THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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





Peralta elementary School (steepled building, background center in the top photo) was founded in 1880 as a one-room school house. The photo shows the lonesome, wide-open spaces of Rockridge at the turn of the century. Above, the Peralta class of 1880, pictured on the school's porch, seems right out of the wild West — the boy on the right carries a rifle and looks like he knows how to use it. PHOTO: OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY.

agenda: RCPC Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 7:30 pm., Rockridge Branch Library
5366 College Avenue at Manila, Community Room (Upstairs)

- **Keeping Oakland's Public Spaces Beautiful** — a cleaner, more beautiful Oakland is a healthier community. Come find out how you can partner with Oakland's clean-up programs to benefit and beautify the City's neighborhoods, parks and creeks. Speakers include:
  - **Cliff Feldman, City of Oakland**: Public Works Agency, Environmental Services Division, Recycling Program. An update on the new recycling program and answers to your questions on the weekly GRAY cart recycling service.
  - **Sandy Steen, City of Oakland**: Keep Oakland Clean and Beautiful program. An update on the Earth-Day projects, and information on volunteer opportunities.
  - **Gillian Garro, Chair, Oakland Parks Coalition.** Learn how to become a park steward and how the Oakland Parks Coalition advocates for parks and open spaces during the development of Oakland's budget.

Peralta Elementary Plans 125th Birthday Festival Bash

by Susan Killebrew

Peralta Elementary School is celebrating over 125 years of helping children learn, and the entire community is invited to join the party. This year's Peralta Spring Community Festival will highlight Peralta's long and rich history as one of the oldest schools in Alameda County. The festival will be held on Saturday, May 14, from noon to 4:00 p.m. in the schoolyard at 460 63rd Street.

The earliest known photo of Peralta School is dated 1880. It shows a one-room schoolhouse surrounded by open fields. This photo inspired Peralta's faculty, parents and students to research the history of the school by searching archives and conducting interviews of alumni who attended Peralta as far back as the late 1920s.

Peralta fifth graders interviewed Mr. Al Wood, who was a Peralta student in the 1930s, and whose father attended Peralta in the 1890s. Al described how his father, Walter Wood, rode his horse to Peralta every day from his family's farm at Lake Temescal. He said the school was required to provide shelter and hay for students' horses.

Other Peralta students interviewed Mrs. Marion Combs, who still lives in the Rockridge home she grew up in while attending Peralta School from 1928 to 1931. At that time Peralta was a beautiful two-story Mediterranean-style building. Mrs. Combs told the children that Peralta had two play yards when she was a student: a boys' yard on the Alcatraz Street side of the school, and a girls' yard on the 63rd Street side.

Another student research team visited Alameda County Superior Court Judge Evelio Grillo in his chambers, where they interviewed him regarding his experiences attending Peralta School from 1958 to 1965. Judge Grillo told the students that the most

▸ PERALTA CELEBRATES, PAGE 4

INSIDE:

Kitchen Tour Update 3
RCPC Board Election 6
St. Albert's Press Release 12

VIEWPOINT: RAJIV BHATIA

Embracing Change: Transit-Oriented Development for All of Us



Rajiv Bhatia

It seems that each day brings another sign that Californians have failed to plan for the future. The housing crisis pushes hard-working families further into the Central Valley. Development paves over our farms. We forfeit our open space. Commutes get longer. Costs to build roads and bridges drain our treasuries. Towns and cities become exclusive. We consume more energy and we pollute the air.

As a resident of Rockridge, it is easy to ignore these signs. I take BART to work each day, drop my children at school along the way, and pick up groceries on the way home. But I don't think that my family will remain immune. One day, my children will need housing too. And they will live with the environmental and social costs of this generation's decisions after we have gone.

Fortunately, many Californians are waking up to the need for better planning. Many realize that our shortsighted growth policies have benefited a narrow group of interests in the short term while creating longer term problems. For example, transportation policy has prioritized moving cars quickly while leaving safety, community, social equity, and environmental quality as afterthoughts. Many Californians understand that comprehensive planning means considering multiple social goals at the same time and valuing more than our local interests.

Transit-oriented development (TOD) is one piece of a sustainable growth solution for California. Essentially, TOD means planning for transportation, housing, and jobs in an integrated way, both by increasing transit services in places with people or jobs and by increasing density in places already well-served by transit.

Locating development near transit services helps to achieve many goals. First, we create opportunities for living closer to jobs and for using public transportation in the place of personal vehicles. Second, we better utilize our existing schools and public infrastructure. Third, appropriate density can create a higher quality of life by supporting a greater diversity of retail, commercial and civic uses.

Rockridge is privileged to be the site of a regional rail line and other local transit services, but this asset could be better utilized by others and by the region. Residents of Rockridge could support environmental and social sustainability by embracing transit-oriented development.

There are honest concerns about growth in the neighborhood. Some believe that all development brings cars, congestion, and the loss of neighborhood character. Yet growth and change is inevitable. There are many examples of communities that have harnessed the energy of development to improve their neighborhoods.

Development can provide resources for acquisition or improvement of streets, sidewalks, parks, and open space, and community centers. Development can help turn buildings from single to multi-use structures that enhance neighborhood character. For instance, a school can double as a community center. Creative development can turn a parking lot into a bustling plaza surrounded by storefronts and capped with housing.

Laws currently being proposed at the State level would create new incentives for transit oriented development. These incentives could result in feasible, neighborhood-driven planning that benefits everyone. In that way we could create a vision for our community that retains community character and also provides for broader regional needs.

