THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
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October Town Hall Meeting

League of Women Voters to Moderate RCPC Discussion Of State Propositions!

Eight propositions will require your vote in the statewide election on November 8. RCPC's October Town Hall meeting, moderated by the League of Women Voters, will be devoted to an introduction and discussion of the pros and cons of each of these issues. Please join us on Thursday, October 20, 7:30 pm in the Rockridge Library.

Proposition 73: Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy.

Proposition 74: Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal.

Proposition 75: Public Employee Union Dues. Restrictions on Political Contributions. Employee Consent Requirement.

Proposition 76: State Spending and School Funding Limits.

Proposition 77: Court Order: Redistricting.

Proposition 78: Discounts on Prescription Drugs.

Proposition 79: Prescription Drug Discounts. State-Negotiated Rebates.

Proposition 80: Court Order: Electric Service Providers.

agenda: RCPC Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 7:30 pm., Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue at Manila, Community Room

- **League of Women Voters:** RCPC's October Town Hall meeting, moderated by the League of Women Voters, will be devoted to an introduction of these measures followed by discussion of the pros and cons of each. Additional details and list of propositions above.

Crime Alert

Rockridge Burglar Swipes Laptops

by Susan Montauk, NCPC Chair

Laptop computers have been stolen from a number of Rockridge homes, mostly between Claremont and Alcatraz, during September. In more than eight reported incidents, a burglar entered occupied homes in the evening or at night and took or attempted to take a laptop and, once, keys. The burglar's style in each case leads Oakland police to believe there is one thief, probably a male, with an accomplice driver. He also appears to be widening his area: the last reported incident was on Florio. There, sleeping residents of a home heard glass breaking. They saw a man with gloves reaching for a laptop. The thief escaped through the window

Laptop Burglar, page 7

Planning for Rockridge's Future

RCPC to Ask Community to Help set Priorities and Goals

by Deborah Weinstein, Chair, RCPC



Deborah Weinstein
Courtesy D.W.

Recent letters to the Editor indicate confusion about the Rockridge Community Planning Council's approaches to Rockridge planning and zoning. I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight.

The RCPC originally formed in the early 1970s as an organized effort to resist rezoning for construction of high-rise apartment complexes around BART. In 1985 RCPC incorporated as a nonprofit, public benefit, 501(c)3 organization to support the following objectives: 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.

In the fall of 2003, RCPC launched a community planning process with the goal of updating the Rockridge Area Plan, originally produced in 1994 with extensive community input. As our planning process got underway, issues began to arise which forced the RCPC Board to grapple with questions about the future growth and development of Rockridge. Through a series of public community meetings, articles in *The Rockridge News* and Board retreats, we began to explore how RCPC might approach development opportunities in Rockridge. Unfortunately, during the course of these discussions, a number of ideas emerged that led to misperceptions about our position on development.

In brief, RCPC's current position on development in Rockridge is to encourage the preservation of C-31 zoning along College Avenue, and to identify opportunities for possible in-fill development that might meet C-31 zoning requirements.

For those not familiar with local zoning, it might be useful to provide an overview of C-31 zoning. Most municipalities employ zoning, which is the regulation of land and building use to control the character and sound functioning of an area. In Oakland's General plan, Rockridge is divided into several distinct residential and commercial zones that regulate use and building requirements (see map and zoning categories on page 10). Rockridge's principal commercial zone is the C-31 Special Retail Commercial Zone along College Avenue. This zone is intended to

Community Priorities and Goals, page 10

RCPC Seeks New Board Members

Is there something about Rockridge that you would like to change? Serving on the Rockridge Community Planning Council offers you the perfect opportunity to work on a solution.

Currently, there are two vacancies on the RCPC Board of Directors. Under the RCPC Bylaws, the Board includes 12 voting seats typically filled by election of the members, and two seats (including one non-voting seat) which are filled by appointment. If an elected Director's seat becomes vacant during mid-term, the Board appoints a new Director to fill that vacancy for the remainder of the term. This fall, the Board plans to make appointments to fill both the appointed voting seat and an elected seat which was vacated by a resigning Director. The Board is seeking candidates with specific skills in event planning, fundraising, financial analysis, bookkeeping, website design, and newsletter design.

Candidates must be 18 years of age, reside within RCPC boundaries and indicate their interest in the position by November 1, 2005. (A map and description of RCPC boundaries is available online at www.rockridge.org.)

Candidates for the RCPC Board are invited to submit a 125-word statement, describing their interest in being appointed to the Board for a limited term. Please include your address and phone number. Electronic copies can be sent via e-mail to deborahlweinstein@yahoo.com. Mail hard copies to RCPC, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA, 94618.

Candidates will be interviewed at the November RCPC Board meeting, on Thursday, November 3. For further information, please contact Deborah Weinstein, RCPC Chair, at 510/595-3352.

Hollowe'en is Coming to Rockridge



Join the 14th Annual Rockridge Children's Halloween Parade on Sunday, October 30, from 1-3 p.m. Infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers, and elementary-age children in costume, accompanied by an adult(s), are invited to join the parade along College Avenue. Meet at the Dreyer's parking lot behind 5925 College Avenue (enter on Claremont Avenue), for a list of participating merchants, followed by trick-or-treating. Merchants will be distributing treats to children in the parade along College Avenue until 3 p.m. Heavy rain will cancel the parade. The parade is sponsored and organized by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) and the Rockridge District Association (RDA). Volunteers interested in helping with the parade should call RCPC Chair Deborah Weinstein at 510/595-3352. College Avenue merchants please contact RDA Program Manager Mary D'Orazi, at 510/604-3125.



"The Lone Grape"
photo by Sharon Collier

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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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- 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
- **November 5, 2005**
- **November deadline is October 20.**

Advertising rates are $22/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or e-mail joellis1@hotmail.com. ***(RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate.)***

Clean-Up and Celebration Time for Rockridge Library

Volunteer gardeners needed for Rockridge Library pruning and landscaping project

by Jennifer Vetter, Chair, Friends of the Rockridge Library

With the aid of a generous donation from the Rockridge Women's Club, the Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) recently re-landscaped the north, south and east sides of the library. Working closely with the librarians and FORL, landscaper Peter Bowyer chose plants for their hardiness and their relatively low needs for water and maintenance, as well as their ability, in the case of the bamboo, to provide a natural partial screen from the sunlight that pours into the north-facing wall of windows.

