greater Salt Lake City were presented with several possible developments scenarios, each with a housing type and the requisite cost to build and maintain. The results were quite startling.

The bankers and developers, who insisted that people wanted single-family homes on half-acre lots, were surprised to find that 30% of respondents to a survey chose multifamily housing or other denser models. The data showed that only 25% of the population fit the traditional nuclear family model, and alternative housing types were in demand. The type of housing most favored looked suspiciously like what already exists in Rockridge. More surprising were the data on government expenditures and resources related to each kind of development (see graphs at right, above).

Calthorpe ended his presentation with his current plans for Uptown in Oakland's downtown. His firm is working with the City of Oakland to determine a development strategy for the area delineated by the Fox Theater, 20th Street, Telegraph Avenue, and San Pablo Avenue. The Uptown development will offer a mixed use environment, but one much denser than Rockridge, as should be expected in the center city. "Cities cannot be suburbs," Calthorpe said.





The above Construction Cost & Land Consumption graphs show the impact of the hidden costs related to specialist development patterns discussed in the accompanying article.

Graphics: Calthorpe Associates

After his presentation, Calthorpe and Brunner fielded questions on the implications of a livable communities strategy. The questions ran the gamut of crime, bicycle lanes, overdevelopment, and traffic. Of particular interest was Calthorpe's response to development pressures.

Rockridge, in particular, is a desirable location based on varying factors, and Calthorpe said the neighborhood would benefit from infill development. This comment was met with concern from some and amusement from others. His stance is consistent with the premise that density itself is not bad, but can become bad in project design and implementation.

This presentation is one of many Jane Brunner will hold in relation to her Livable Communities Initiative. For more information on what Councilmember Brunner is doing, contact her at 238-7001 or visit her website at http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/council/coun_mem/brunner/index.html

Changes on College

by Theresa Nelson

New Stores

Red Feather Mercantile

Home accessories and furnishings
5418 College Avenue, Oakland
510/420-1928
Monday – Sunday 11 am – 8 pm

Lapin

Women's clothing and accessories
5337 College Avenue, Oakland
510/595-0724
Tuesday – Saturday 11 am – 6 pm, Sunday 12 – 5 pm

Antiques & Interiors

5292 College Avenue, Oakland
Hours unknown

Closed

Rockridge Liquors & Market

5316 College Avenue

ZONING COUNTER

5468 Manila Avenue

Proposal: To construct a 441 sq. foot, second story addition to an existing 1,380 sq. foot single family dwelling on a 4,120 sq. foot legal parcel.

Applicant: Baird Wheatley

Contact Person/Phone Number: Baird Wheatley 760/632-5317

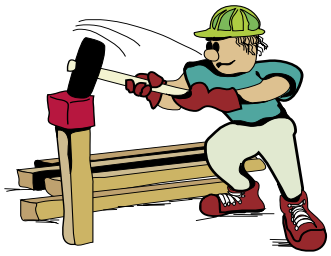
Owner: Linda Fogel

Planning Permits Required: Regular Design Review for an addition to a single family dwelling. Minor Variance to allow 2'8" side (east) yard setback where 5' is required.

Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property (PDHP);

Survey rating DC2+

Case Planner: Miroo Desai Brewer, 238-6935 or mbrewer@oaklandnet.com



6039 College Avenue

Proposal: To make façade and sign modifications to an existing service station.

Applicant: Ron Dultamel, Arc Inc

Contact Person/Phone Number: Ron Dultamel 707/745-0502

Owner: Shell Oil Products

Planning Permits Required: Regular Design Review for exterior modifications in the C-31 Zone.

Case Planner: Leigh McCullen at 238-4977 or lmccullen@oaklandnet.com

5633 Manila Avenue

Proposal: To establish a child day care center in an existing church. Proposed hours of operation are 7:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Applicant & Contact Person: Diana & Isidro Ovalk, 652-7021

Owner: Manila Avenue Church

Planning Permits Required: Conditional Use Permit to establish a day care facility

Case Planner: Miroo Desai Brewer, 238-6935 or mbrewer@oaklandnet.com

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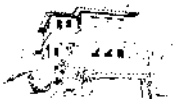

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$625,000 www.5360Locksley.com *SOLD*


$785,000 www.5829Colby.com *SOLD*

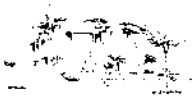

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Ron Kriss, Realtor®/Partner Lawton Associates 510-547-5970 Ext. 55 ronkriss@jps.net



Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

A CHEF'S TOOLS OF THE TRADE

I will never forget my first day as a student at the California Culinary Academy. When I entered the building, I was struck by the sight of all the students, dressed in their starched white chef coats and houndstooth pants, scurrying around the building. Would I ever become a chef? I was directed to the Academy auditorium. There, as if I had reported for military induction, I was issued my basic chef uniform, which I was expected to wear every time I entered the building.