Rajiv Bhatia, MD, MPH, is a Rockridge resident and OUSD parent. He directs Environmental Health for the City of San Francisco.

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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.

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Ortrun Niesar,
Claire Wahrhaftig-Isaacs .... Writers
Barry Kaufman ..... Food
Jo Ellis ..... Advertising & Community Calendar
Theresa Nelson ..... Neighborhood Merchant
Lydia Gans ..... Photography
Susan Montauk ..... Business Manager
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For annual subscriptions to ***The Rockridge News***, send your 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: 510/644-4228

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NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING/DEADLINES

Publication date of the next issue is
☛ **June 4, 2005**
☛ **June deadline is May 19.**

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.)***

The Zoning Counter

5251 Broadway

Proposal: To establish a "Consultative and Financial Services" business at the ground floor of an existing commercial building. The proposed use will also include an accessory art gallery that will contain artwork from the CCAC and other local artists.

Applicant: Michael Mandell

Contact Person/Phone Number: 653-6246

Owner: Broadway College Investors

Planning Permits Required: Conditional Use Permit to allow a "Consultative and Financial Service" activity at the ground floor in the C-31 Zone.

Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property (PDHP);

Survey rating: C3

Case Planner: Peterson Z. Vollman at 238-6167 or pvollman@oaklandnet.com.

The Zoning Counter provides Rockridge residents with an opportunity to review construction project proposals in their neighborhoods. It is a compilation of recent applications filed with the Oakland Planning Department, but not necessarily a complete or up-to-date listing. Individuals may contact the case planner or the Planning Department for additional information.

For the most up-to-date information about applications on file at the city, go online at www.oaklandnet.com.

Correction: Maxi of Lilley Faurot Landscape Design pointed out that the College Avenue trees in Rockridge are not Evergreen Pear (Pyrus kawakamii) as reported in the April issue of *The Rockridge News*, but Aristocrat Callery Pear (Pyrus calleryana 'Aristocrat'). Thanks, Maxi. We were blinded by the blossoms.

Get Involved! Be a Kitchen Tour Insider: Docent Positions Open



This year's Kitchen Tour planning board has some newcomers and quite a few veterans. Volunteers are still needed to round out several committees (see article below). Standing (l to r): Jennifer Edmister, Akasha Madron, Marilyn Mansfield, Ehab Bandar, Natalie Mehta, Brian Deans. Sitting (l to r): Jo Ellis, Nancy Sale, Karen Cilman, Deborah Weinstein, Susan Shawl. Also included is Susan Montauk, who took the picture.

by Jennifer Edmister

The 2005 Rockridge Kitchen Tour will take place on Sunday, October 2. A parade of spectacular kitchens awaits visitors from near and far. Whether you are a kitchen enthusiast in particular, or a Rockridge enthusiast in general, the Kitchen Tour Committee cordially invites you to participate in and support this regionally renowned event. There are many ways to participate, but one of the most enjoyable is to volunteer as a kitchen docent, guiding Tour guests through Rockridge's finest kitchens. Docents, and all other volunteers, receive a complimentary ticket to the Tour. Below are a few of the available volunteer positions. For more information on how you can join the fun, please contact us at one of the numbers below.

- **Docents:** To guide visitors through the homes and provide background information to tour guests. Docents are treated to a pre-tour visit of three kitchens, and will have time to visit the other six kitchens with their complementary ticket on the day of the Tour. Interested in being a docent? Contact Nancy Sale at 655-4625.
- **Raffle Volunteers:** To develop the raffle, contact participating merchants and vendors, arrange for prizes and coordinate raffle ticket sales. Contact Ehab Bandar at 658-7871 or ehab@yahoo.com.
- **Set-Up Volunteers:** To assist with pre-tour and event day preparations, including food, flowers and kitchen set-up, contact Jennifer Edmister at 547-2841.
- **Publicity Volunteers:** To assist with pre-tour publicity, contact Deborah Weinstein at 595-3352.

Kitchen tour, page 4





Claremont Middle School's 2004 Academic Performance Index is Up

Reprinted from the Claremont Middle School Herald

Many of you have read that California's Academic Performance Index (API) has just been released. Claremont showed excellent progress from last year. We grew 21 points to 637, which was the second best improvement of the highest performing schools in the district. Compared with all schools in California, we again ranked 3 out of 10, but compared with 100 similar schools, we moved up to 9 out of 10.

We at Claremont are determined to continue making progress on the SPI, but we also want to remind our parents that there are other important indicators of the quality of student learning.

Way to go, students and staff!

Kitchen Tour

from page 3

■ **Brochure Advertising**: To provide local merchants, real estate brokers, builders, architects, designers, decorators, and other residential home decoration professionals with an opportunity to reach an interested audience. For advertising space in the tour brochure, contact Jo Ellis at 653-3210.

■ **Professional Photographer:** To photograph kitchens for press releases. Contact Jennifer Edmister, 547-2841.

This year's Kitchen Tour promises to be one of the most exciting yet, as the event grows ever more popular. As a tour guest, a volunteer or a proud kitchen owner, Rockridge is the place to be on October 2.

RCPC Donates $500 to Rockridge Schools

In honor of Peralta Elementary School's upcoming 125th Annual Spring Festival (May 14, 12-4 pm) and Claremont Middle School's Spring Fling (May 21, 10-1 pm), the RCPC is pleased to donate $250 to each school for these events. We hope that everyone in the community will take time to enjoy these events and support the great work of our local public schools. To find out more about either event, go to the School Events link of www.rockridge.org.