Bowyer, who teaches Horticultural and Landscape Design at Merritt College, also led a group of volunteers from the Merritt College Pruning Club in their 5th annual pruning of the wisteria that grows on trellises around the library. Librarian Pat Lichter reported: "It was fascinating to hear them argue about which branches to cut. One person would say, 'You could do it this way if you're thinking in a five-year time frame. But if you're looking at 20 years…' Clearly, they really care about their work!" These professional landscapers prune the library's wisteria every year as a community service, and this year one couple even came up from southern California to help.



Volunteers Prune Rockridge Library Wisteria
L to R: Dimetria Sgouros, Malcolm Scotchler, Alison Levin, Peter Bowyer, Emerald Canary, Elizabeth Ruiz, Kate Bean (with broom). Not in picture: Tim Hansken, Roger and Eleanore Phillips. PHOTO: JENIFER VETTER

Pat would also like to institute a quarterly group weeding session now while the landscaping is new and young. She is planning the first "Garden Party" for Saturday, October 15, from 9:30 a.m. to 11. Volunteers should bring their own gardening gloves and tools, if possible. Refreshments will be served!

To help, contact Pat Lichter, Rockridge Library Branch Manager, at 597-5017, or stop by and ask for her at the front desk.

Rockridge Library "Garden Party" planned for October 15, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Rockridge Library Begins Planning For 10th Anniversary Celebration

by Carol Bieri, Abby Pollak, and Jennifer Vetter

As we near the 10th anniversary of the Rockridge Library building at College and Manila, the Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) and the library staff would like to thank the community for its continuing support over the years and to welcome everyone's participation in the celebration being planned for 2006.

Founded before the library was built, FORL has provided many services and tangibles not funded by the city library budget. For example, for the last three summers FORL has hired and paid the salary of a full-time summer reading program intern from Oakland Technical High School. FORL also augments the library's book, magazine and CD collections, and generally helps out in any way we can.

To maintain our library's excellence, we encourage more people to join the Friends. We also hope that some Friends will consider making additional donations, perhaps inspired by items on the following wish list:

- two lecterns for the upstairs meeting rooms
- a DVD player and a new TV for meeting rooms
- particular magazine subscriptions
- books on CD
- repair or replacement of the storyteller's

CELEBRATION, PAGE 13

Become a Friend of the Rockridge Library!

Name _____ Address _____

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Doing Your Best To Prepare For The Worst

Do you know what to do in the event of an earthquake, fire, flood, terrorist threat or other emergency situation? Are you and your family prepared to be on your own for 72 hours or longer after a major emergency?

Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE) is a free training program for individuals, neighborhood groups and community-based organizations in Oakland that teaches self-reliance skills and helps neighborhoods establish response teams to take care of the neighborhood until professional emergency personnel arrive.

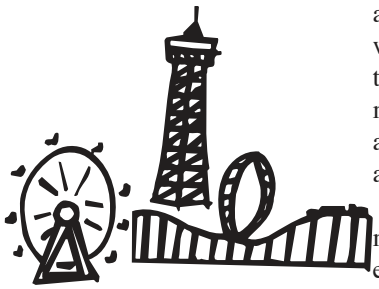
The underlying premise is that a major disaster will overwhelm first responders and leave many citizens on their own for the first 72 hours after an emergency. CORE is offering a family preparedness class in October. Here's your opportunity to learn protective techniques that can help your family:

CORE 1 Home and
Family Preparedness Class:
Thursday, October 13, 2005, 7 – 9 p.m.
Rockridge Public Library,
5366 College Avenue
Advanced registration is necessary as
the attendance limit is 25 per class.
Contact Akasha, 510/655-8796 to register.

CORE I — Home and Family Preparedness. Learn how to reduce common household hazards, prepare family disaster plans and emergency kits, develop evacuation plans and respond to earthquakes, fires, chemical emergencies, flooding and terrorist threats.

Manuals in Chinese and Spanish are available. Contact Akasha at 655-8796 to obtain copies.

Fall Carnival at Chabot Elementary School



Chabot Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) invites the community to our annual fall carnival to be held on Sunday, October 30, 2005, from 11:00-3:00 p.m., at the Chabot School lower playground, 6686 Chabot Road. Entrance to the carnival is free and there are small fees for food and games.

Each class, Kindergarten through 5th grade, participates by sponsoring a game booth such as Ring Toss, Lucky Duck, Cake Walk and Bean Bag Throw, with prizes offered. There will be several arts and crafts opportunities. Food and drinks are available for purchase. We will highlight a new fortune telling booth, festive music and entertainment, and an annual visit from a fire truck.

The fall carnival is our major community building event as well as well as a fundraising opportunity. The Chabot PTA supports the school's music, art, garden, and computer programs, maintains the school's library, and contributes to new playground facilities and other improvements to the physical plant.

Bring your family for a day of fun and support Chabot Elementary School. For more info: sponcelet@earthlink.net.

At the September
RCPC Town Hall Meeting

Remodeling Experts Play to a Packed Crowd of Likely Remodelers

by Jennifer Edmister

Thanks to all who joined us for the September 15 Town Hall Meeting, a home and kitchen renovation forum with standing room only. On hand were Kathryn Rogers of Sogno Design Group, and local general contractors Tom Lawrence and Mike McDonald. Kathy delighted the audience with a "before and after" slide presentation, featuring some of her most interesting local kitchen renovations. Kathy drew nods and hoots of acknowledgement for her observation that too many of our Rockridge kitchens are tiny, cramped, cut off from the rest of the house, utterly lacking in counter space, or "just plain ugly." Her innovative solutions for these problems introduced many of us to exciting new possibilities for the most-used room in the house. Kathy and her team offered beautiful examples of kitchens re-done in green, earth-friendly materials like gorgeous, glazed vulcanite from Mexico, or brilliant countertops made of resin and recycled paper.