At my first class, our teacher, Chef Suzi, instructed us on the exact way to wear that uniform as students at the Academy. If we varied from those rules, we were told, any chef instructor at the Academy could tell us we did not meet Academy standards. Then, we would have to adjust our uniform or leave the building. Just like the military.

That same day, I was also issued my chef's toolbox. When I opened it, I knew that my life's passion would be a reality. In front of me lay the knives and other tools that would turn me into a chef.

In the building trades, you often hear the phrase, "A carpenter never blames his tools." In the culinary arts, however, the right tools are critical to a great meal. Bottom line: You cannot expect to cook a great meal unless you have the right tools, which include the right knives and the right cookware. Cooking gadgets are always helpful, but in the final analysis, the knives and the cookware are most important. Let me share a bit of the tool expertise I acquired at the Academy.

The importance of knives to a cook cannot be overstated—most chefs carry their own to the restaurants where they work. Early in my training, I learned that the knife is an extension of the human hand and should be treated with the greatest respect and care. Never compromise on price when buying a knife. With proper care, a knife will last a lifetime. I still have two Sabatier carbon steel knives my mother-in-law purchased for me nearly 40 years ago. They are my favorite knives.

The following rules concerning knife care are essential and part of the automatic behavior of professional chefs.

■ Handle knives with respect. Never put good knives in the dishwasher or let them dry on the drain board. Always store your knives in a knife box; not in your utensil drawer. When you take knives on trips, they should be stored in sheaths.

■ There is no such thing as a knife that never needs sharpening. Keep knives sharp. Although there are many knife-sharpening products on the market, I always take my knives to a professional knife sharpener. The best knife sharpener I know is not far from Rockridge, in the Temescal shopping area on Telegraph and 51st Street. Remember, dull knives cause the most injuries.

■ Use the right size knife for the job. Knives are intended for specific jobs. A paring knife should not be used to chop or dice large pieces of meat or vegetables. A chef's knife should not be used to cut small fruits or vegetables.

■ Before starting to prepare your meal, always run your knife over a steel. Contrary to popular belief, the steel does not sharpen the knife. The steel keeps the knife edges in alignment.

Most home chefs will need three types of knives. An 8-inch chef's or French knife is used for chopping, slicing, and mincing. A 4-inch paring knife for is used for peeling and trimming vegetables and fruits. A boning knife separates raw meat or poultry from the bone. If you do a lot of Asian cooking, you may want to have a cleaver in your knife collection.

After knives, few tools in the kitchen are as personal as your pots and pans. Knowing how well a material conducts heat is the first step in selecting cookware. Each cookware material has its advantages and disadvantages. The choices for the home chef include hard-anodized aluminum; multi-ply cookware consisting of bonded layers of pure aluminum, copper, and stainless steel; and nonstick. You don't have to spend a fortune to acquire any of these different types. Julia Child used her $20 nonstick for more than 20 years.

Every home chef needs a few good pots and pans. The saucepan is what we used to call a pot. Capacity ranges from one to five quarts. The home chef should have two or three saucepans. Frying pans and sauté pans are the workhorses of stovetop cooking. A well-stocked kitchen should have at least three sauté pans in different sizes; one of which should be nonstick. Other pots in the kitchen should include a stockpot (15-quart) and a Dutch oven or braising pot. If you cook Asian food, a well-seasoned wok is essential.

Knives, cookware, and cooking gadgets have become a big-time market. Whatever

A Chef's Tools, page 12

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What's It Worth?



by Ortrun Niesar

This Christmas, much of my gift money went into buying tickets for all sorts of performances and arts events I wish I could attend but don't have the time for. It was a virtual or vicarious thrill for me. I stuck these precious little *billets* into the stockings of those who I thought would enjoy the experience, and it made me feel super good.

Here I gave some pretty wonderful gifts and, at the same time, had an opportunity to support the arts in our communities by getting people to go to the theater or a concert more than just once or twice a year. This may come as a surprise to you, but statistics show that this has become the average attendance at arts events, even among those who would consider themselves strong arts supporters. There is enormous competition for our time and money out there these days.