Peralta Celebrates

from page 1

important thing he learned during his time at Peralta was how to work with others from a wide range of backgrounds. He said that this experience is useful to him every day as he interacts with people who appear before him in his courtroom.

Visitors to the Peralta Spring Community Festival will be able to find out more about the school's history, as well as its vibrant present and promising future. The event will feature delicious barbecue, live entertainment from the Alan Reynolds Band and the Destiny Arts Dance troupe, plus student performances, carnival games, an inflatable jumper, and many other free activities for children.

To find out more about the Peralta Spring Festival or to volunteer at the event, please contact Susan Killebrew at 655-2737 or suchard2@earthlink.net.



Peralta School 6th grade class of 1938. Al Wood — whose recollections are noted in the accompanying story — is third from the right, second row. He says the twin brothers in the top row, center, are without caps because they used their cap money (50 cents each) to buy a puppy. The twins lived on North Street.

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Rockridge Earthday 2005



Rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of Rockridge volunteers on Earthday, Saturday, April 23. They celebrated by cleaning up trash and a wet winter's bonanza of weeds, ivy and brush along 51st Street and Redondo Creek, and refurbishing FROG park: **1**) Margaret Pinter rakes trash out of road culvert. **2**) Kirsten Howe disciplines unruly weeds on 51st. **3**) Bill Cwynar prunes a dump truck load of deadwood from big trees. **4**) Oakland Tech students (from left) Austin Zumbro and Robert and Michael Shultz display team spirit. **5**) Husband and wife Bill and Velma Noland make a clean sweep. **6**) Stephen Hamano shows how to bag it. **7**) A well-deserved lunch break. **8**) Molly Brostrom and kids Nelly and Sophie Schafer find that getting wet is the best part.

Photos: Cy Gulassa and Susan Montauk.

Congratulations, Elected 2005 RCPC Boardmembers!



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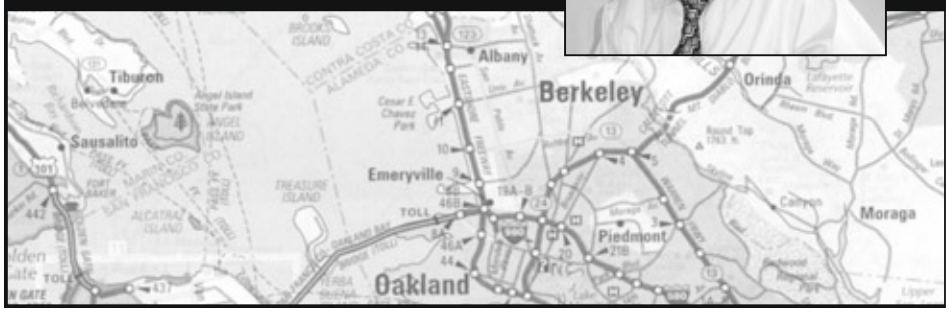
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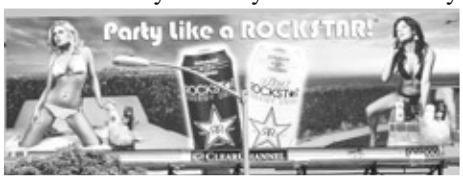
Local Billboards Considered Visual Insults

In a recent exchange of e-mails, two Rockridge parents discussed the nature of the ads on some local billboards. — Ed.

Has anyone else noticed the primary "gateway" billboards into Rockridge at Claremont and Colby and at College and Broadway? Maybe it's because I have



a pre-teen and a four-year-old in the car and maybe because "energy" drinks have been abused by middle-schoolers at my son's school recently and maybe because "Party



like a rock star" includes soft-porn "babes" and maybe because "the drink with drive" refers to supporting drinking and driving that I'm finding myself a little perturbed. Is anyone else?

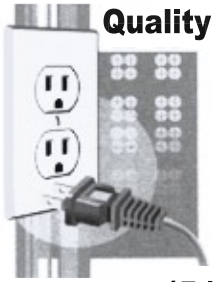
— Hiroko Kurihara (April 18)

YES! I can't stand the billboards in our neighborhood. The soft porn on the corner of College & Broadway is especially repulsive, but I also get irritated every time I have to pass the ones at Claremont/Colby & Claremont/Forest. I consider them pollution, and resent the fact that we have to see them every day.

— Susan Killebrew (April 19)

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Former *Rockridge News* Writer Back In Town

After 5 years in Mendocino, Trish and Charlie West reveal their next move

by Cy Gulassa

Thomas Wolfe might have been right when he said,"You can't go home again," but he over looked the fact you can always visit. That's exactly what former Rockridge resident and *Rockridge News* writer Trish West and her husband, Charlie, did last week. After leaving Ocean View Avenue five years ago for cozy (and less costly) retirement in Mendocino, they returned for a family event last week and a rendezvous with the *Rockridge News* Editor at their favorite hangout, Barclays.

They both spoke nostalgically of Rockridge. "It's the finest neighborhood we've ever lived in," Charlie said, raising his pint of Monks Brown Cask Ale. "The people here really care about the community, and there are great shops and restaurants, a first-class library, bookstores, coffee shops, transportation — all the ingredients of a livable neighborhood."