Tom and Mike then joined Kathy in answering frank questions from a home-savvy crowd. With

▸ September Meet, page 7

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Rockridge Spruces Up Parks and Creeks

College Preparatory School students work alongside neighbors in Creek-to-Bay Day clean-up activities

Photos: Cy Gulassa







Above and top: College Preparatory School students and teachers give Frog Park play structures a make-over.
Center: FROG Park volunteer coordinator Howard Ferrier tells CPS recruits of the park's history.
Bottom right: students show off the latest fashions in latex gloves.
Bottom left: picnic break for Temescal Creek clean-up crew.







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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

About Creole Style Gumbo

Lagniappe

(A Southern Louisiana term derived from French/Spanish meaning a little something extra, an unexpected gift)

The Jamestown flood, the eruption of Mt. Saint Helens, the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the Okalahoma City bombing, 9/11 and now Hurricane Katrina are a few of America's natural and man-made disasters forever etched upon our collective psyches. We all, in our own way, grieve and reach out to New Orleans, American's most culturally unique city. New Orleans—the birthplace of jazz and equally as important, America's culinary soul. I cannot think of any other American city that is recognized by culinary historians as having its own cuisine. Yes, there is San Francisco sourdough bread, Boston cream pie, New England clam chowder, Philadelphia cheese steak and Chicago pizza, but New Orleans is the only American city identified by culinary scholars as a full cuisine with its origins over 300 years old. One of the ways to honor the horrific scenes we have been watching non-stop is to appreciate the rich culinary tradition New Orleans and Louisiana have given to America.

To fully understand the culinary history of New Orleans, one must first understand the differences between Creole and Cajun food. Both cuisines trace their roots to French cooking. It is only recently that Creole and Cajun cooking have been used interchangeably. For nearly 300 years the Creole cuisine of New Orleans and Cajun cooking of the surrounding bayous and Louisiana farmlands were distinct culinary traditions. Although the two share many ingredients and some recipes, each has its own history and unique dishes.

Cajuns were North America's first deported population. In the late 1750s, after the outbreak of the French and Indian War, Britain expelled the French occupants of Nova Scotia — called "Acadians" after the French province of which the area had been a part. In 1765, some of the Acadians sellted in Louisiana, shortly after it was acquired by Spain— a portio nof them in New Orleans, but most on nearby bayous and marshlands granted to them by the Spanish. The term Cajun, a corruption of Acadian, came into use in the 19th century. Cajun cooking, a combination of French and Southern cuisines, is a robust, one-pot, country style of cooking that uses available seasonal vegetables, herbs, spices and seafood, such as the humble crawfish. The most famous Cajun dish is crawfish étouffée. Etouffée means "smothered." In Cajun cooking, an étouffée is a one-pot stew that highlights a single main ingredient like shrimp or crayfish.

New Orleans Creole cooking is more refined than Cajun. Blending the more refined cooking styles of the French and Spanish along with local Indian and African slave traditions, New Orleans gave birth to Creole cuisine — America's first authentic cuisine. Among the Native American Choctaws' lasting contributions to Creole cuisine was the introduction of dried sassafras leaves known as filé, which are used as a flavoring and in powdered form as a thickening agent for soups and stews. African slaves brought the okra plant to the American south, best known for its use in gumbo.

Gumbo is the quintessential Creole dish. The name gumbo is a derivation of the African word for okra. Some culinary historians believe that gumbo is an adaptation of bouillabaisse, the classic French fish stew. Whatever its origins, there are many varieties and recipes for gumbo. In New Orleans kitchens, gumbos vary by what is seasonally available. Gumbos include the holy trinity of Creole cooking—onions, peppers, and celery. Other ingredients usually include okra and tomatoes, and one or several meats or shellfish like chicken, sausage, ham, shrimp, crab or oysters. Often, authentic gumbos start with is a rich, dark roux. A roux is a mixture of equal parts of flour and fat (butter) cooked slowly until it reaches a dark mahogany color. The stew is covered with water or stock and slowly simmered for an hour or more. When done, the gumbo is served over rice.

The gumbo recipe below is adapted from Chef Paul Prudhomme's *Louisiana Kitchen*, and is one of hundreds. Although there are many ingredients, the actual cooking is quite simple. I encourage you to make some gumbo as a way to honor our first city of American cuisine — New Orleans.

Seafood Gumbo

(Serves 4)

- 1 pound of large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 5 cups of seafood stock (available at the Market Hall Pasta Shop or Hapuku Fish Shop)
- 2-½ tablespoons of Paul Prudhomme's Cajun Magic Seafood Seasoning (available at Ver Brugge meat market on College Avenue or Hapuku)
- ¾ cup butter
- 2 cups chopped onions
- 2 cups chopped celery
- 2 cups chopped green peppers
- 3 tablespoons filé (available at Safeway and Albertson's)
- ½ tablespoon Tabasco sauce
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 cup canned tomato sauce
- 1-½ cups Dungeness crabmeat (Ver Brugge)

In a large, heavy soup pot, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the onions, celery, and peppers. Turn heat to high and stir in the filé, Tabasco, garlic and seasoning mix. Cook 6 minutes, stirring constantly. Reduce heat to medium and stir in tomato sauce; continue cooking 5 minutes stirring constantly and scraping the pot bottom, which intensifies the flavor. Add the stock and bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer for an hour, stirring occasionally. Add the shrimp, and crabmeat. Cover and turn off the heat. Leave the pot covered until the seafood is poached, about 6-10 minutes. Serve immediately over rice.

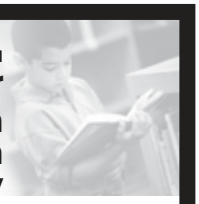
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September Meet

from page 4

the audience sharing their own experiences, we learned that even a kitchen-only remodeling project should begin with a master plan for the rest of the home. Often, homeowners find that they save time and expense if they understand what changes should occur in the rest of the house. Next, homeowners and their builders should have a candid discussion about the budget. Mike observed that not all bungalow kitchen projects require a $100,000-plus commitment. Finally, Mike, Tom and Kathy agreed that a solid project requires a solid team. We were cautioned that the very best place to start is with a reputable architect / designer and a general contractor. Our experts encouraged us to ask questions, check references and listen to word-of-mouth.