I must admit that the prices of some of these tickets were just about at my upper spending limit. It made me think about how unaffordable some cultural events have become. I can fully understand how potential theatergoers may feel angry or turned off by the price, which seems exclusionary and insensitive. Unfortunately, in our society, when the price is high for one activity, the door is opened to a million other consumer choices. As a result, live arts performances often lose out to the quick fix of the video rental and pizza delivered to the door.

Paying for what you like

Nonprofit performing arts organizations everywhere are now experimenting with a concept I find laudable: While performances cannot be free, they should indeed be accessible to all. Many institutions have been trying out "suggested donation" (amount stated) or "give what you can" where the ticket price used to be. The caveat is that no one will be left standing at the door for lack of funds, and forms can be filled out for tax purposes if desired. All of that still has the side effect of producing a feeling of lingering guilt or anger, respectively, if you think what you gave was not enough or was too much for the performance.

Patrick Dooley, director of the Shotgun Players at the Julia Morgan Theater, wants to try another approach this coming year, which he thinks will address consumer malaise. Let's say that in our consumer society a performance can be viewed as a product that represents a certain value to the viewer. As a consumer, you would not buy a cell phone without doing some serious research. With little point of comparison, you may have some trouble assessing the value of a play. Patrick respects that feeling and is about to try not charging admission at the door, but instead passing the hat at the end of the performance and asking the audience to pay what they think it's been worth.

Filling the theater

That's an awful risk, you might think, because there are actors and rent to pay. But Patrick says he would rather have the theater filled to the rafters with an audience than play to an empty house. And Patrick is an optimist. His experience doing "priceless" performances at John Hinkel Park taught him that audiences will respond generously — if they like the play, that is.

Patrick will begin his new program with the production of Moliere's *The Miser* in April. You are invited to bring some appropriate value exchange mediums such as money—and ripe tomatoes, I suppose.

Note: *The Death of Meyerhof* is now playing under the old conventional payment system. Please do go see it. Call the Julia Morgan theater at 845-8542.

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

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A Chef's Tools

from page 10

your level of cooking expertise, I suggest you shop for these basic tools at a restaurant supply house. You will get the best prices and the best products. I shop at East Bay Restaurant Supply in Oakland and Economy Restaurant Supply in San Francisco. If you are ever in New York City, Bridge Kitchen Supply is the mecca for cooking tools. All the top New York chefs shop there.

This month's recipe is a perfect example of how to use a sauté pan to create a very simple but tasty entrée.

Sautéed Chicken Breasts in a White Wine Lemon-Caper Sauce

Ingredients (Serves 4)

- ☐ 4 chicken breast cutlets (half breasts, boned and flattened)
- ☐ ¼ cup flour seasoned with salt and pepper
- ☐ 1 ½ tablespoons olive oil mixed with 1 ½ tablespoons butter
- ☐ 1 shallot, minced
- ☐ 1 cup white wine
- ☐ ¼ cup lemon juice
- ☐ 2 tablespoons capers

Directions

1. Dredge chicken breasts in flour. Shake off excess.
2. Heat oil and butter in sauté pan over medium-high heat until butter stops foaming.
3. Lay breasts in the pan, and cook 3 to 4 minutes per side. Remove from pan and place on warm plate.
4. Add shallots to the pan and sauté until soft.
5. Increase heat to high, add wine, and bring to a boil. Add lemon juice and capers.
6. Cook about 4 to 5 minutes.
7. Pour over chicken breasts and serve.

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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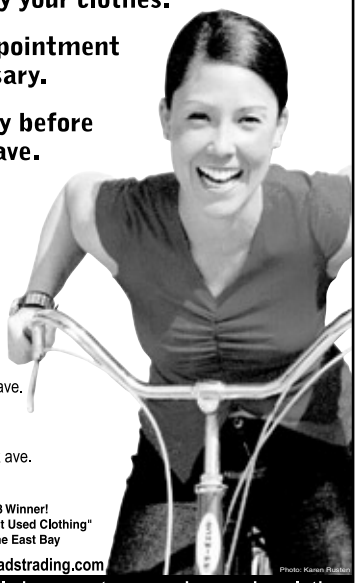
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Library Hip-Hop

from page 5

Christian, a sixth grader at Claremont Middle School who attended the eight-session workshop, said, "We learned a lot about the history. Like in the '70s and '80s, hip-hop music sounded like rock. It was really slow compared to hip-hop music today." He defines hip-hop as a combination of rap and pop.

Fifteen-year old Antonesha, a student at Oakland Tech, commented, "The instructor was tight — he really helped us learn." Her favorite part of the workshop was recording her original rap on the group CD. She is interested in pursuing music as a career and said the workshop was the only opportunity she's had to record her own music.