In five years, Rockridge hasn't changed all that much, Trish agreed. But, as well as the people, she misses some of the shops she wrote about for *The Rockridge News* and *The Montclarion*. "They're gone; it's like old friends moving on."

They both love Barclay's and said it typifies Rockridge, being a comfortable, friendly place to hang out, bring family, have lunch, read the paper, watch people. They have been patrons since it opened in 1991. "We had our first hot meal here after the 1991 Oakland Hills fire," Charlie said.



Retired *Rockridge News* Writer Trish West and husband Charlie.

"The police confined us to our house for our own safety — if we left we couldn't return — so for three days we were stuck without electricity. You can imagine what a treat fish and chips were at our favorite restaurant."

Leaning forward as if about to reveal a family secret, Trish whispered, "Charlie joined Barclay's Parliament Beer Club right off and was the 8th member to drink 100 different beers and have his name on a plaque above the bar. Of course, it took a while," she laughed.

After years in Rockridge, what's it like living in a small, picturesque coastal town like Mendocino? The views are spectacular and always changing, and the town is friendly and charming, according to Trish. "Winter is a bit wet. If you want to meet people and make friends, you've got to be active in local community organizations, like the volunteer fire department, chamber of commerce, theater, book clubs. We've joined and felt welcome, but it's time for a change. We're moving on to Ashland, Oregon."

Why Ashland?

After a thoughtful pause, Charlie answered in his deep baritone. "When we first retired, we debated between Mendocino and Ashland. What five years taught us is that Mendocino, a town we truly love, is difficult to reach. You've got to commit to driving hours of twisting roads. Nobody drops in while on their way to somewhere else. Ashland, on the other hand, is not only a destination with a fabulous theater, downtown and university, it's halfway between San Francisco and Portland — and the roads don't require Dramamine."

In driving time as opposed to miles, Trish calculates they'll even be closer to Charlie's family in Sacramento. Like proud first-time grandparents, they showed photos of a charming new home still under construction in Ashland and pointed out similarities to Craftsman houses in Rockridge.

The Rockridge visit ended with a toast to fresh adventures, handshakes and hugs, and the promise of a summer rendezvous in Ashland.

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Working Together

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40th Street & Martin Luther King, Jr. Way
To park, enter on 41st Street

8:00 a.m.: Registration and Continental Breakfast
Program: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This event includes free breakfast and lunch, free child care, & free on-site parking. Translation is available; it is wheelchair accessible and one block from the MacArthur BART station. For more information, call: (510) 238-7159.



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A Sweet Spot On College

The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson



Photo: Don Kinkead

Walking into Lulu Rae Confections on College Avenue takes you into a world of pure sensory delight. This store is simply about the scent, sight and taste of delicious chocolates, creamy handmade fudge, tangy fruit gels, jewel-toned sorbets and rich gelatos — everything to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Owner Shelley Grubb opened Lulu Rae Confections last February and has already attracted a strong following. For some years she owned Cat Baloo, a children's clothing business, and earlier in her career was a computer programmer. But a Christmas gift of Vosges and XOX chocolates inspired a dream of opening a chocolate store. A resident of Piedmont, Shelly feels she found the perfect spot for it on College Avenue near La Farine and heartfelt &. The shop is named after her older daughter, Lulu, and her younger daughter, Rae (which is also her own middle name).

On entering, you find cases and shelves filled with an incredible assortment of delectable treats. On the wall, a gilt-framed chalkboard menu announces the 10-12 flavors of sorbets, gelatos and smoothies and the hot chocolates of the day, along with the always available espresso, cappuccino, mocha and crèma. Tables out front and inside make for a fine place to sit and enjoy your choice of indulgence. The "haut" chocolate menu usually features Abuela, Spicy Maya, Bianco and the incredibly smooth Parisian, made with pure Valhrona chocolate.

The fresh flowers, sage green walls and red tile floor complement the fixtures and create an elegant yet relaxing atmosphere. Sample wares are available for tasting — the day I visited, Lulu Rae's offered delightful chocolate sauces to spread on slices of baguette.

Featured in one of several glass cases are Leonides chocolates from Belgium, with more than 25 types, including truffles and chocolates filled with lemon, raspberry, praline and *paté de fruit.* Among connoisseurs, these are the queens of chocolates, and one look (or taste) will likely convince you as well. The XOX truffles are tiny gems of delight, 8-10 flavors always available, each better than the last.

Other cases offer many fine domestic chocolates, chocolate bars, and Lulu's special handmade fresh fudge, with 10 or more flavors made fresh every week. The shelves hold glass jars of Dutch and French licorice, gray salt caramels, Fran's special caramel and chocolate sauces, and an amazing array of other sweets.

For Easter, on display were foil-wrapped chocolate eggs resembling Russian dyed eggs, classic panoramic sugar eggs revealing tiny chicks and bunnies, and an assortment of hand-decorated lollipops and ready-to-go gift baskets. These will soon be nudged aside by Mother's Day treats, summertime favorites and later, Hallowe'en and the various winter holiday classics.

Shelley handles special orders, and can create an organization's logo on chocolates large or small for special occasions. Open at 8 a.m, Lulu Rae offers a French breakfast of fresh baguette with butter and jam, croissants, other pastries and various espresso drinks. To fortify yourself for an especially challenging day, there is, of course, chocolate.

So whether you're out in the early morning on the way to work, enjoying a leisurely mid-day stroll, or doing weekend shopping, the time is just right for an irresistible treat at Lulu Rae's.

