THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

VOL. 20 ■ NO. 1 ■ ISSUE NO. 208 ■ January 8, 2005! CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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

agenda: RCPC Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, January 20, 7:00 pm.
Rockridge Branch Library
5366 College Avenue at Manila,
Community Room (Upstairs)

The Future of Rockridge

How do you want to see Rockridge develop over the next 10 years? Please join us at the January 20 Town Hall Meeting to share your ideas about future development, as well as to weigh in on other important issues that affect our neighborhood, such as transportation, traffic, parking, crime, and parks and open space.

Share your ideas about future development, as well as weigh in on other important issues that affect our neighborhood.

In 2004, RCPC responded to a number of proposed new developments in Rockridge, including two new restaurants along College Avenue and a retail complex on Claremont Avenue. In addition, RCPC is launching a planning process to explore development opportunities under the Rockridge BART station.

In late January, the RCPC board will hold its annual strategic planning retreat where we will be setting policy on how RCPC responds to development proposals and pursues development opportunities. In addition, we will determine our program priorities for 2005. These are important discussions, and we need to hear from you.

The January 20 Town Hall Meeting is an important opportunity for Rockridge residents to help set the direction for RCPC in the coming year. We need your input!

Oakland Schools Face Sweeping Changes, Closings in 2005

Closures, charters, New Small Autonomous Schools (NSAS) part of controversial solutions to OUSD ills



Kerry Hamill

by Kerry Hamill, Member, Oakland School Board

Sweeping changes are planned in the Oakland School District in response to the loss of 9,500 students in six years, chronic academic underachievement, and a mandate to re-make troubled schools contained in the federal "No Child Left Behind" act.



Teacher's union president Ben Visnic surveys pickets protesting proposed Oakland school closings. PHOTO: CY GULASSA

State-appointed school district administrator Dr. Randy Ward last week acted on two initiatives which will overhaul the current complement of 13 North Oakland schools. Ward will close Golden Gate Elementary School at 6200 Golden Gate Avenue and Washington Elementary School at 581 61st Street by the end of this school year. A New Small Autonomous (NSAS) Kindergarten-through-8th grade school (a district school — not a charter school) is currently being

▸ SCHOOLS CHANGES, PAGE 12

Who's Got the Power? What Kind of Power? *We've Got the Power! Union Power!*

by Cy Gulassa

Chanting Q&A riffs like "What's disgusting? Union busting!" and waving picket signs at honking motorists, a group of about 60 Claremont workers paraded on the sidewalk outside the main entrance to the Claremont Hotel at noon on December 18 to protest stalled contract negotiations.

According to Claire Darby, a rally leader and spokesperson for Unite Here Local 2850, the boycott

▸ UNION PROTESTS, PAGE 10



Pickets from Unite Here Local 2850 tell it like it is at Claremont Spa: (fr left) Johnathan Hintze, Ivana Krakcinovic, Lorraine Powell, Marlo Savioni, Kelly Dunn. PHOTO: CY GULASSA

Rockridge Kitchen Tour 2005: Make Your Kitchen a Star!

The Rockridge Kitchen Tour seeks kitchens in Rockridge for its October tour. If your classic or renovated kitchen is ready to show or if the remodel will be completed by this spring, please let us know.

Don't be shy! Submissions may be directed to Jennifer Edmister at toejrb@earthlink.net or to RCPC at 644-4228, attention Kitchen Tour.

Rockridge Kitchens

Infill and History at Temescal Place

Jeff Norman, Temescal artist, and Tom Dolan, Rockridge architect, enhance "green" condo development with historical tributes

by Claire Wahrhaftig-Isaacs

It's 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 15, at Lanesplitters Pizza Parlor at 48th and Telegraph. A lively crowd is enjoying beverages and snacks. The group of developers, residents, lookers-on, friends and city officials moves as one across the street to the new 25-unit, completely occupied, six-story condo development named Temescal Place. At 4811 Telegraph, it's a handsome and simple building.



Jeff Norman, artist, (left) and architect Tom Dolan show off a photo (c.1895) of a Telegraph Avenue streetcar, now part of a historical display at Temescal Place.

PHOTO: CLAIRE WAHRHAFTIG-ISAACS

The buzz is about Temescal's becoming "the" place to be.

Councilwoman Jane Brunner is elated. Under quickly rigged bright lights on the sidewalk, she states, "We are going BACK to the way we were in the 1880s in Temescal." She adds that the new building is a good development for the neighborhood and for business and restaurants. Artist Jeff Norman, including the temporary historical plaques for Temescal Plaza's construction fence, the Temescal Post Office sculptural seated area, and the public art for Fire Station 8, has once again made a place come alive with history artistically presented. Yes, this is a great artist's community.

Norman met with Ron Kriss and Roy Alper, developers of the building, two years ago. At first they planned only an historical plaque acknowledging the site's Italian history. This grew to include a striking black-and-white photo of old-time Temescal's cable car, conductor and gripman. "Here, Over Time," is a series of 11 maps in the lobby that document the site in chronological order from 1776, revealing how the Bay Area and neighborhood have changed.

While this is a private development and no art was required, Kriss, a broker at Lawton Associates in Rockridge, and their facilitator, Patrick Zimski, were eager to honor the neighborhood. So was architect Thomas Dolan, also a Rockridge resident. Dolan, a great believer in urban infill, says, "Auto transit is a measure of dysfunction. One should be only 15 minutes away from work by some form of transit other than auto — public transit, bike, or foot — or the system is wrong." An advocate of Smart Growth and a proponent of "green architecture and urbanism," Dolan is proud that Temescal Place has the largest array of solar panels on any roof in Oakland. Because Oakland has designated Temescal a "growth and change" district, they are allowed a 20-foot height variance to achieve greater housing density. "Merchants feel density is their friend," he said. He noted that BART is only 10 minutes away in two directions. The building is "contextual," that is, it refers to details of nearby buildings, especially one at 42nd St., and thus reflects the neighborhood.

Rockridge might do well to note this trend in neighboring Temescal. While Rockridge has its restaurants and shops, one sees no effort here to adorn buildings with art or historical materials. Maybe it's worth considering. At any rate, the feeling is lively and getting much safer in this sister neighborhood, so close to Rockridge shopping. Do take a look.

GARDEN CLEANERS
$5 FREE *DRYCLEANING with garment orders over $28*
or $3 OFF orders over $15
Dry Cleaning only ☛ Present with incoming order
EXPERT SHIRT LAUNDERING!
Garden Cleaners
5808 College Avenue, Oakland
601-1188
Mon – Fri 7 – 7 • Sat 8 – 6
Across from Albertson's & Zachary's Pizza

ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY

5366 College Avenue
597-5017
HOURS:
Mon, Tues: 12:30 – 8 p.m.
Weds, Thurs, Sat: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: **CLOSED**
Library program 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.

***Rockridge News* Production**
Cy Gulassa ..... Editor-in-Chief
Ortrun Niesar, Claire Isaacs ..... Writers
Jodi Schiller ..... Writers
Barry Kaufman ..... Food
Jo Ellis ..... Advertising & Community Calendar
Theresa Nelson ..... Neighborhood Merchant
Lydia Gans ..... Photography
Susan Montauk ..... Business Manager
Don Kinkead ..... Graphics & Layout

RCPC Board of Directors, 2004-2005
Daniel Ferdelman ..... Co-Chair
Deborah Weinstein ..... Co-Chair
Jessica Pitt ..... Vice-Chair
Mike Taylor ..... Secretary
Ehab Bandar ..... Treasurer
Jennifer Edmister, Cy Gulassa
Hiroko Kurihara, Susan Montauk, Mike McDonald, Theresa Nelson, John Potis, Camille Reed

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS
Annual subscriptions to ***The Rockridge News*** can be obtained by sending a check for $18, payable to *Rockridge News* Subscriptions to: *Rockridge News* Subscriptions at the address below.