With all of this in mind, many of us concluded the meeting by perusing Kathy's fine selection of counter top and flooring samples, as we quietly plotted our dream kitchens of tomorrow.



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Laptop Burglar

from page 1

to a waiting car.

OPD and the Greater Rockridge NCPC recommend the following precautions:

- When carrying your laptop home from work, disguise its carrying case. Laptop thieves may be waiting at BART to scout out likely candidates.
- Do not leave your laptop in view of an outside window. If working at the laptop draw the blinds.
- Record the serial number of your laptop for reporting and recovery purposes.
- Secure your records with a password.
- Keep your doors and windows locked, activate alarm systems and install a motion detector (they can now be adjusted for dogs).
- Call 911 to report a crime in progress and 777-3333 to report other crimes. Although OPD is not likely to follow up on a crime with no evidence, patterns can be established if crimes are reported. Also, insurance claims cannot be made without a report. Ask the operator for an incident number. The report number may take several weeks.
- Go to yahoogroups.com and search for the RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork. Join the group and always report suspicious behavior or crimes to the on-line group.





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5720 Golden Gate Ave.	2/2	$ 679,000	$ 805,000	8/26/05
140 Florence Ave.	4/3.5	$ 1.195,000	$ 1,195,000	8/26/05
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Letters to The Editor

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

I was dismayed by the "Correction" that followed my last letter

Editor:

Thank you for printing my letter objecting to the creation of a Fruitvale-style transit village in Rockridge (*The Rockridge News*, September, 2005). But I was dismayed by RCPC's "correction" to my letter, which denied that the organization ever supported a transit village or promoted high-density development. The record tells a different story. (All the citations below are from the *Rockridge News* unless otherwise noted.)

In July 2003, the *Rockridge News* reported on the UnderBART project (various improvements to signage and lighting), which had much public support. Later that year (November 2003, pages 1 & 4) the Board said it would "discuss what changes would be needed to make (College Avenue) an ideal business district." In January 2004 (pages 4 & 8), noted author and urban planner Peter Calthorpe called Rockridge "A good example… of a livable community," with "a multiplicity of housing types, mixed use neighborhood and strong connections to the region via transit." This affirms the view I expressed in my letter.

Suddenly, in April 2004 (page 2) an article calls Rockridge "an exclusive enclave," and in September 2004 (page 7), an article announces that RCPC seeks "new development proposals that will provide a better mix of residential and commercial establishments." In October 2004 (page 2), we learn that "to increase housing density along College Avenue… the RCPC Land Use Committee will advocate for multiple-story… development and develop policies to ensure that Rockridge will once again be in the vanguard of sustainable living." Given what Mr. Calthorpe said only 10 months before, it's hard to understand exactly what changed so radically in Rockridge that it now needs such change.

So in February 2005 (page 3) we learn that "the Land Use Committee applied for a CalTrans grant…," and in May 2005 (page 2) we're told that "residents of Rockridge could support… sustainability by embracing transit-oriented development," again implying a serious deficiency in our current neighborhood.

"Transit Village in Rockridge" was the headline in June 2005 (page 1) about an upcoming meeting "to discuss transit-oriented development and multi-modal transportation in Rockridge in the context of sustainable, smart growth." A Fruitvale-style transit village was part of the discussion at that RCPC general meeting. And on page 9 were questions like: "What will it take for the Rockridge Village to really embrace and commit to sustaining a community and the region?" A June 21, 2005 *Contra Costa Times* article in which RCPC board members were interviewd noted that Rockridge "wants to become a transit village." And in a June 7, 2005 article in the *East Bay Daily News* titled, "Transit village may be right answer," RCPC board members advocate for 3-4 story developments near BART, saying that Rockridge is "an invisible gated community."

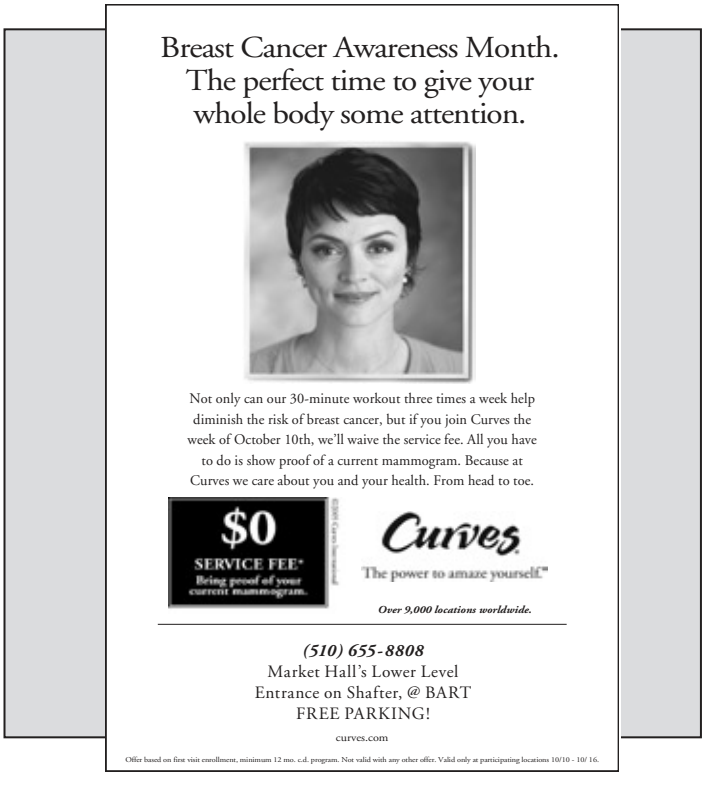
A review of these quotes and two years of articles in *The Rockridge News* shows RCPC's position morphing from supporting beautification and upgrades under BART to stating that something's so wrong with Rockridge that it needs radical changes like major developer-sponsored transit villages. It's very hard to tell what RCPC is advocating — building a transit village under the freeway at BART, legal development of more housing above commercial on College Avenue, or major development somewhere else in Rockridge, and if so where?