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330 Clifton St.	3/1	$ 645,000	$ 750,000	4/1/05
6167 Ocean View	4/2.5	$ 1,199,000	$ 1,215,000	4/1/05
100 Buckeye Ave.	5/3.5	$ 699,000	$ 720,619	4/7/05
5885 Chabot Ct.	2/2	$ 789,000	$ 950,000	4/12/05

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The Rockridge Muse

by Ortrun Niesar

PRO ARTS 2005 East Bay Open Studios

ProArts maps covering Open Studio locations for Rockridge and the East Bay will be available at the Rockridge Library.

2005 Open Studios Artists in Rockridge and Adjacent Area

PRO ARTS

Artist	Media	Address
Carol Aust	Painting	655 63rd Street
Marsha Balian	Painting, sculpture	5495 Kales
Belinda Briones	Painting	5130 Desmond
Carolyn Carr	Photography	2733 Alcatraz
Ann Daniels	Unique Jewelry	5599 Lawton
Anne Gomes	Photography	5244 James
Peter Heelan	Painting	5562 Taft (June 4/5 only)
Jarrod Jarvis	Oils, drawings	5829 Colby
Linda Lemon	Mixed media, Collages, cards	5524 Vicente
Liz Maxwell	Painting, prints	5808 Chabot
Adria Peterson	Prints, drawings	5253 A College
Leslies Reagan	Watercolors	5807 Lawton
Biliana Stremska	Watercolor, painting	6397 Dana
Joanne Yeaton	Painting, prints	2733 Alcatraz

Saturdays and Sundays, June 4-5 and 11-12 11 AM to 6 PM

EBOS stands for East Bay Open Studios and it happens this year on the first and second weekends of June.

Artist reception will take place at Pro Arts Gallery June 2, 7-9 p.m., and Open Studios June 4-5 and 11-12. But don't wait until then to start exploring the talent of our visual artists. Right now a preview exhibition of the work of about 450 East Bay artists is up on the walls of the Pro Arts Gallery at 550 Second Street at Clay in Jack London Square. Pick up a map and information about the Art Bus Tours, a great way to visit studios and become acquainted with the fascinating East Bay art scene. The gallery is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from noon on. Call 510/763-3461 or go to www.proartsgallery.org

The table above lists 14 Rockridge and Rockrige-area artists whose studios will be open June 4-5 and 11-12 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Maps will be available in local cafes, book stores and the Rockridge library. Table compiled by Liz Maxwell and Ortrun Niesar.

BCCO Spring Concert

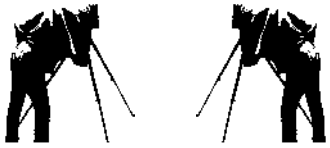
There's music in the air. The Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra will be presenting its annual spring concert Saturday, May 7, 8 P.M., and Sunday May 8, 4:30 P.M. at St. Joseph the Worker Church at 1640 Addison Street, Berkeley. The program includes Maurice Durufle's Requiem, a 20th century masterpiece built upon the tonalities of Gregorian chant; and the Bach Motet VI, "Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden." The BCCO has been making great musical works accessible to the community for nearly forty years. Singers are welcome; no audition required. The BCCO has launched a competition, open to all, for a new composition of choral music. First prize includes $1000 and a performance of the work by the chorus. For more information call 510/964-0665 or go to www.bcco.org.

Rockridge Oral History Project

Thanks to all those wonderful people who called expressing interest in telling their stories of the Rockridge they knew years ago. If you have a story to tell, please call me at 652-6664 or send an e-mail to oniesar@aol.com. Volunteer interviewers of all ages are welcome and will receive training.

Call for Rockridge Photographers!

To participate either as a photographer or an organizer/curator in the next Rockridge photography exhibition, please call Lydia Gans 658-4445 or e-mail lydiagans@juno.com.



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William Harris Wahrhaftig

A rare but often fatal condition known as aortic dissection took the life of Rockridge resident William ("Bill") Wahrhaftig on Thursday, March 24. He was 76.

Mr. Wahrhaftig and his wife, Claire, a former editor of and frequent contributor to The Rockridge News, moved to the hills above Rockridge in 2000 after falling in love with a unique house built by local architect Frank Hunt. Mr. Wahrhaftig worked tirelessly to restore the mid-century classic, with its huge windows and sloping roofs. He then made the home available for various fundraising, cultural and political gatherings. Formerly an active leader for preservation in San Francisco's Western Addition, Mr. Wahrhaftig brought his skills to the Chabot Canyon Association as a Board member.

Mr. Wahrhaftig was a member of a prominent family in Oakland and Piedmont that includes the photographer Alma Lavenson Wahrhaftig, musicians Peter and Mark Wahrhaftig, geologist Clyde Wahrhaftig, artist Lila Wahrhaftig and many lawyers, scientists and engineers.

He grew up on a farm in Orangevale and attended Sacramento Junior College. Later, he received degrees in both Mathematics and History at the University of California at Berkeley and a teaching credential at UCLA. After a short teaching stint, he worked for five years for Lockheed Aircraft Co. in Los Angeles and then for 26 years at Ford Aerospace and Communications Corp.,



where he was part of the team that launched America's first communications satellite, the answer to the Soviet's *Sputnik*. He would refer to the backup duplicate, which hangs today in the Air and Space Museum Milestones Hall, as "my little gadget."

An expert in statistical probability theory, Mr. Wahrhaftig worked on or managed many major projects in aerospace and communications, including the NORAD missile tracking equipment at Cheyenne Mountain, Colorado, featured in the movie "War Games."