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

Articles published in *The Rockridge News* may be reprinted only with the permission of the Editor.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING/DEADLINES
Publication date of the next issue is
☛ February 5, 2005
☛ February deadline is January 20.
Advertising rates are $22/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210, or e-mail joellis1@hotmail.com.
(RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate.)

Join DMV Neighbors in a Temescal Creek Cleanup

Saturday, January 15, 2005
9 a.m. to Noon

Please join the DMV Neighbors beside Temescal Creek for a volunteer creek cleanup. We will meet in the DMV parking lot at Claremont and Cavour at 9 a.m. Saturday, January 15. The DMV Neighbors Association will provide coffee and snacks.

Volunteers will weed, rake, sweep, prune, cut back the ivy and pick up debris. The City of Oakland Public Works Environmental Services Division will supply gloves, garbage bags, and tools (loppers. rakes, hoes, brooms, litter pickup sticks, etc.). If you have a favorite tool for these activities, please bring it with you. Be sure to label your tools. Wheelbarrows are especially useful. The creek bed may be wet, so boots are recommended.

Please join us. It always looks so much better after our morning of "yard" work.

Sponsored by the DMV Neighbors Association and the City of Oakland Environmental Services Division. For questions: Margaret, 655-1767.



Open Trees.com
A web-based local business
www.opentrees.com
■ Brand-name camping gear ■ Affordable prices

Neighbors Speak Out About Pedophile Priests at St. Albert's

by Lydia Gans



SNAP demonstrators at the corner of Birch Court and College Avenue protest housing of priests at St. Albert's Priory who are undergoing treatment for allegedly molesting children.

Photo: Cy Gulassa

The Rockridge neighborhood was in the news last month – and it wasn't very flattering. St. Albert's Priory – which many of us had once thought of as a peaceful, friendly neighbor — was recently revealed to be serving as a treatment center for priests accused of pedophilia. The resulting uproar — or was it just a tempest in a teapot? — inspired this *Rockridge News* reporter to contact some of the priory's neighbors for their reaction.

Details were aired in several newspaper articles and Channel 7 reports. Of the 21 men residing at the priory, seven are priests who have reportedly admitted to sexually abusing children. Apparently they were transferred there a couple of years ago under a cloak of secrecy. The flurry of media coverage and a flyer distributed by SNAP (Survivors Network for those Abused by Priests) has made most of the priory's neighbors aware of the scandal. Interestingly, residents expressed a wide range of opinions about St. Albert's priests.

People spoke quite freely, but only on the condition that their names not be printed, and they consistently expressed anger over the church's secrecy on the matter.

One person who has spoken vehemently and publicly is Annette Floystrup, the first to inform me of the situation. She is outraged that these priests are here and that their presence was not disclosed. "The order's primary focus has been to protect the privacy of these men; it has not been to protect this community against their predation," she said. "And that's not right. When you're an admitted pedophile and your order is paying major restitution to victims on your behalf, at that point I think you've lost some of your claim to privacy. It wouldn't be beside the point to post their pictures and their names on St. Albert's website."

A Harwood Avenue mother of three said she was shocked by the news but not worried about her children. "The bottom line for me is disclosure. We all have a right to know." Her husband agreed: "I don't feel our children are at risk."

Another woman said that her children have many friends in the neighborhood and "go in and out of people's houses," but she was not overly concerned. "If it's true they're in therapy and that it's been a long time since they offended and that they're doing the work that they need to do, I support that," she said.

A mother of grown children was ambivalent. "I don't think these people should be getting off at all… they have committed a crime and they should be subject to the laws of the state." But then she added, "They haven't bothered me; they haven't bothered the community; I guess I can say, what's the harm? If somebody does get harmed then should we say, I told you so?"

On Chabot Road, I met with a couple of parents who were unconcerned but suggested that this might be a good reminder of the importance of parents being aware of what their children are doing and who they are associating with.

St. Albert's Priests, page 7



Sparks Fly As Gulassa Sworn In to Peralta Position

by Claire Wahrhaftig-Isaacs

One might think of a swearing-in of a new public officer as a rather pleasant, cheery event. But before Cy Gulassa and his fellow new Peralta College Board trustees even took their oaths, a series of speakers utilized the open forum of the meeting of the outgoing board to berate a last-minute contract award.

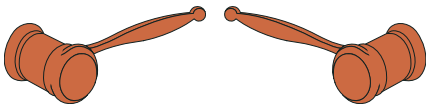
Just before Thanksgiving, with little notice, the old Board granted an exclusive one-year contract to create a plan for developing the Laney College parking lot and adjoining lands. No faculty or staff, not even the president of Laney College, had received prior notice of the proposal, and the Board voted on the item even though it was labeled "discussion only". A parade of angry speakers, including faculty union president Michael Mills and Laney football coach Stan Peters, admonished the old board for conflicts of interest, violation of procedures, lack of vision and poor judgment. The Board sat with frozen faces while many in the audience of 200 or more cheered the critics.

Mills and Peters suggested that the board's decision violated the Brown Act, because it was not properly noticed to the public. They faulted the outgoing board for not educating the public about this proposed action and the fact that the resolution was passed without the public, faculty or students having information or input. They claimed the lands are needed for athletic activity and future growth. Such a huge building project would bring increased traffic, stymie any future college growth and turn Laney into an "urban jungle," they said.

But most of the audience was there to enjoy watching favored candidates take their formal oaths of office. After being sworn in by EBMUD Director Bill Patterson, Gulassa said that his decisive win was a mandate to bring new fiscal accountability and open decision making to the district. He plans to urge the new Board to revisit the Laney land decision in January. Dignitaries at the event included members of local school boards, BART, and Congresswoman Barbara Lee.

The other three Trustees, Marcie Hodge, Bill Withrow, and Nicky González Yuen, were then sworn in.

As the new nameplates were placed on the podium and the old removed, the new Trustees and three holdovers sat down to do the college's business. Soon Gulassa was taking notes, scanning papers and sipping water like a pro.



Help Improve Literacy: Become a Head-Start Storyreader

Want to pick up great story-reading skills and encourage a new generation of readers in Oakland? Volunteer storyreaders present weekly storytimes to preschoolers at one of Oakland's 20 Head Start centers, introducing children to the pleasure of stories and inspiring excitement about books and reading. In a comprehensive storytime class that begins Tuesday, January 18 at the Rockridge Branch Library, participants will learn the art of storytelling from Gay Ducey, whose storytelling talents have been featured on the Mister Rogers show.

New volunteers must complete a series of seven classes focusing on how to select and share wonderful books and present engaging storytimes for preschool children ages three to five. Training dates and locations are listed in the accompanying schedule; volunteers need to sign up in advance and attend every meeting to complete the course. Books for Wider Horizons, a program of the Oakland Public Library, facilitates both the training course and the volunteer program.

Instructor Gay Ducey is the Children's Librarian at the Rockridge Branch of the Oakland Public Library. Ms. Ducey serves as professor of storytelling for Dominican College, Santa Rosa College, UCB Extension and her alma mater, the University of California at Berkeley Library School. She is the former co-chair of the National Storytelling Association, and is co-founder/director of the Bay Area Storytelling Festival.

All training will be at the Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue. Bilingual volunteers are especially needed.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call 238-7453.

Training Dates: Volunteers must attend all dates.	
Tuesday, January 18	6 pm-8:15 pm
Wednesday, January 19	6 pm-8:15 pm
Thursday, January 20	6 pm-8:15 pm
Tuesday, February 1	6 pm-8:15 pm
Wednesday, February 2	6 pm-8:15 pm
Tuesday, February 8	6 pm-8:15 pm
Saturday, February 12	10 am-2 pm



Realtor® Specializing in Rockridge
Saraya P. Motley
510-280-2162

Red Oak Realty

"Wishing you a very happy New Year and a prosperous 2005!"