Addison, the youngest participant, said he enjoyed using the instructor's professional recording equipment. He learned that writing a song was harder than recording it and that "the equipment is really delicate — you need to keep food away from it."

Library Assistant Jennifer Rockwell, a hip-hop aficionado, coordinated the series and would like to bring more offerings of this type to local teens. As she comments, "It seems to me that hip-hop is the number one inspiration to teenagers today so I want them to see that they can do more than consume hip-hop."

She also points out that the teens in this workshop learned about all the resources the library has to offer, such as CDs, books about their favorite artists, or books about how to make it in the hip-hop industry. She may organize another workshop, perhaps in the summer.

A copy of the workshop song, "Streetlights," is available for checkout at the library. Anthony Madrigal may be reached at 510/828-1081 or by email at tax@stubbornlights.com.



ROCKRIDGE CRIME REPORT

Facts, Figures and Trends From Rockridge Beat 12Y

by John Potis,
RCPC Board Member

Oakland is divided up into beats covered by police officers. The Rockridge neighborhood is roughly similar to the 12Y beat. Although parts of Rockridge extend into other beats, this report will focus on 12Y for simplicity.

From September 1 through October 15, there were 70 listed crimes for the 12Y beat. About 90% of the crime in the 12Y beat occurred west of College Avenue, and more than half of it was theft. Narcotics crimes were clustered in the vicinity of 63rd Street and Alcatraz Avenue between College and Telegraph. Theft crimes generally occur along College Avenue, Hudson Street, and near Telegraph Avenue, forming a rough circle.

From September 1 to September 15, the 17 listed crimes occurred in the west half of Rockridge, with narcotics-related crimes in the northwest.

From September 15 to September 30, the number of reported crimes roughly doubled to 32. Theft was clustered along Hudson and Kales Avenues, on College between Harwood and Miles, and along Chabot between Ivanhoe and Chabot Court.

From October 1 to October 15, reported crimes dropped to 22. Again, crime was primarily in the west half of Rockridge, with a cluster of thefts, narcotics crimes, and vandalism along Telegraph Avenue between 60th and Alcatraz.

From October 15 to November 1, reported crimes stayed roughly the same at 20. Thefts continued on College Avenue north of Highway 24. The single narcotics arrest was north of Alcatraz on Telegraph. A cluster of burglaries and a single theft occurred near 58th, Telegraph, and Claremont. A robbery was committed at the bottom of the hill on Florio Street at Manoa Street.

From November 15 to December 1, reported crimes jumped slightly to 25, but nearly all crimes clustered in an area bounded by Alcatraz, Colby, 62nd, and Telegraph. Narcotics arrests, auto theft, burglary, petty theft, and a single assault occurred in this area. A single auto theft occurred on Harwood near the palm in the middle of the road, and two burglaries occurred near 51st on Shafter and Manila.

This crime report is based on information provided by the Oakland Police Department on their website http://www.oaklandnet.com/cw/cwmain.jsp. To access the site, direct your computer to http://www.oaklandpolice.com/index.html. You may need a plug-in that is provided on their website. The website does not necessarily show the most up to date or complete information on crime and the information provided is available in spreadsheet or map form. The information is not very specific. Only the general nature and general location of the crime is given.

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Linda Fino
Escrow Coordinator



Jan Carlisle
Administrative Assistant

RN classifieds

Your Message Could Be Here

Your 36-word message: $18 (phone number counts as one word). Mail to: **RN Classifieds**, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618. *February deadline is January 15.*

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Jazz and Classical Piano Lessons

Rockridge jazz pianist with UC Berkeley music B.A. offers lessons in jazz, blues, classical, music theory, ear-training, technique. Experienced, patient teacher, all ages/levels. Janet 653-6783.

Temporary Room Rental

Having out of town guests and nowhere to put them? Large, sunny room available in Craftsman home in Rockridge/Elmwood area. See website for photos and info. http://geocities.com/cayenne2810 or call 510/547-8788.

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Landscape Garden Design

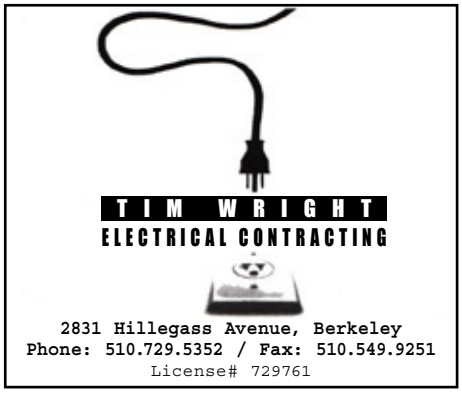
Temescal Landscape Architect with over 15 years experience. Specializing in design and renovation of residential gardens in the East Bay. References upon request. Please call Tomi: 420-1197.