After retiring in 1985, Mr. Wahrhaftig lent his management skills to many organizations as a volunteer, including UCSF, the Asian Art Museum, and the American Conservatory Theater. Bill Wahrhaftig was known for his sharp but never hurtful wit, his patience, and his generosity with his time for people's problems large and small.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Mr. Wahrhaftig was a regular and committed apheresis (platelet) donor at the Blood Centers of the Pacific in San Francisco, where he was honored annually for his donations. He was a blood type O+ and thus a nearly universal donor, and much in demand in special emergencies. Raised in relative isolation on a farm outside of Sacramento, he also did not develop a particular antibody which most people acquire later in childhood but which is not healthy for the very young, making his blood particularly valuable for infants. His name was placed on a plaque at the blood center amongst a very small group of apheresis donors. He stopped giving only when his health condition precluded it.

Donations in memory of William "Bill" Wahrhaftig are welcome. You may give blood at any blood bank or at the Red Cross facility at College and Claremont. For appointment, call John Ryan at 510/594-5210 or e-mail www.BeADonor and select "John's Oakland Group." Request a gift card to send to Claire Wahrhaftig.

Monetary donations may be made to the Dr. Park Education Fund on aortic dissection, CPMC Foundation, 3700 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94118





St. Albert's Priory

Details Released of Priests Accused of Sexual Misconduct with Minors

(Following are excerpts from a detailed, 2000-word press release by the Prior Provincial for the Western Dominican Province regarding the friars accused of sexual misconduct with minors. Although named in the release, the accused are referred to here by case number. — Ed.)

There are currently six men accused of sexual abuse of minors living in the Western Dominican Province's communities in the Rockridge area. In each case, when we learned of an alleged instance of abuse, we took immediate steps to ensure that no children were in danger, and undertook a thorough investigation to determine whether the allegations were credible. Having completed that investigation, we removed each of the men from public ministry, meaning they do not celebrate Mass publicly, nor do they have any interaction with young people.

The allegations concern events that occurred between 20 and 45 years ago. All of these friars have received or continue to receive counseling by experts in the field. All are at least 65 years old. All but one lived in the Bay Area prior to being moved to Rockridge — the other lived outside of California. None of the six friars is a serial or "preferential" pedophile. No criminal charges were ever filed with regard to any of these men, although the police were notified in several cases.

The six friars have lived at either Siena House [Presley Way] or Saint Albert Priory [Birch Court] between two and 13 years. We chose to place them in Rockridge because no public ministry is attached to our houses here, which means that the friars have no regular, institutional contact with the public. Because there are so many Dominicans in these two houses—more than 40 total—the men in question have the supervision and support they would not have elsewhere within the Province. Such supervision and support is considered essential by mental health professionals to keep offenders from re-offending.

Based on the advice of experts in the fields of mental health and sexual misconduct, the character of the accused friars' alleged offenses, their histories of therapy, and the elapsed time since the alleged offenses, we judge that none of the friars poses a danger to the children of our neighborhood.

Case One

The allegations concern sexual relations with older male high school students occurring 25 or more years ago. This friar has sought and received extensive psychological assessment and counseling, and has been judged rehabilitated by two independent therapists. He is employed on-site, but we have not returned this friar to public ministry, nor is there any prospect that we will ever do so.

Case Two

The allegations involved an improper

CONTINUED TOP OF NEXT PAGE

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Continued from previous page

relationship with a girl beginning at age 15 and continuing into adulthood. These events occurred 29 years ago. Our Sexual Misconduct Committee recommended his return to ministry based on his comprehensive psychological assessment and unblemished history since the subject relationship. Nevertheless, we have not returned him to public ministry, nor is there any prospect that we will ever do so. He is employed on site.

Case Three

The allegations involved inappropriate physical contact on one occasion with a boy around the age of 12 some 45 years ago. This is the only allegation that ever came to light against this individual (even after a thorough investigation by a private investigator who was hired independently from the Province). The friar in question is elderly, in poor health, and unable to drive. He has been judged to be no danger to children by a full clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco, who is his therapist. This friar never had a public ministry and there is no prospect that he ever will have a public ministry.

Case Four

This case involved an allegation of non-genital touching over clothing of a young male 20 years ago. Because of disobedience issues since that time not relating to sexual misconduct, this friar is now not permitted to leave the residence unattended or without permission. He has no public ministry.

This friar also took an unauthorized trip to Thailand in order to visit the family of a friend who was undergoing investiture as a Buddhist monk. While in Thailand, the friar visited with his friend and his friend's family during the family's celebration of the monk's investiture into the Buddhist religious life. There is no indication that the friar engaged in inappropriate activity while in Thailand.

Case Five

In this case, the friar has four allegations ranging from 25 to 35 years ago that involve inappropriate touching, suggestive conversation, provision of alcohol to minors, and voyeurism with males between the ages of 14 and 17. This friar does not drive or generally leave his residence. He has no public ministry nor any prospect of returning to public ministry.

Case Six

This case involves a single accusation 22 years ago of inappropriate touching over clothing with a 16-year-old male. After reviewing his case and history of treatment and conduct since the incident, the Sexual Misconduct Committee recommended his return to ministry. Despite this assessment, there is no prospect that he will be returned to public ministry.

E-Mail

There may be additional questions from our neighbors. Feel free to email us at neighbors@opwest.org.