Visit my website at www.eastbayhouse.com!
If you're thinking of buying or selling, give me a call for a free consultation.

Biker Cops? In Rockridge? *Vrooom!*



Nestled side-by-side, 13 police motorcycles hug the curb next to the Claremont Diner, a clean, well lighted place.

Sheriff's Department motorcycle training officer Rich Cademartori explains why all these cop motorcycles were cruising Rockridge recently.

PHOTOS: CY GULASSA



by Cy Gulassa

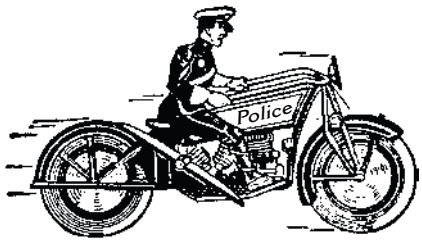
The sight of a baker's dozen of gleaming police bikes at parade-rest on Florio Street beside Rockridge's Claremont Diner on a recent December Saturday was enough to slow pedestrians and invite several dog walkers to gawk. One Rockridge resident, prudently restraining his terrier from making its mark on a motorcycle, wondered aloud, "Who's patrolling the highways if a whole brigade of cops is fueling up at the same time?"

Barely was that question posed when someone who looked like a sheriff out of central casting emerged from the diner, swinging wide the stainless steel door, a strapping six-footer with silver hair and moustache, a grandfatherly face and hands that could crush walnuts if the need should arise. A stream of cops followed him, like church letting out. They chatted, stretched, adjusted sunglasses and helmets and mounted their Kawasaki KZ 1000s, which brayed a thunderous chorus of *vrooooms.*

"What's up?" I asked the captain.

"Motorcycle school," he said, zipping up his red jacket. "After this lunch break, all these rookies'll head for the hills, a little training on canyon and ridge roads, sharp turns, U-turns, figure-8s, formations, stuff like that."

It turns out that the "sheriff" is actually retired Oakland police officer Rich Cademartori, Temescal-born-and-raised, who is the official Lead Motorcycle Instructor for the regional training center of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. Students come from all over the Bay Area, he said, including Napa and Santa Clara counties,



for an intensive, two-week course in basics at the Dublin police training campus, which yearly graduates over a hundred trained motorcycle officers.

Why were they in Rockridge?

"Well, it was their first off-campus outing and they were training on upper Lawton Avenue on how to park a bike on a steep grade with rolled gutters," Cademartori said.

So what's so special about the Claremont Diner? There always seems to be lots of cops here.

"Simple. Great classic food, good service, a nice clean environment."

What do cops eat nowadays?

"Used to be hamburgers when I was a cop, but now some even go for tofu."

Cademartori saddled up and took the lead. One-by-one the rookies peeled off after him, roaring up Florio Street in thunderous single file. Bringing up the rear was instructor Tom Ryan astride a vintage Harley, a kind of caboose to the train of fresh cadets.

INSIDEOUT
architecture | interiors | landscape
Based here in Rockridge, we specialize in:
- Architectural remodels/additions
- Gardens/outdoor spaces
- New construction

info@aboutInsideOut.com
510.655.7674 T 510.655.7673 F

Brian M. Assael, D.D.S.
General and Cosmetic Dentistry
I am dedicated to providing you with the highest quality dental treatment in a caring environment.
2975 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley
(510) 848-9796
www. Berkeleydds.com

Mimi's Landscaping
Design
Installation
Consultation
Construction
Rockridge Resident
510.595.9090
Quality service

Peaberry's, Politics & Tea

Earl Grey in the Ascendant

by John Gussman

"Thank God for tea! What would the world be without tea? How did it exist? I am glad I was not born before tea. I can drink any quantity when I have not tasted wine; otherwise I am haunted by blue-devils by day, and dragons by night."

— Sydney Smith (1771-1845), editor of the *Edinburgh Review*

Lynn Mallard, the proprietor of Peaberry's Coffee & Tea Company, began with a background in chemistry. She entered the artisan coffee and tea trade in the early 1980s, working for Peet's in Berkeley. Later, she decided to strike out on her own, and in 1989 opened a shop in Market Hall.

Seated in her Emeryville tasting room some months ago, Lynn discoursed on the subject of tea as she measured tea leaves onto a scale, preparing for a tasting session. She spoke about Earl Grey tea, and the vagaries of the leaves and the blends. Peaberry's introduced its own Earl Grey tea blend in 1997.



Lynn Mallard, of Peaberry's, displays a bergamot in the tasting room. Photo: John Gussman

"Earl Grey," of course, refers to a tea which has been scented with bergamot. The bergamot (*citrus bergamia*) is a kind of small, inedible, pear-shaped orange, mostly grown in the Reggio di Calabria, a coastal region of southern Italy. Each winter bergamots are harvested and peeled, and the peels are cold-pressed to produce a greenish oil with a grapefruit- or lavender-like aroma.

Earl Grey tea is traditionally prepared by placing a quantity of tea leaves in a large blender or drum, squirting oil of bergamot into the drum, and rotating the drum so that the oil mixes with the leaves. The tea then sits for some days, while the oil settles in. Later, when the leaves are steeped, they produce an infusion with a smoky or citrus-y fragrance and a complex taste which many tea drinkers find delightful. Some tea sellers blend and scent the tea themselves, while others have this done by wholesalers, usually in Austria, Germany, or Britain.

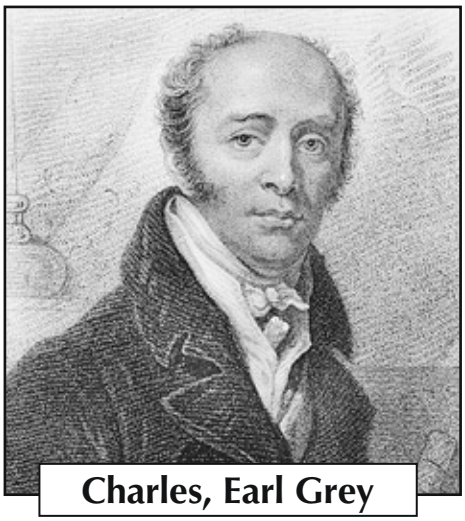
Forty years ago, Earl Grey tea was less often seen than now. When one did come across it, it was always loose, and usually packed in a dusky yellow tin bearing the name of Twinings. Since then, however, Earl Grey tea has spread far and wide, even to small towns and truck stops.

With the spread has come diversification. Until lately, the typical Earl Grey, at least in the United States, was a conventional mixture of Chinese and Indian black teas, strong and robust, and easy to balance against a strong bergamot scent. But today there are Earl Grey blends of every type, using leaves from nearly every tea-growing region in almost every imaginable combination. Green teas are seen in Earl Grey blends very often, and even (rarely) white teas.

The blends are now often accented with lavender or other petals — a French innovation — or with leaves or blossoms from the bergamot tree itself. Peaberry's Earl Grey, for instance, owes its uniqueness partly to the blending and balancing of Indian tea leaves and bergamot, but partly to wild blue mallow blossoms.

Who Was Earl Grey?

Strange to say, this scented tea which has proven so versatile was named for one of the most inflexible — though one of the most progressive — British politicians of the nineteenth century. Charles Grey (1764 -1845) was the son of General Sir Charles Grey, a British commander who led the



Charles, Earl Grey

advance on Philadelphia in 1777, and who was later raised to the peerage. During the 1780s, the younger Grey, spurning the family's Tory traditions, entered the House of Commons as a Whig, at a time when the Whigs (forerunners of the Liberal party) were in decline. In Parliament, Grey was a firebrand, agitating for reform of the electoral system and against the abolition of home rule in Ireland.

During 1806-7, the Whigs gained control of the government, and Grey became Foreign Minister, winning passage of legislation to ban the slave trade throughout the British Empire. Fresh from this triumph, and now acting as Whig leader in the House of Commons, he called for abolition of the religious tests which prevented Catholics from being commissioned as officers in the Army and Navy. This so outraged King George III that he dismissed the Whig ministry.