What I find amazing is that RCPC tried to "correct" or perhaps "spin" the facts about its interest in transit villages. My letter needed no "correction."

— Barney Smits

More Letters to the Editor top of next page





Letters, continued from page 8

Why Higher Density?

Editor:

I am dumbfounded as to why we are being urged to increase the population density of our Rockridge neighborhoods. Our streets have become crowded parking lots and our narrow sidewalks are jammed with people. What is the motivation of these proponents of development, and what economic interests do they represent? One letter to *The Rockridge News* suggests that, unless we make room for the 1.6 million migrants to the Bay Area, we will lose our "beautiful rolling hills and open space." How specious and absurd.

Beneath the sweetness and light of their arguments, I'm reminded of the unscrupulous entrepreneur who shoehorns more bodies into his overcrowded ferry boat and prays that it does not capsize and sink. The tipping point approaches if we listen to these Sirens.

— Bill Tilden

Lower Consumption, Not Higher Density

Editor:

Over-development issues never seem to go away for long in our lovely Rockridge. Thank you for publishing the thoughtful letter, "Please, No Fruitvale-style high density 'Transit Village' in Rockridge!" (*The Rockridge News*, September 2005). Your "Corrections" editorial reply absurdly suggested that somehow more development of apartment buildings along College Avenue would result "in more eyes on the street" that would somehow make us "safer." Are mega-cities such as Hong Kong, Cairo and Mexico City safer because they have packed in many millions of new residents within their city limits in the last few years? I doubt it.

People living in these hypothetical new apartment buildings in Rockridge would be mostly watching TV, surfing the web or playing video games or gasp, actually even reading, not looking out their window and watching out for our safety in the street scene below.

Will adding more cars and SUVs of these hypothetical new residents not worsen our present traffic mess? Already, there is almost no parking available along College Avenue or along nearby residential streets.

Another letter writer asserted that some 1,600,000 more people would be "joining us" in the Bay Area in the next twenty years. Not if we don't build another 500,000 new housing units. They certainly aren't going to move here to sleep in the parks or in their vehicles.

We humans need to reduce our numbers by 90 to 99 percent to significantly lower our consumption of energy resources and to protect the remaining natural environment. We certainly don't need to cram hundreds of thousands of new residents into our already seriously overcrowded Bay Area.

Finally, an article on the Upper Broadway corridor absurdly proposes to cut the present four traffic lanes down to two traffic lanes. Didn't *The Rockridge News* just trot out this same scheme for restricting traffic on Claremont Avenue a few months ago? That silly notion was shot down in flames by the Oakland city government.

— James K. Sayre

Katrina Victims Need Our Help

Editor:

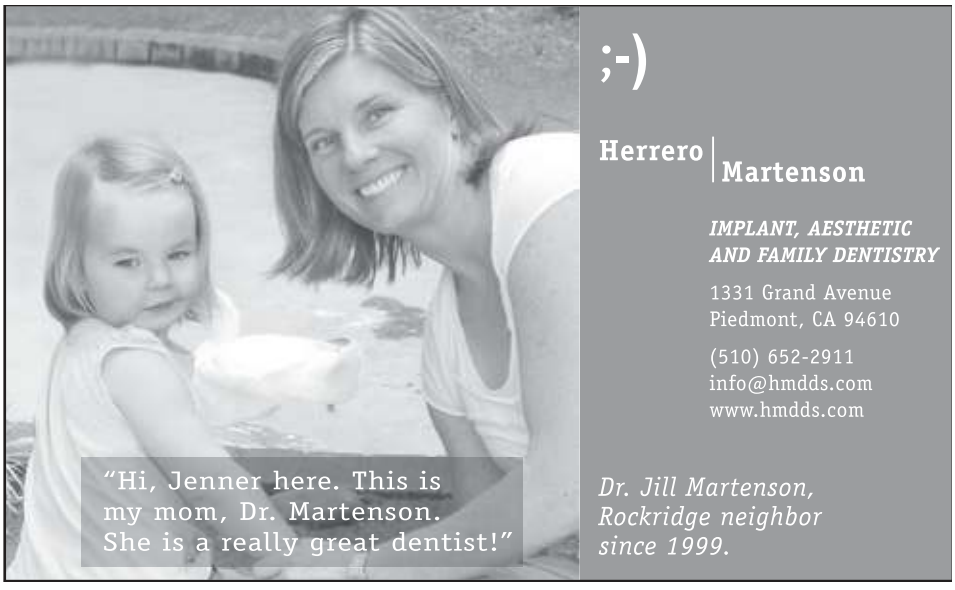
I live in Rockridge and am appealing for help for the victims of hurricane Katrina. I was born and raised in New Orleans and moved to the Bay Area five years ago. I have many loved ones in New Orleans; family and friends. Most were able to evacuate, but their homes have been severely damaged or destroyed and they may not be able to return for months. I still have not been able to contact two dear friends from high school who work at Charity Hospital in downtown New Orleans. I think about them every day and hope that they are safe. This is just my personal piece of this story, but the bigger picture is even darker.

There are so many people from New Orleans in much worse situations. Most of my friends and family had the means to get out and places to go. Not everyone was so lucky. I was a first grade teacher in New Orleans. Yesterday I saw a photo of one of my former students at the Superdome and cried thinking about what life is like for her and her family right now. I can only hope that they are among the lucky few who were evacuated early.

New Orleans is an extremely poor city and many people will need to rely on shelters and organizations like the Red Cross and The Salvation Army for months. I am writing all of this to ask you to spread the word among your own friends, family, workplaces, schools, community centers, and places of worship. Please help me to raise awareness about the seriousness of this disaster and the great need for giving aid to organizations like the Red Cross (www.redcross.org or 1-800-HELP NOW) and the Salvation Army (www.salvationarmyusa.org, or 1-800-SAL ARMY). New Orleans and the whole Gulf Coast really need the support of Rockridge and the entire country.

I thank you for any support you can give —and please keep the people of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in your thoughts.