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The general public believes Realtors are only concerned with commissions. But Realtors are paid *only as a result of excellent service, expertise and industry knowledge*. **Case in point:** I found a unique property in Temescal for clients this March. After 27 days of hard work, *I advised canceling* the contract. **Why? To protect their interests.** The seller's agent spent weeks minimizing the need for complete cooperation from the adjacent owner (for short term access and a 12 inch easement for drainage work). I discovered late in the game, he would not *cooperate at all*. As a result, the property value crashed. But – I had left in force this **minor inspection contingency item** and it saved my clients grief and over 50K in value.

For the entire story and lesson:
www.HomesEastBay.info. (Blog)

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www.MyHouseValue.info

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. *June deadline is May 19.*
Place a classified ad: call Susan Montauk, 547-3855

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Feather River Art Camp for Adults in July

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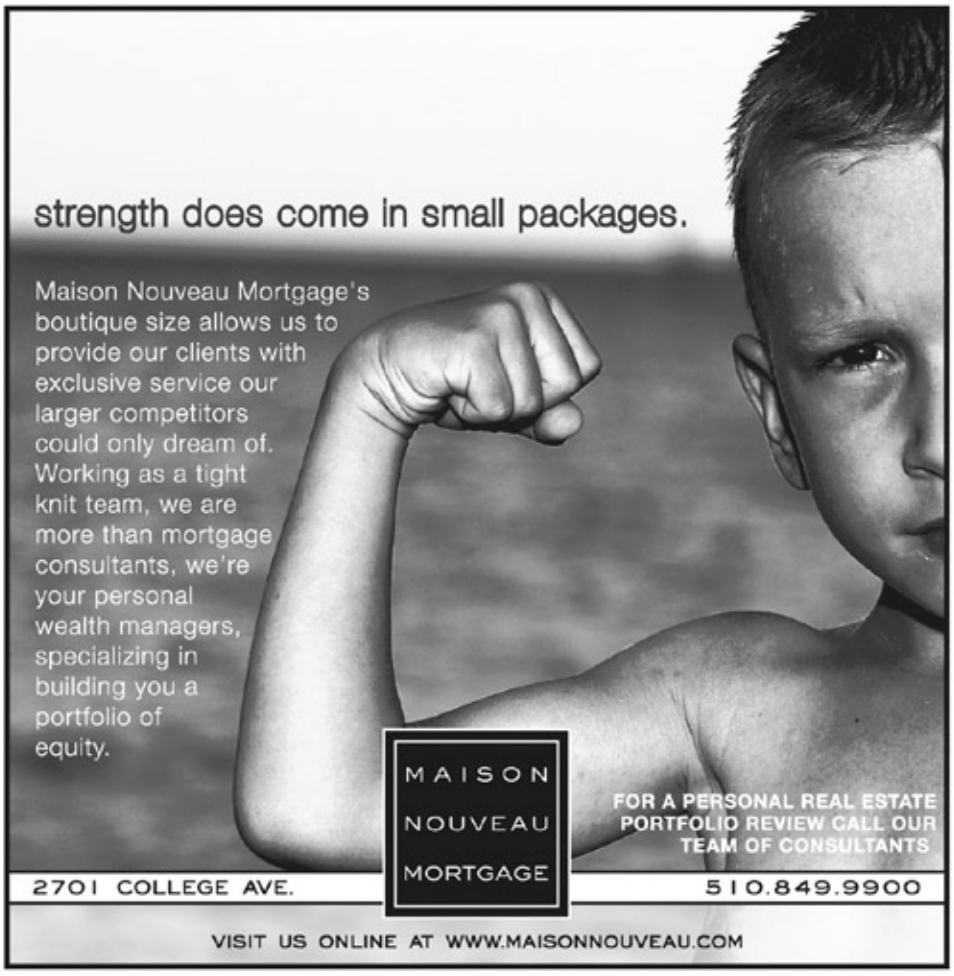
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E-mail *Rockridge News* Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210, or mail to: *Rockridge News* Community Calendar, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the month.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Compiled by Jo Ellis

Councilmember Brunner's Community Advisory Meeting

First Saturday every other month, 10am to noon. **No May meeting. Call 238-7001 for topic of June meeting**. Peralta Elementary School, 460 63rd St. (parking on Alcatraz Ave., east of Telegraph). For information on all District One issues, call 238-7001 or www.oaklandnet.com (the site for all City-related information).

Oakland Community Public Safety Summit

Free and open to the public. This is an annual meeting about crime prevention that brings together Oaklanders from throughout the City to work together on ways to make Oakland safer. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know Oakland's new police Chief Wayne Tucker. Presented by the Oakland Police Department in collaboration with the Community Police Advisory Board, the Home Alert Steering Committee and the City Administrator's Office. Keynote speaker is Chief of Police Wayne Tucker. Saturday, May 21, 8am to 3pm at St. Martin de Porres School, Sacred Heart Campus, 675 41st Street. **Event includes free breakfast and lunch, free childcare, and free on-site parking**. For information on how to register (by May 13), call 238-7159 or e-mail cpaboakland@earthlink.net.

The Greater Rockridge N'hood Crime Prevention Council

Residents and business members of NCPC's 12Y and 13X areas are invited to voice their concerns about crime and public safety. Steering Committee meets 3rd Tuesday each month, 7 to 8:30pm at Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph Avenue.