The historian Lord David Cecil describes Grey as "a shy, reserved, grand seigneur of unbending principles and distinguished manners." H.W.C. Davis states that he "loved to sally forth… to deliver a rousing speech… [defending] the liberties of British subjects, or the rights of oppressed peoples…. On such a subject he was graceful, incisive, even eloquent; his gestures and his delivery were consummate."

Grey soon succeeded to the top party leadership, as well as to his father's earldom, and entered the House of Lords. For the next 23 years, however, since Grey refused to join any coalition in which his party was not dominant, the Whigs had little influence on affairs of state.

All this changed in 1830, when an ultra-conservative Tory government collapsed

Continued top of next page

Earl Grey, from previous page

amidst outbreaks of mob violence in the rural counties and widespread discontent among many branches of society. At the request of the new king, William IV, Earl Grey agreed to become Prime Minister at the head of a liberal coalition.

The Grey ministry pushed hard for a Reform Bill which would extend the electoral franchise to the middle class and abolish the "rotten boroughs" (obsolete electoral districts). The House of Commons, in a state of fright, quickly passed the Reform Bill, and it went to the House of Lords. There, Grey himself led the debate, reviving (says Lord Cecil) "for the wonder and delight of a new generation, the stately splendors of eighteenth-century oratory."

After the debate, the Rev. Sydney Smith, a celebrated literary reviewer, tea afficionado and close friend of the Prime Minister, wrote to Lady Grey: "Lord Grey should stand further from the Bench and more in the body of the house, should stand more upright, and raise his arm — (which no Englishman does, and all foreigners do) from the Shoulder, and not from the Elbow. But he speaks beautifully, and is a torch among tapers." (Letter of Dec. 6, 1831.)

Unfortunately, the Lords refused to pass the Reform Bill without mutilating it. Grey and his cabinet then resigned. With civil unrest spreading through the country, and the Tories unable to form a government, the King had to consent to create enough new liberal peers (lords) to ensure passage of the original Bill. On the next reading of the Bill, rather than see their numbers diluted, enough Tory peers abstained to allow the Reform Bill to pass.

Grey's ministry, which lasted only four years, also got Parliament to abolish slavery within the Empire and to make it unlawful for children younger than 12 to work in factories for more than 9 hours a day.

And the tea connection? As the story goes, while Grey was Prime Minister, a British diplomat in China was responsible for saving the life of a mandarin. The grateful mandarin sent Earl Grey a quantity of scented tea, along with the recipe. Grey later asked Twinings, the London tea firm, to replenish his supply, and the tea was often served in his household.

While Earl Grey held sway in Westminster, the tea that now bears his name was, simply, black tea from China, scented with citrus oil (whether from bergamot, or from the oriental bitter orange, we cannot be sure). China had a monopoly on the tea export trade to Europe; the first chests of Indian tea did not reach London until 1839.

The whole matter is more complicated today. It is no longer just a question of sending word to Twinings: now there are hundreds of Earl Grey blends, with new ones appearing all the time. How is one to choose?

Next month: Choosing from a multitude of Earl Greys.

St. Albert's Priests

from page 3

A neighbor remarked that the men living at Siena House on Presley Way, which is affiliated with St. Albert's, have been great neighbors. When they walk by, "they're cordial, say hello, and are not overly friendly," she said. Although she has small children, she said, "We don't feel threatened. Apparently it was all in the past and there are different takes on whether they can be rehabilitated. You have to let people get on with their lives."

Other residents on Presley Street voiced their anger about the secrecy.

"It probably would have been fine if they had said something ahead of time. But if you didn't tell us, it sort of (implies) that you were hiding something," one person said.

Another Presley Street resident expressed stronger feelings. "It's just another example of the Catholic Church's attitude of hiding things, covering them up, being secretive and in denial… and the whole foolishness of celibacy."

Several people questioned the wisdom of having so many pedophiles in one setting. One suggested that having as many as 7 out of 21 priests with the same problem might cause them "to think they're normal."

The issue that seemed to rile most neighbors was the Church's silence. As the SNAP flyer declared: "Parents and neighbors need honest answers. Enough secrecy!" As I write this, several meetings are planned. And I have to end with an all too familiar statement: I called St. Albert's to get their input but they did not return my call.



The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS
510.339.0400
1960 Mountain Boulevard •Oakland
510.652.2133
3070 Claremont Avenue • Berkeley

Crime Reports in Rockridge

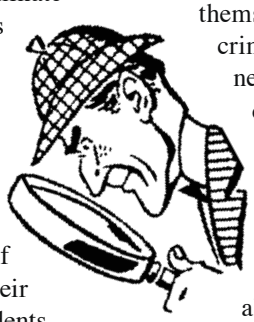
by Susan Montauk, NCPC Vice Chair

Rockridge residents were victims of a variety of crimes and scares during the month of December and they reported them to the Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network, an on-line Yahoo! group. Here's a sample:

- a mountain lion sighting in upper Rockridge;
- a theft of bicycles from Elizabeth House by a group of male teens;
- a tree-pruning scam by a well-spoken man who goes by the name of John (see Letters to Editor, page 10);
- attempted mail theft (call the Postal Service at 415/778-5911 to report mail box tampering);
- home burglaries on Ayala, Harwood, Bryant and Lawton.

The Oakland hills cat-burglar has apparently been caught. Beginning in July, this daring criminal engaged in a months-long spree of about 60 home burglaries in that neighborhood. Orinda police apprehended a suspect on October 28 after a three-hour chase and they believe the man they took into custody, 45 year-old Derric Lewis, is the Oakland Hills cat burglar.

During the burglary crisis, hills resident Steven Fox helped establish a block-by-block e-mail/phone network to disseminate reports about the burglar's activities in his neighborhood. These new lines of communication have galvanized many citizens to lobby for better police protection. In November and December, Mayor Brown held a series of open forums for citizens to air their concerns about crime. Hills residents and others throughout Oakland spoke to the need for more police resources to devote to burglary investigation (there is only one OPD staffmember to follow all leads on burglaries in Oakland).



Crime Watch: A possible pattern of robberies developed in mid-December and involved victims walking to and from Rockridge BART. One male and one female, armed with a silver gun, told the victims to "Give me that" before they took their purses. The male was described as black, 25 years old, 5'11" and 160 pounds. The female was described as black, 30s, 5'7" and 170 pounds.

Neighborhood Watch: With OPD resources at a minimum, citizens can help protect themselves by keeping in touch about crime and suspicious behavior in their neighborhoods. Rockridge residents can join the Rockridge Network Yahoo! group by logging on to www.yahoo.com and searching for Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network.

Rockridge residents are also invited to attend the monthly Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meetings to report specific concerns and ask questions of community-policing officers. The greater Rockridge NCPC meets the third Tuesday of each month (next meeting January 18) at the Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph Avenue, at 7 pm. More information about the NCPC can be found on www.rockridgencpc.com.

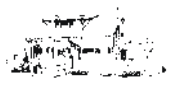
Rockridge Real Estate has been red hot this year!
Sold by Ron Kriss @ Lawton Associates!