— Zoë Williams



Music That Cooks

Songwriters performing In the Round
to benefit the Friday Night Meal
$10 Suggested Donation

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
5951 College Avenue Oakland 658-3665
2nd Friday each month • 7:30pm

Community Priorities and Goals

from page 1

create, preserve, and enhance areas with a wide range of retail establishments serving both short and long term needs in attractive settings oriented to pedestrian comparison shopping.

C-31 Zoning permits many ground-floor activities: general retail sales, convenience sales and services, consumer laundry and repair services, and certain residential and civic activities. Offices are generally located on the second floor, residential apartments on the third, and buildings may not exceed a total height of 35 feet. Older buildings that predated C-31 zoning have been grandfathered.

In the 1980s, RCPC and Rockridge residents fought hard for the C-31 designation because the community recognized that the economic vitality of the College Avenue commercial area depends on a vibrant retail environment. It may be hard to imagine now, but during the construction of Highway 24 and the BART station, many retail businesses on College Avenue failed and were boarded up.

...RCPC is not suggesting that Rockridge become a Fruitvale-style transit village...

RCPC continues to implement its mission through a variety of activities carried out by committees focused on major issues (membership in these committees is open to the entire Rockridge community). For example, a major focus of the Land Use Committee has been to advocate for the preservation of C-31 zoning since RCPC believes that a healthy retail environment is critical to a vibrant community. As I write this column, RCPC is appealing the City's decision to grant a Minor Conditional Use Permit for 5327 College Avenue, which violates C-31 regulations by allowing an office at street level. Once granted, this permit remains in perpetuity with the property.

RCPC's College Avenue Committee for Capital Improvements, formerly called the "Under-BART" committee, was started by a group of community members who were interested in improving the underutilized space under the Rockridge BART station and Highway 24 overpass. The group now collaborates with City Councilmember Jane Brunner to make capital improvements like trees and benches along College Avenue.

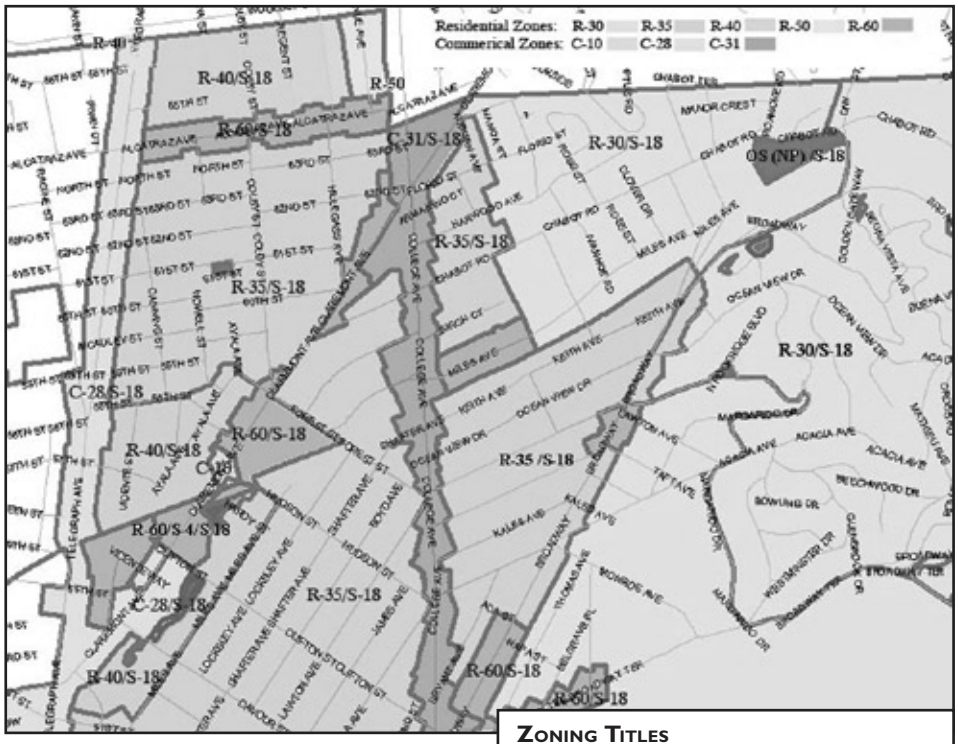
Last January the RCPC Board of Directors held a strategic planning session to determine RCPC's 2005 activities and budget. The session included professional planners and architects who discussed "smart growth," a way for communities to grow responsibly for the benefit of all residents. To further the discussion about "smart growth," RCPC held a Town Hall Meeting on transit-oriented development last June. As noted in the September issue of *The Rockridge News*, RCPC is not advocating a Fruitvale-style transit village; in fact officials at the June meeting made it clear that Rockridge is not suitable for such a project. But we are interested in improving the area under and around the BART station, and after several public meetings, the community has provided excellent suggestions, all of which are consistent with C-31 zoning.

During the January strategic planning session, RCPC also identified several commercial properties in Rockridge that are under-utilized or have the highest potential for improvements within C-31 zoning guidelines. RCPC plans to talk with the owners of these sites about development that would add to the vibrancy and efficiency of land use on College Avenue.

Most important, RCPC decided at the January session to create a comprehensive process for generating community dialogue on the future of Rockridge. Plans include survey instruments; focus group discussions in Rockridge homes; general meetings at the Rockridge library; and meetings at schools, senior residencies, transitional shelters, businesses and churches. The community voice will help guide RCPC's activities in the coming years. Please join the discussion. We need to hear your ideas about what Rockridge should look like in the next 10-20 years.

If you have any questions about RCPC's activities or plans, please contact Deborah Weinstein, RCPC Chair, at 595-3352, deborahlweinstein@yahoo.com.