Rockridge Branch Library

For Children:

- **Toddler Story Time:** 1st and 2nd Saturdays, 10:30am: 5/7, 5/14, 6/4.
- **Pre-School Story Time**: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays,10:30am: 5/4, 5/18, 6/1.
- **Pajama Story Time**: 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 7pm: 5/10, 5/24.

Special Events:

- **Early Literacy Workshop**. Saturday, June 4, 2pm–4pm. Lanell Jenkins, Education Services Director for the Headstart Program at the Berkeley YMCA, will present a Family Literacy Workshop for parents and children ages 3 to 6. Space is limited; please call to register at 597-5017 at the Children's Reference Desk.
- **Junior Volunteers needed:** Kids ages 12 to 17 are invited to volunteer at Rockridge Branch Library for the summer programs. We have work to do, and need your help! We can arrange a schedule that fits around other activities. Please contact Erica at 597-5017.

For Adults:

- **Lawyers in the Library**: Free legal advice. First Tuesday of each month: 6 to 8pm. Advance sign-up starts 5pm.
- **An Evening with Deborah Santana**: Monday, May 16th, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Deborah Santana will read from Space Between the Stars, a moving autobiography that offers a frank discussion of a search for truth, love, and her marriage to music icon Carlos Santana. Deborah grew up in San Francisco, during the 1960's, and is the daughter of a white mother and an African American father, blues guitarist Saunders King. A book signing will follow and books will be available for purchase in collaboration with Diesel Bookstore.
- **An Information session on Basic Investment:** Tuesday, May 24th, 6:30 to 7:30 pm. A guest speaker, from the Securities and Exchange Commission will share information on basic investment products, investor education, how the market works, and some history of the SEC. (Please note: no specific advice on individual investments will be made.) RSVP at 510/597-5017.

Art Exhibits In The Gallery:

- **Ryl Brock Wilson**: 5/2 to 5/31. Collages, prints and textiles.
- **Chabot School Student Exhibition**: 6/1 to 6/30. Artist reception to be announced.

In The Display Case:

- May: **Harlan Conti**: Historic Magazine Covers.
- June: **San Francisco Center for the Book.**

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday and Tuesday, 12:30 to 8pm
Weds, Thurs and Sat 10am to 5:30pm
Friday, 12 to 5:30pm **CLOSED** Sundays.

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Monday, 5/9, 7:30pm. **Amnesty International** Monthly Meeting: All welcome.
- Tuesday, 5/10, 7:30pm. **John Burdett:** Bangkok Tattoo.
- Thursday, 5/12, 7:00pm. **Students in the writing program at UC Berkeley Extension**: readings from their works of poetry and short fiction.
- Sunday, 5/15, 2 pm. **Students of Renee Swindle's "Developing the Novel" class:** readings from their novels in progress.
- Wednesday, 5/25, 7:30pm. **Eric Chase Anderson**: Chuck Dugan is AWOL: A Novel with Maps.
- Sunday, 5/29, 2 pm. **Mychael Urban:** Aces.

5433 College Ave. For more information about readings, book/discussion groups and classes: 510/653-9965 or www.dieselbookstore.com.

Art Exhibition at Curves

Free and open to the public. Art and Transformation: collages, prints and textiles by Ryl Brock Wilson, continuing through May 31. Curves at Rockridge, Market Hall lower level (entrance on Shafter across from BART). For more information: 655-8808.

Writers Support/Critique Group

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/) Rockridge Branch Library, 3rd Saturday each month, 1:30 - 5pm. More information: 482-0265 or Writefox@aol.com.

Red Cross Mobile Blood Drive

The blood-mobile will be in the Rockridge area on Wednesday, May 18, from 11am to 5pm at the Claremont Resort & Spa, 41 Tunnel Road. For more information, call 1-800/GIVE-LIFE (1-800/448-3543) or www.BeADonor.com.

Activities & Events for Seniors

- **College Avenue Adult Center**
  Light exercise, socializing, travel programs and music. Hot lunch at noon for $2. Every Wednesday from 9:30am to 1:30pm. College Ave. Presbyterian Church, 5955 College Ave. For details about upcoming field trips and Summer Camps for Seniors at Yosemite and Feather River, call Kathy at 531-6724.
- **North Oakland Multi-Purpose Senior Center**
  Center Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:45am to 4:45pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. The newsletter, "North Oakland Senior Times" provides a class schedule and a monthly lunch menu (suggested donation: age 60+ $2.25; $4.for those under age 60). Call 597-5085 for details about membership, newsletter, classes/events and opportunities to volunteer.

Elder Care Support Group

Free for family and friends caring for older adults. Third Wednesday of each month, 4 -5:30pm at the Alta Bates Medical Center, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley. For information on all support/education groups offered by Alta Bates/Sutter Health: call Monica, 869-4569 or e-mail Monicalcsw@alum.calberkeley.org.

Volunteers Needed

- **Bambino Thrift Shop**: All volunteer shop benefiting Oakland Children'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 5th graders, one-on-one or in small groups, on math, reading and writing skills; time commitment of at least one hour per week. Located at 410 Alcatraz Ave. (cross-street Colby). Contact Julia Kassissieh, Director: 655-0540 or director@noccs.org.
- **American Red Cross Blood Services** is holding a volunteer orientation on Tuesday, May 17, from 6 to 7:30pm, at the Rockridge office, 6230 Claremont Avenue, to support more than 40 blood drives held each month all over the East Bay. Volunteers are needed to call previous donors, offer refreshments, make deliveries to hospitals and assist with community outreach. Advance sign-up required. For more information: 510/594-5165.



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