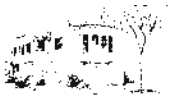

$784,000
www.570Forest.Com
Sold by Ron Kriss


$607,000
www.4194Opal.Com
Sold by Ron Kriss


$615,000
www.479-60th.Com
Sold by Ron Kriss


$942,000
www.4717Harbord.Com
Sold by Ron Kriss


$610,000
www.349-42nd.Com
Sold by Ron Kriss


$680,000
www.477-61st.Com
Sold by Ron Kriss


$825,000
www.5127Coronado.Com
Sold by Ron Kriss


$1,175,000
www.5572Lawton.Com
Sold by Ron Kriss


$1,030,000
www.5940Taft.Com
Sold by Ron Kriss


$879,000
www.5589Lawton.Com
Sold by Ron Kriss

www.TemescalPlace.com
25 Brand-New Townhomes & Lofts
Sold from $339,000 to $602,500

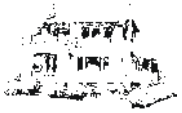



$752,000
www.5326James.Com
Sold by Ron Kriss


$510,000
www.4814Lawton.Com
Sold by Ron Kriss


$450,000
6508 Shattuck
Sold by Ron Kriss


$400,000
6510 Shattuck
Sold by Ron Kriss


$662,500
5460 Broadway
Sold by Ron Kriss

Ron Kriss
Broker
Lawton Associates
510-547-5970 Ext. 55
ronkriss@jps.net

"YOUR 24/7 REALTOR"
LAWTON ASSOCIATES
REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

Nomad Café Owner: "Community Hero"

by Cy Gulassa

In mythology, those who rise above self-interest to face great odds for the benefit of the community are commonly anointed heroes. In that spirit, Christopher Waters, owner of Nomad Café at 6500 Shattuck was dubbed "Community Hero" by Councilmember Jane Brunner at her December Community Advisory meeting celebrating sustainable businesses.

No, Waters does not rescue damsels lashed to train tracks or deflect incoming meteors. He does something far more heroic. Risking apostasy, he joins those who believe that business should have two bottom lines, one for taking something out of the community (profit), and one for giving something back (sustaining it) by, among other things, protecting the environment, giving good service, being involved in the community, and respecting workers—even if it shrinks the first bottom line. In short, when it comes to business philosophy, he holds that if businesses nurture rather than exploit the community, residents will willingly support them even if prices may be slightly higher.

The Brunner proclamation honors Waters for being a community leader, creator of a "thriving small business and a friendly crossroads for the neighborhood," and for designing the café's "proactive recycling and composting programs [that] divert 12 tons of waste per year from local landfills." These business practices earned him the State Waste Reduction Program (WRAP) of the Year award, and certification as a Green Business by the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health.

The café serves organic vegetables and only Fair Trade organic coffee and organic tea, and is famous for its sandwiches, smoothies and desserts. With free wi-fi access, a place to park toddlers, outdoor tables, hip staff and a sleek, glassy design, Nomad is a great place to read, type that term paper or just hang out.



Nomad Café Owner Christopher Waters receives "Community Hero" award from Councilmember Jane Brunner. Waters is also a volunteer gardener at Rockridge's Peralta Elementary School.

PHOTO: CY GULASSA

In addition, Christopher Waters is a volunteer parent gardener at Peralta Elementary School where he teaches children about native plants, growing cycles, composting, nutrition, and making dye for weaving.

"SHOULD YOU SAVE FOR YOUR KID'S COLLEGE OR FOR YOUR RETIREMENT? OR BOTH?"

ANNUITIES, MUTUAL FUNDS, LIFE INSURANCE AND A PLAN.

Susan Bernosky 510 450 9050
Anthony Rutz 510 450 9050

Allstate. FINANCIAL

Allstate Financial is the marketing name for Allstate Life Insurance Company (Northbrook, IL), its subsidiaries and certain affiliates. Securities offered through Allstate Financial Services, LLC. (LSA Securities in LA, and PA). Registered Broker-Dealer. Member NASD, SIPC. Office of Supervisory Jurisdiction: 2920 South 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 877-525-5727.
© 2002 Allstate Insurance Company allstate.com

Complete architectural services since 1970

Jarvis architects

5278 College Avenue
Oakland, CA 94618
(510) 654-6755 fax 654-3424

ROBERTS ELECTRIC

COMMERCIAL RECO RESIDENTIAL

INSTALLATION • REPAIR • 220 WIRING

NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODEL

FREE ESTIMATES

480 - 23rd 843-6161 OAKLAND

SERVING EAST BAY SINCE 1932 CA. LIC# 728215

Jeff Auen



Full Service.
The Difference.

Century 21

North Oak./Orinda/Lafayette

Real Estate Simplified

The most important factor in real estate is market knowledge. I have spent years refining real estate services that will assist you in making the best choices. At my Website you will find numerous articles on home makeovers, investment real estate, preparing your home for sale, buyer guides, etc. In addition, you can instantly find the Value of Your Home or Search for Homes in any area.

Go to my site and explore: www.HomesEastBay.info

Please call or email me if you have any questions or want to receive a free Seller or Buyer guide. This will be mailed directly to you within 24 hours. — Jeff Auen

1-800-805-8827 JeffAuen@Comcast.net
www.HomesEastBay.info

Rockridge Residential/Income Property Investments

Letters to The Editor

The Rockridge News
5245 College Ave., PMB 311
Oakland, CA 94618
or e-mail: editor@rockridge.org

The Rockridge News *welcomes letters to the editor. Please limit to 200 words and include name, address and a phone number for verification. Only your name will appear with your letter. Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity.*

Tree Trim/Yard Work Scam Artist in Rockridge

Editor:

Okay, he comes to the door, tells you that he is working down the street, is almost done and wants to know if you would like to have your trees trimmed. He is probably in his late 30s, early 40s, has light skin and eyes and a close-shaven head, good build. He says his name is John Niu, that he is Tongan. He is well spoken, seems like a good guy, even tells you that he is a good man. He has no business card with him but he gives you his telephone number, has tools and talks knowledgeably about the trees. He quotes a price and asks you to pay him in cash. You hire him and he starts to trim the trees. The first tree looked pretty good, I thought.

He worked for me one afternoon, then showed up on time the next morning. He then worked until noon, at which time he said he needed to be paid so that his brother could get the car out of the shop and come to pick up the branches. I paid him the amount we had agreed upon. We had also begun to talk about working on my fence. He started to take the fence apart, said he had the wood and I should advance him some of the money for that job so that he and his brother could get started on it this afternoon. I paid him a portion of the agreed upon sum for that job and he left to get his car, or so I thought. Thing is, he never came back.

I called the two numbers he had given me and they are bogus. I called a neighbor for whom he said he had worked, and she knew immediately who he was, and that he had done the same thing to her as well as another neighbor across the street. He works until he has your confidence, gets whatever cash he can in advance and then leaves the leaves and disappears.

People need to be warned or they are going to be out of some serious cash. At least five or six people here know what he looks like and how he operates.

Ortrun Niesar



"Come Home to Claremont House"
4500 Gilbert St.
Oakland
(Piedmont / Rockridge Area)
RCFE #011440829



Claremont House
Independent & Assisted Living

Month to Month Rentals | Housekeeping
Active Social Calendar | Full Laundry Service
Adult Education Programs | Compassionate 24 hr Staffing
Transportation Services | Walking Distance to Shops
Fine Dining | Dynamic Enrichment Program

www.crmscommunities.com (510) 658-9266

Union Protests from page 1

has several objectives—to get management back to the table to negotiate health benefits and back pay for the three-and-a-half years members have gone without a contract. The protesters also want Spa employees to be able to unionize. "Today's picketing is to remind the old management and the new one coming in that we will never stop boycotting until we get a just settlement," Darby said.

Many businesses have supported the boycott, including Kaiser Permanente and the Port of Oakland, causing a major loss of income that forced KSL, the owner of the Claremont, to sell its holdings last February to CNL Hospitality. KSL, however, will continue to serve as the interim manager.

Meanwhile, the pickets marched on, some still wearing their waiter uniforms, chanting in Spanish, *"¡Escucha! ¡Escucha! ¡Estamos en la lucha!"* ("Listen, Listen! We are in a struggle!"). They rattled wooden clackers and beat their picket signs with sticks. A few Oakland police officers stood near their vehicles, squinting into the bright winter sun.

Norman H. Burg, DDS
General Dentistry
(510) 652-1517
5700 Broadway, Oakland
A Prevention Oriented Practice

Everyone makes resolutions.
At Curves, you keep them.