Rockridge Zoning Map



Zoning Titles

Residential Zones

R-30 One-Family Residential
R-35 Special One-Family Residential
R-40 Garden Apartment Residential
R-50 Medium Density Residential
R-60 Medium-High Density Residential
R-70 High Density Residential

Commercial Zones

C-10 Local Retail Commercial
C-28 Commercial Shopping District
C-31 Special Retail Commercial

SOURCE:http://bpc.iserver.net/codes/oakland/_DATA/TITLE17/index.html

The Rockridge Muse

by Ortrun Niesar

The Beat Goes On

New Orleans is in crisis, thousands have been displaced by the storm, you feel like the world has gone down the drain, when suddenly you hear the sound of New Orleans blues blasting from your TV screen, played by a group of young people sheltered somewhere in Texas or California. There it is: the joy, the sparkling energy that is the soul of New Orleans, alive and kicking and wanting to be reckoned with. Thank you to our artists who somehow always manage to pull us back towards center. They do it because that is what they were born to do.

"Music that Cooks"

Organizers at College Avenue Presbyterian Church are hoping to raise needed funds to feed the hungry on Friday nights by putting on concerts entitled "Music that Cooks." The next concert will take place on Friday, October 14, 7:30 p.m. The artists are Courtney C. Patty, hailed as one of the best up-and coming-female guitarists on the Best Female Musicians web site dedicated to emerging women in music; Jennifer Yax, award winning songwriter and vocalist; and Pollyanna, winner of the Best Song of the Year award from West Coast Songwriters, who sings and plays piano and guitar. The suggested donation is $10. Give more if you can; give 25 cents if that's all you have. All donations will be appreciated, but more importantly, come hear this fine performance. Come savor what is given with an open heart for all. Also, if you are a performer and would like to appear at one of the future concerts, e-mail Al Hussian at musicthatcooks@comcast.net for details.

Music at Cal turns 100

The UC Berkeley Department of Music is announcing its 100th anniversary! There will be celebrations going on all year. Consider attending at least one or two of the events. Tickets for UC concerts are always inexpensive, ranging from free to $3 to $10. And what a smorgasbord of musical performances you will be able to savor. There are also the Wednesday Noon Concerts at Hertz Hall, totally free, featuring talented young performers, as well as the University Symphony (Wednesday, October 19). By the way, auditions for the Spring 2006 Noon Concerts are open to musicians living in our community. (UC affiliation of some sort is required.) Call the Department of Music for rules and applications if you are interested. Application deadline is November 9. Call the concert office at 642-4864. Season programs can also be viewed at http://music.berkeley.edu.

Author, Author

To follow up on last month's article about postcard histories, Greta Dutcher Rypins' new book entitled *Alameda,* also a postcard history by Arcadia Publishing, is coming to your favorite book store on September 21. And Jennie Schacht and Mary Cech have just published their first collaborative book entitled "The Wine Lover's Dessert Book," featuring recipes and pairing of the perfect glass of wine. You can see it on Amazon.com or ask for it at your favorite book store.

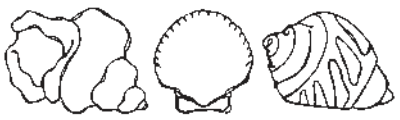
Photo Exhibit

The Rockridge Photography Exhibition will be on display at the Rockridge Library during the entire month of October. We invite you to come and see it at your leisure. Reception date TBA.

Notes

- Liz Maxwell is requesting that all Rockridge area artists interested in doing Holiday Open Studios in December contact her now at 654-5741 or lizmaxwell@prodigy.net for group marketing purposes.
- The Christmas Revels Tickets are going on sale October 15! Go to www.calrevels.org or call 510/452-9334.

Ortrun Niesar can be reached at oniesar@aol.com or 510/652-6664.



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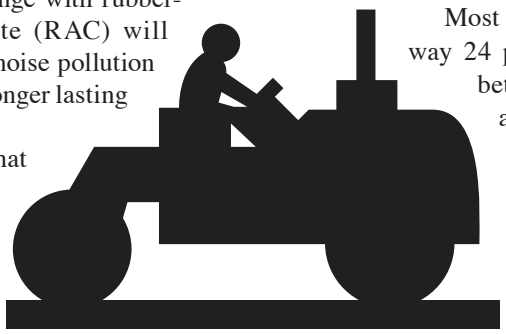
Caltrans Repaving Highway 24 With Rubberized Asphalt

by Cy Gulassa

Highway 24 cuts through the heart of Rockridge with a sustained roar that intensifies during commute hours, often accented by the backfire of braking trucks and the snarl of accelerating motorcycles.

That may soon change — somewhat. While not promising to reduce the sound of traffic to a pleasant hum, Caltrans predicts that its resurfacing of the 4-mile stretch of Highway 24 between the Caldecott Tunnel and the 580 interchange with rubberized asphalt concrete (RAC) will significantly reduce noise pollution and provide a safer, longer lasting surface.

Studies indicate that RAC is more durable than asphalt and reduces tire noise (as opposed to exhaust and engine noise) by up to five decibels. The material, which contains ground up old tires, also reduces skidding and provides a noticeably smoother and quieter ride than conventional concrete or asphalt. RAC, developed in response to the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 as a way to recycle old tires, is also being evaluated as a practical alternative to the construction of sound walls, which are costly and often objected to by residents.



Most work on the Highway 24 project takes place between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m., when traffic is light. Caltrans warns residents to expect delays, closed lanes, bright lights and the noise of heavy machinery.

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This unique three unit property (cottage, art studio and rental) was in poor condition when Jeff was asked to list and consult with the owners on the listing. As with many similar properties in Rockridge and Oakland (see examples at www.HomesEastBay.Info), Jeff worked closely with the owners to totally renovate this property and create the best value. Jeff arranged for his renovators to work with the owners and after many weeks of hands-on consulting, a true transformation occurred: All structures were totally updated and reflected the California Asian style the owners preferred.
Before: $499,000 After: Sold for over $740,000
1.800.805.8827 JeffAuen@comcast.net

Celebration

from page 3

rocking chair in the children's room
- refinishing damaged table tops
- a fireplace mural for children's room (to be juried)
- board games, card decks and puzzles for children's programs
- tall plants for lobby
- fresh flowers for the front desk

This year we are making a special effort to match donors with specific opportunities and acknowledge their contributions. The traditional paper book plate can become a sticker on a CD case, a label on a library magazine folder or a brass plaque on the back of a chair.