CHI KUNG for Health

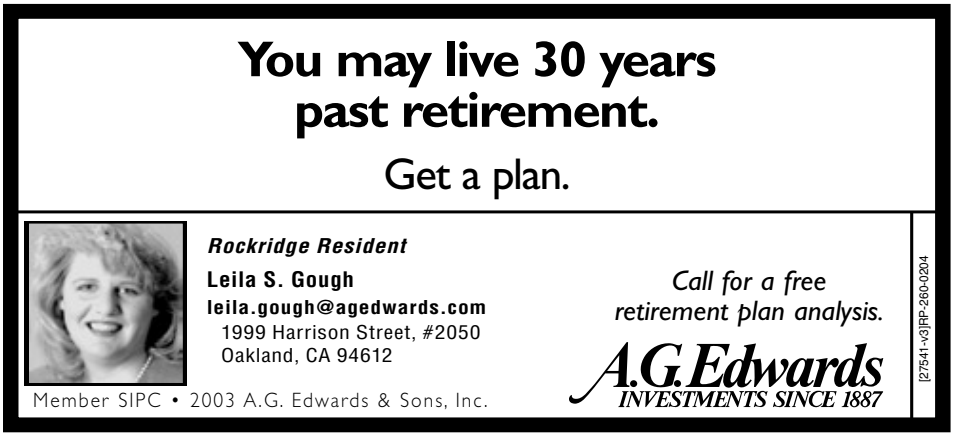
Chinese self-healing exercises made simple, gentle and easy to learn. Practice encourages health, relieves stress, quiets the mind and promotes healing. Especially good for chronic illness, cancer, stress-related problems and RSI. www.healingchikung.com and ellencr@sbcglobal.net. 597-1160.

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Check Your...

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). **February topic**: March ballot measures and elections. Discussions about: Library Tax, Strong Mayor (Measure X), School bond, Violence prevention, County sales tax, At-Large-Councilmember and the Presidential Primary. More information 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 NCPCs 12Y and 13X areas are invited to voice their concerns about crime and public safety.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017.

For Children:

- Toddler Story Time, Saturday, 10:30am: 1/10, 2/7.
- Pre-School Story Hours, Wednesday, 10:30 & 11am: 1/7, 1/21, 2/4.
- Pajama Story Time, Tuesday, 7pm: 1/13, 1/27, 2/10.

Special Event:

- Craft session for all ages. Create your own pop-up or flat Valentines. No pre sign-up; all materials provided. Saturday, 2/7, 2 to 3:30pm.

For Adults:

- **Lawyers in the Library**: Free legal advice. First Tuesday of each month, from 6 to 8pm. Advance sign-up 5pm.

Special Event:

- **Writing from the Soul**: Free workshop with Suzanne West, M.A., Chair of the Dept. of Liberal Arts, JFK University. Saturday, 1/31 from 1-3:30pm. Space limited to 25 participants. Call 597-5017 to register.

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: All Oakland Libraries closed 1/16 and 1/19

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

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.

- Tuesday, 1/6, 7:30pm, Laurie Fox: *Lost Girls*.
- Sunday, 1/11, 2pm, Big Fan Press chat-book release party. Becky Peterson reads from *Metropolitan Bird Culture*. Also, Julia Block and Malka Geffen will read from new works.
- Wednesday, 1/21, 7:30pm, Jennifer Roberts: *Good Green Homes*.
- Thursday, 1/22, 7:30pm, Jennifer Margulis, Ericka Lutz and Paul Kivel: *Toddler: Real-life Stories of Those Fickle, Irrational, Urgent, Tiny People We Love*.
- Sunday, 1/25, 2pm, Al Martinez: *I'll be Damned if I Die in Oakland*.
- Wednesday, 1/28, 7:30pm, John Hart, author of *San Francisco Bay: Portrait of an Estuary*, will present a slide show by the book's photographer, David Sanger. Sponsored by the Audubon Society.

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. For details about upcoming field trips and special programs, call 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. Massage services, Monday and Wednesday (by appointment). The newsletter, *North Oakland Senior Times*, provides a full schedule of classes and a monthly lunch menu: (suggested donation: seniors age 60 + $2 and $4 for those under age 60). Call 597- 5085 to get details about membership, newsletter, class or appointment times, and opportunities to become a volunteer.

Elder Care Support Group

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

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 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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