This year, find out how over 4 million women who thought they couldn't get fit have discovered they can. At Curves, you can too. Our fun, simple workouts take just 30 minutes, three times a week. Success is right around the corner.

Join today and receive 50% off* the service fee and find out how to get a free Curves book.

Curves
The power to amaze yourself.*
www.baycurves.com

Over 8,000 locations worldwide.

(510) 655-8808
In Market Hall, Downstairs
Enter on Shafter

Free Parking!!!

*Offer based on first visit enrollment, minimum 12 mo. c.d. program. Not valid with any other offer. Valid only at participating locations from 12/27/04-3/6/05. Three referrals required for free book.

©2005 Curves International

The Rockridge Muse

by Claire Wahrhaftig-Isaacs

Living your Dance, Dancing your Life

When Ortun Neisar, who writes this column, asked me to fill in during her unusually busy holiday season, I wondered how I could best serve our *Rockridge News* readership. So I was thrilled to learn from Harwood resident Yoshiko Kukado that Joanna Gewertz Harris is teaching dance for older adults at the Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, on Alcatraz just east of College. Shawl-Anderson, you may know, is a first-rate serious dance studio. Many greats of the dance world, such as Charles Weidman, May O'Donnell and Margy Jenkins, have taught master classes there, and currently Reginald Savage uses it as a home base.

Joanna starts each class with a simple body warm up. Then after stretches, we work out a dance pattern and practice it. We do both barre and floor work, using all parts of our bodies gently but firmly. Finally, we develop and expand the dance patterns while encouraging personal creativity. We also work in pairs, lines, and circles, and finish with a simple cool down followed by meditation.

What is unique about this class is its cooperative and creative atmosphere. We support one another, encouraging, not challenging or competing, not showing off our figures, our strength or agility. This is a class for people mostly between 50 and 80. (The 80-year-old is Judy Job, a renowned local dance teacher herself who runs the decades-old legendary Peters-Wright Studio in San Francisco in the Haight, and loves to work out with Joanna.) The purpose is to have fun while experiencing well-designed exercise. There is no pressure to jump or run or do anything that could damage joints, muscles, or bones. It is safe for seniors and others who have not been exercising recently. For this full-figured writer with her hip replacement, injured knee and old back problem, this class is a miracle of fun and gradually improving agility.

Best of all is our teacher. I first met Joanna in the 1960s, when I worked at what is now Cal Performances and she taught Dance in the P.E. Department. She invited me to her class at Live Oak Park. I was much younger then, and very self-conscious about my body. She taught me that the figure is less important than the attitude. She herself had the wrong shape for ballet, so she switched to modern dance. She studied with such legends as Martha Graham, Duncan Dance, Jose Limon, Hanya Holm, Anna Halprin, and Merce Cuningham in New York City, where she grew up in the Bronx. It's not surprising that she just returned from the Big Apple, where she gave a lecture on Jewish modern dance history; she's part of it.



Sarita Berry, Loretta Dorsett, Judy Job, Yoshiko Kukado, and dance teacher Joanna G. Harris.

PHOTO: CLAIRE WAHRHAFTIG-ISAACS

Joanna has taught dance, dance history, and dance therapy at such places as Mills, Lone Mountain College, and Carnegie Institute of Technology. She's an accomplished arts administrator with experience at the New Pickle Family Circus, Dance through Time, Stagebridge, Aurora Theater, and the Oakland East Bay Symphony. She's worked as an artist-in-residence here and abroad and has written critical reviews. Presently she is Project Director of Bay Area Dancing, 1915-67: Beyond Isadora?

This dynamic woman could inspire a snail to dance. She makes it natural and clear.

We are fortunate to have such a vivid and accomplished individual right around the corner. Do join us. Joanna's class is held each Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Park early. Cost is $10 per session. Give it a try. These days I'm dancing with delight. You can, too!

For information, phone/FAX Joanna at 653-8111 or e-mail joannagharris@comcast.net.

What is unique about this class is its cooperative and creative atmosphere. We support one another, encouraging, not challenging or competing...

Singing Your Song

A public announcement

SACRED & PROFANE, a chamber chorus based in Rockridge, is looking for voices in all sections for its 2004–05 concert season.

In February, our winter concert will celebrate the Songs of Solomon throughout history and in spring our May concert will be All Swedish, all *a cappella*. Our concerts will take place in Berkeley, Walnut Creek and San Francisco.

If you are an experienced singer with a healthy voice and a great attitude, please join us for this extraordinary concert season. Rehearsals are Monday evening in the Oakland/Rockridge area. S & P is a small, fine-tuned chamber choir that enjoys singing high quality repertoire in a supportive, fun, and challenging rehearsal environment.

Auditions will be held in January. To schedule an audition, please contact Sacred & Profane at 415/602-2492, or e-mail the director at seeman@usfca.edu. For more information, please visit our Web page at http://www.sacredprofane.org.

Schools Changes

from page 1

"incubated" and will open at the Washington Elementary School campus next fall. Danielle Neves, a Westlake Middle School assistant principal, has been named as the school's new principal. All six North Oakland preschool and after-school programs currently housed in flatland elementary schools will remain open next year.

Ward also announced that he will close the 6th grade at Verdese Carter Middle School at 4521 Webster Street next year, allow the current 7th graders to graduate as planned in 2006, and eventually close the school over time. Students who normally feed into Carter would instead be directed to the new middle school at Washington.

Aspire Public Schools, a charter school consortium with 11 schools statewide and three in Oakland, will open a new elementary school on the Golden Gate Elementary School site in September, 2005. The new charter will lease space from the district, and is required to accept any current Golden Gate Elementary School families interested in attending. Kristyn Klei, a former East Palo Alto charter school principal with a track record of boosting achievement among very low-income students, has been named the school's principal.

Carter, Washington and Golden Gate schools have all dramatically lost enrollments since 1999. Washington is down from 331 students in 1999 to 153 students this year – the school is less than 50% occupied. More than 100 families who live in the attendance area transferred to another school in the Oakland Unified School system. Academic achievement declined significantly at Washington and Golden Gate (GG) last year, with GG losing 79 points from its Academic Performance Index, the highest drop in the district. At Golden Gate, only 10% of the students are proficient in reading, and 8% in math. Washington shows 23% proficiency in reading and 17% in math, and Carter shows 12% in reading and 5% in math. Nearly 200 families from the Carter attendance area transferred to other OUSD middle schools.

Drop in Enrollment

Across the district, students are learning better. More than double the number of students are scoring at basic, proficient or advanced in language arts today than in 1999 (58% in 2004 versus 28% in 1999). However, according to district data, our enrollment has been on a consistent trajectory downward since 1999, and the enrollment loss has occurred primarily within the African-American community. While most private schools and districts across the state record fewer students, no losses compare in scale to Oakland's. Undeniably, the city's skyrocketing housing prices are driving out many poor families, and charter schools now educate more than 4,000 families.

Across the rest of the district, Ward closed five additional schools. In East and Central Oakland, King Estates Middle School will close, and a NSAS school will open at the site next year. Fremont High School in 2000 was one of the most overcrowded secondary schools in the state. Former School District Administrator Dennis Chaconas (and the School Board) broke the school into NSAS schools. Ward will technically close the original school, now that all new families have been placed in one of the NSAS "theme" schools on the site. No family will be displaced in this closure.

Ward also closed the School of Social Justice, an NSAS school created by Chaconas (and the School Board), which failed to attract any students this school year and has been empty. Rudsdale Academy and West Oakland's Village Academy are 8th grade programs created as temporary intervention schools in 2002 to serve 8th graders not yet ready for a comprehensive high school. Next year, struggling 8th graders will be directed into special programs created within our existing comprehensive high schools. Again, no families will be displaced from these closures.

New Small Autonomous Schools

These and other proposed changes raise a host of tough labor and community issues. New schools proposed by Ward's staff are using the New Small Autonomous School (NSAS) District policy adopted by Chaconas and the School Board in 2000. The policy calls for the creation of new, small, redesigned schools for Oakland's most underserved students. It limits the size of the schools and outlines criteria for admitting students, hiring staff, redesigning curriculum and encouraging teacher collaboration. Most NSAS schools have demonstrated improved students performance, innovations in the teaching and learning process and far greater participation among parents. Teachers must reapply for jobs at a newly created school, instead of the district's seniority system dictating placement.

While most private schools and districts across the state record fewer students, no losses compare in scale to Oakland's. Undeniably, the city's skyrocketing housing prices are driving out many poor families, and charter schools now educate more than 4,000 families.

I believe it is essential to gather a team of employees that shares a vision if we want "new schools" to succeed. The policy does not take a job away from any teacher. A teacher not accepted at a new school is guaranteed a job at another school. I have advocated vigorously for the creation of the new school at Washington, and will continue to advocate that no family in the North Oakland area targeted for changes be denied a public school close to home.

Next Month: Hamill examines schools affected by the No Child Left Behind law.

PACIFIC UNION
GMAC Real Estate
Donna DeBardi

Rockridge Specialist
510.338.1374
debardi@sbcglobal.net

FROGPark Set for Public Art Funding

Rockridge's FROGPark, located near the intersection of Claremont Avenue and Cavour Street — site of the Department of Motor Vehicles building — is scheduled to receive generous funding for a public art component, according to sources at City Hall and FROG board members.

At a meeting of the Public Art Advisory Committe (PAAC) of the Oakland Cultural Arts Commission on December 6, FROG Board member Jennifer Cooper presented plans for FROGPark. She explained that FROG is receiving $125,000 for creek-related projects from Measure DD, and is setting aside $40,000 of that for an art component. Previously, FROG had set aside $10,000 from funds raised from other sources for the devleopment of an artist-designed master plan.

In addition, there is $6,750 left over from Phase I of the park development. In 2003 this fund was to be spent to restore the mural "Oceanus," located on the west side of Claremont between Clifton and Hudson under the Highway 24 crossover, which had been vandalized over the years. However, Roberta Babcock, Assistant Director of Public Art, arranged funds from other sources for this restoration, saving the public art funds for a project within the park itself.

Jennifer explained that ideas being considered tend towards nature themes which would educate the public about the creek and its natural history. An artist could present these in an attractive and creative graphic form.

At the meeting, Director of Public Art Steve Huss went over the role and procedures of PAAC, which include developing a selection panel of artists as well as sending out a Request for Proposal to the art community.

Liaison from PAAC to the FROG Board is PAAC member Claire Wahrhaftig-Isaacs, of Roble Road. She has considerable experience in public art, having worked before retirement as Director of the San Francisco Arts Commission, where she administered its public art program.



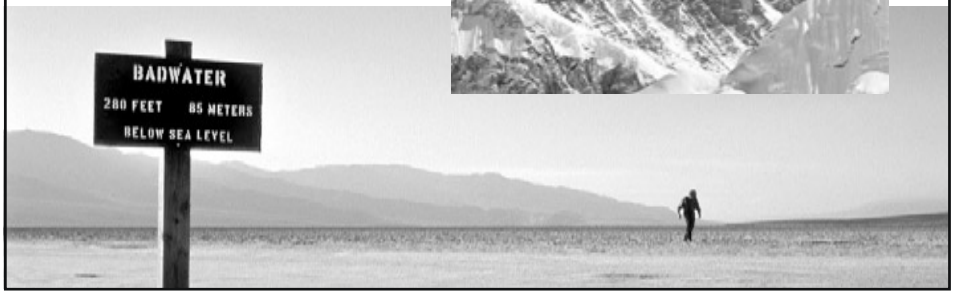
Filippo's
Rockridge: 5400 College Avenue
Elmwood: 2930 College Avenue
Weekend Brunch in Elmwood

SoulWorks Counseling
Building Lives of Meaning & Purpose
If you are blocked, lonely, or longing ...
Awaken Creativity Reclaim Wisdom
Rediscover Wholeness
Call Lily Myers Kaplan 338.0135

Mon – Fri 9:30 – 6:00
Sat 9:30 – 5:00
CHIMES PHARMACY
Serving Rockridge Since 1909
3210 College Avenue
Near Alcatraz
652-1990

a cross cultural congregation striving to partner with the Rockridge community in lifestyle and service.
College Avenue Presbyterian Church
5951 College Avenue, Oakland 510 658-3665
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM • VISIT: CAPCCHURCH.ORG

Heavenly high sales prices.
Rockbottom commissions.
Now in Our 18TH year
REALTY ADVOCATES
510-428-0757 | realtyadvocates.com
Serving Rockridge Since 1986



COLLINS ROOFING
Family Owned & Operated



663-6674 Mike
Rockridge resident over 10 years
Quality Work • Free Estimates
Lic # 695711

Henry C. Levy & Co.
Certified Public Accountants
and Consultants
A Professional Corporation
• tax preparation • estate planning
• tax planning • business valuation
5940 College Avenue, Suite C
Oakland, California 94618
510.652-1000 FAX 510.654-2363

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 20.*

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.

Pilates or Gyrotonic®
Free 30-minute private session*.First class FREE* in Pilates, Yogilates, NIA®, Gyrokinesis®, and/or Yamuna® Body Rolling. (*For new clients). Mind-Body Connection, 5255 College Ave, 420-0444 (www.mindbodyconnection.net)

Housecleaning
Reasonable rates. Expert & reliable services from local employment cooperative. Call 534-6766 and we'll send someone to spiff up your home. Ask for our references from Rockridge clients.

Home Repair Expert
Carpentry, remodeling. Doors and windows, glass and locks, small electrical, plumbing jobs, drywall, painting, fences, decks and other odd jobs. Good rates. Rick 510/464-5934.

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

Antique Repair and Refinishing
Experienced and Knowledgeable. All types of furniture. New finishes, repairs, waxing, p/u & delivery available. Family-run since 1990. E-mail pictures for estimates and questions. Bruce@BayAreaAntiques.com 534-0603.

Personalized Weight Loss
Healthy Living Solutions. FREE body analysis and personalized consultation. "Good Health & Wellness through Good Nutrition" Gary Sinick 510/597-1129 www.for-a1health.com. Your local Herbalife Independent Distributor

Art Classes With Karen Legault
Watercolor, Chinese Brush Painting, Botanical Drawing and Absolutely Beginning Drawing and Painting Classes are offered for Adults and Children. Winter schedule starts January 11 and in March. Brochure available.

French With a Fulbright Scholar From France
Individual and group needs: 684-4951.

Database/Excel Consultant
Get out that mailing, take inventory, keep track of things! Rockridge based Micorsoft Access programmer and Excel expert working with individuals, small businesses and non-profits. Solid references. Datamajig: 510/852-4218

Tahoe Condo For Rent
Our lovely 3br/2+ba condo in Incline Village is available for rent! Sleeps eight, is fully equipped! Close to everything! Call 652-6664 for more information.

Classified ads: Call Susan Montauk, 547-3855

Christopher's BURGERS
Fabulous Gourmet Beef Burgers. Lamb Burgers. Salmon Burgers & more...
5295 College Avenue *(nr Broadway)*
Oakland • 510 601 8828


Rockridge Resident

YOU MAY LIVE 30 YEARS PAST RETIREMENT.
ARE YOU PREPARED?
Leila S. Gough, Associate Vice President-Investments
1999 Harrison, Suite 2050 • Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 452-8060
www.agedwards.com/fc/leila.gough
A.G. EDWARDS℠
FULLY INVESTED IN OUR CLIENTS℠
2004 A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. • Member SIPC
[24778-v1-0668]RP-260-0805

MAISON NOUVEAU
REAL ESTATE SERVICES
TO DATE THE MAISON NOUVEAU TEAM HAS SAVED HOME BUYERS AND SELLERS
$605,221.00
IN REAL ESTATE COMMISSIONS!
CALL US TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH WE WILL SAVE YOU.
2% commission
510.849.9900
2701 COLLEGE AVE, BERKELEY
415.922.8800
2420 POLK ST, SAN FRANCISCO

☑ *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 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 January meeting. February 5 topic: Casinos**. More information at 238-7001 or www.oaklandnet.com (the site for all City-related information).

The Greater Rockridge N'hood Crime Prevention Council

Steering Committee meets 3rd Tuesday each month, 7 to 8:30pm. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph Ave. Residents and business members of NCPC's 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**: 1st and 2nd Saturdays, 10:30am: 1/8, 2/5 (NOTE: Closed on the first Saturday of the New Year 1/1, and the second Saturday of February, 2/12).
- **Pre-School Story Time**: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30: 1/5, 1/19, 2/2.
- **Pajama Story Time**: 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 7pm: 1/11, 1/25, 2/8.
- **Special Event:** Craft continuing in January: Drop in during January to make snowflakes for our windows. Kids of all ages welcome! Ask at the Children's Reference desk.

Intergenerational Program:

Special Event: Sunday, February 6, 2005, from 2-4pm. Join us in celebrating Black History Month through literature. The Rockridge Branch Library will be a participant site for the Annual 16th National African American Read-In Chain which is nationally sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite book, story, or poem to read, as we take turns in a continuous reading "chain". All over the country, groups will gather on this designated time. Children will lead in reading first. Local editor, writer, and author, Daphne Muse will serve as host. Free event. For questions, please call Linda at 597-5017.

For Adults:

- **Lawyers in the Library:** Free legal advice. First Tuesday of each month: 1/4, 2/1: 6 to 8pm. Advance sign-up starts at 5pm.

Library Hours:
Monday and Tuesday, 12:30 to 8pm
Weds, Thurs and Sat 10am to 5:30pm
Friday, 12 to 5:30pm
Closed: Sundays.
Closed 1/1 (New Year's) and 1/17 (MLK Birthday).

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings

5433 College Ave. All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Monday, 1/10, 7:30pm. **Amnesty International.** monthly meeting. All welcome.
- Tuesday, 1/11, 7:30pm. Join Book Group #3 to discuss *Night of Many Dreams* by **Gail Tsukiyama**
- Tuesday, 1/18, 7pm. Join Book Group #1 to discuss *Sense and Sensibility* by **Jane Austen**
- Thursday, 1/20, 7:30pm. **Joan Marie Wood**: publication party for new book of poems, *Her Voice is Blackberries*.

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

Writers Support/Critique Group

Rockridge Branch Library, every third Saturday, (January 15), 1:30 to 5pm. **ALL** writers welcome. Bring 8 copies of 5 pages of your prose for on-site reading/discussion. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch (www.berkeleywritersclub.org/). For more information: 482-0265 or Writefox@aol.com

Oakland Girls Softball League

All Oakland girls ages 6 to 14, can still sign up for the 2005 season. Sign up on Saturdays, 1/8 and 1/15 at Redwood Heights Rec Center, 3883 Aliso St, (Redwood Road at Highway 13). Opening Day March 5; season runs through early June. Begin practice mid-February: no experience necessary; pre-season clinic for all skill levels. Also needed: Coaches, managers, sponsors and volunteers. Learn more at www.ogsl.org or at OGSL hotline, 339-7268.

Activities & Events for Seniors

- **College Avenue Adult Center.** College Ave. Presbyterian Church, 5955 College Ave. Every Wednesday, 9:30am to 1:30pm. Light exercise, socializing, travel programs and music. Hot lunch available at noon for $2. 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. 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 + $2.25 and $4 for those under age 60). Call 597- 5085 to get details about membership, newsletter, classes/events and opportunities to become a volunteer.

Elder Care Support Group

Alta Bates Medical Center, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley. **Free** for family/friends caring for older adults, 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4 -5:30pm. Call Monica at 869-4569 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.
- **Bambino Thrift Shop**: 5290 College Ave All volunteer shop benefiting Oakland Children's Hospital. 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. Presb. Church, (next to Dryers). Contact Jennifer Bloom, Director: 655-0540 or teachers@noccs.org.

CITRON
RESTAURANT
PRIVATE ROOMS FOR ANY EVENT
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
FOR CURRENT MENUS
WWW.CITRON-ACOTE.COM
OPEN NIGHTLY
RES. 510-653-5484
5484 COLLEGE AVENUE, OAKLAND



Are you ready for more room?

Let me help you explore the San Ramon Valley and discover a new quality of life in San Ramon, Danville, Alamo, Diablo or Blackhawk.
Centrally located to all major cities, fantastic schools and a great value.

COLDWELL BANKER
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Lorri Cutler 925.831.3319



Don Coelho

COLDWELL BANKER

339-4721

29th year serving Rockridge!

Buying or selling real estate in 2005?

Call me... the proven professional

What's Your Home Worth?

Call Me for an Opinion of Value

Fatima N. Ali

510/845-0211

E-MAIL: Buyali@aol.com

Prudential California Realty



Jan Fougner

OWNER – BROKER



BUYING OR SELLING IN ROCKRIDGE? IF YOU NEED THE SERVICES OF A REALTOR, CALL ME. I HAVE 28 YEARS OF ROCKRIDGE SALES EXPERIENCE AND THE EXPERTISE YOU NEED.

655-2330

ROCKRIDGE REALTY

6019 COLLEGE AVENUE

New Listings!

In Temescal & Rockridge!

Coming in January

Rockridge 3+ bed, 1 bath Bungalow on Coronado Ave.

Temescal 3 Bed, 1 Bath Clapboard Bungalow on 43rd St.

"YOUR 24/7 REALTOR" LAWTON ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

Happy New Year!

Ron Kriss, Broker

Lawton Associates

510-547-5970 Ext. 55

ronkriss@jps.net

gifts, clothing, and bliss at **namaste**



510 547-YOGA

5416 College Avenue

(near the library)

namaste yoga in rockridge

www.namasterockridge.com

MARICA

SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Early Dinner Special

3 course meal

$18

5:15–6:15 everyday

Serving a wide selection of seafood from the Monterey Fish Market

5301 College Avenue, Oakland

Open 5:15–9:30 everyday *510/985-8388*

Jeffrey Auen

Buyers, Sellers, Investors



Choose a *Full Service Realtor*. Residential & Investment sales, renovation consulting, proven strategies to increase value. Full Service Pre- and Post-Sale. 27 Years in Rockridge.

www.HomesEastBay.info

1.800.805.8827

Century 21

Flush with Confidence

www. PIPE SPY .com

- **Sewer Pipe Diagnostics**
- **Trouble Shooting & Repair**
- **Trenchless Sewer Replacement**

510/465-3000

Berkeley — Oakland — Rockridge

KEVIN BROWN

Broker

654-8707 or 593-4780

PROVIDING

Professional, Full Service Real Estate Brokerage To Rockridge Clients For Over 26 Years.

SPECIALIZING IN

- ***Residential Sales***
- ***Income Property***
- ***Commercial***
- ***Property Management***

Better Homes Realty

Better Homes Realty

5353 College Avenue

Oakland



With over 300 homes sold – *It's Experience that Counts*

Classes offered at Piedmont Adult School

Terry Kulka

- **Everything you wanted to know about Selling Your Home**
  Saturday, January 29th 9:30 to 1:00
- **Taking the Confusion out of Purchasing a Home**
  Saturday, February 5th 9:30 to 1:00

For more detailed information, go to www.piedmontadultschool.org or call (510) 594-2717. Terry has been teaching these classes at Piedmont Adult School for over 15 years.

Terry Kulka 510/339-4789

terrykulka@att.net

COLDWELL BANKER