We currently have an opening for one more board member, and would welcome anyone who cares about the library and can attend four evening meetings a year. Those interested in joining the FORL Board and/or making a contribution earmarked for something specific, please contact Jennifer Vetter, Chairperson, at jrvetter@comcast.net or 595-1817.

Out & About in Rockridge



Friends of Studio One staff an informational table during the Out & About street fair, Sunday, September 25. From left: Marian Gray, City Councilmember Jane Brunner, Patrick Daughton, Barbara Havenor, Maria Gibson-Barra. The fair was sponsored by the Rockridge District Association.

PHOTO: CY GULASSA

Look good in pictures.
(Without having to suck in your stomach, turn to the side, hold out your arm, and stick out your chin.)
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RN classifieds

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Your 36-word message: $18 (phone number counts as one word). Mail to: **RN Classifieds**, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618. *November deadline is October 20.*
Place a classified ad: call Susan Montauk, 547-3855

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.

Tahoe Condo For Rent

Our lovely 3br/2+ba condo in Incline Village is available for rent! Sleeps 8, is fully equipped! Close to everything! Call 652-6664 for more information.

Professional Pet Care

Loving & responsible care for all species. Services include dog walking, park excursions, home visits, meds, pet parties. Licensed, insured, bonded, excellent references. 18-year Rockridge homeowner. Buddies Dog Adventures by Diane. 654-1202

Green Housecleaning

We use 100% eco-friendly products to achieve unsurpassed quality, while protecting your health and the environment. Regular and moving service. Call 510/532-6645 for a free estimate. Natural Home Cleaning Professionals, a worker-owned cooperative.

Carmel Family Home

Furnished 3BR+2BA available for short-term rental. Peaceful setting, 15 minute walk to town. Great patio, reasonable rates (1 week minimum). Not cute, quaint or upscale, but has character. Call 510/547-1856.

High Quality Gardening

Skilled maintenance, clean-ups, pruning, planting, irrigation, organic practices. Fall is a great time to plant here!-lawns, bulbs, new plantings. 12 years in the East Bay, personal attention. Local references. Green's Gardens—510.593-3490.

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20-year Rockridge homeowner. Loving care in your home. Home visits, playtime, petting, litter box cleaning, food, water, meds, Reiki massage, plants watered. Certified in Pet First Aid. References. $15-20 a visit. 510.599-2590.

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Attention Homeowners

How Much is Your Home or Property Worth? For a FREE on-line valuation, go to www.EastBayHomeWorth.com for Rockridge and for other areas.

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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. Peralta Elementary School: 460 63rd St. (parking on Alcatraz Ave., just east of Telegraph).

October Topic: Caldecott Tunnel 4th Bore Project and Freeway Maintenance. **No meeting in November**. For information on all District One issues, call 238-7001 or www.oaklandnet.com (the site for all City-related information).

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 Fire Station #8, 463 51st Street.

Rockridge Branch Library

For Children:

- **Toddler Story Time:** 1st and 2nd Saturdays, 10:30am: 10/1, 11/5.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am: 10/5, 10/19, 11/2.
- **Pajama Story Time:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm: 10/11, 10/25 (Halloween stories), 11/8.

Halloween Special Event for Kids and Families:

Tuesday, October 25th: Spooky stories for kids ages 2 to 5, followed by refreshments and truly scary stories. Library open until 8pm on Halloween night and will give out treats. See you in your costume!

For Teens:

- **Bookwormz** (Teen Book Club): last Tuesday evening of each month from 5 to 6pm, 10/25. For more information call Susy: 597-5017.

For Adults:

- **Weeding Party**: Saturday, October 5, from 9:30 to 11am. Bring garden gloves and hand tools to weed our new landscaping. Refreshments served. Please respond to Pat Lichter at 597-5017.
- **Book Talk and slide show,** Saturday, October 8, from 2 to 4pm. Joanne Sandstrom, author of *There and Back Again: A Family's 5-year Odyssey at Sea*. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Oakland-Piedmont Branch of the Amer. Assoc. of University Women (AAUW).
- **Creative Writing Workshop**, led by local author Opal Palmer Adisa. Saturday, October 15, from 2 to 4pm. Please RSVP; limited to 25.

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

Art Exhibits:

- **Gallery:** Annual RCPC Photo Exhibit; photos of Rockridge by Rockridge community members.
- **Display case**: John Baldwin; collage and acrylic.

Library: 5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

Library Hours: top of next column

LIBRARY HOURS:
Monday and Tuesday, 12:30 to 8pm.
Weds, Thur and Sat: 10am to 5:30pm
Friday, 12 to 5:30pm
Sundays: **Closed**.

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings

All events are FREE and open to the public

- Sunday, 10/2, 2pm. **Dan Savage:** *The Commitment: Love, Sex, Marriage and My Family*.
- Wednesday, 10/5, 7:30pm. **Daniel Goleman**: has written the introduction to *Blazing Splendor: The Memoirs of Tulku Urgyen Rinpoche* as told to **Erik Pema Kunsang** and **Marcia Binder Schmidt.** They will all be here to discuss the book.
- Wednesday, 10/19, 7:30pm. **Larry Kane**: *Lennon Revealed*.
- Thursday, 10/20, 7:30pm. **Eric Hansen**: *The Bird Man and the Lap Dancer: Close Encounters with Strangers*.
- Sunday, 10/6, 4pm. **Olivier Said** and **James Mellgren**: *The Bar: Spirits, Cocktails, Knowledge*.

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

Writers Support/Critique Group

ALL writers welcome. Bring at least 10 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, third Saturday of the month, 1 to 5pm. For more information: 482-0265 or Writefox@aol.com.

Oakland Bird Club

Hans and **Pam Peeters**, authors and illustrators of *Raptors of California* will share their expertise about raptors using slides and drawings. Free and open to the public. Refreshments served. Thursday, October 6 at 7:30pm at the Rockridge Branch Library. For information: 510/444-0355.

A Different Angle Photo-art Gallery

Colorful food photographs on display during the Rockridge Kitchen Tour. Sunday, Oct. 2 from 12 to 6pm. 5833 College Ave. For more inf.:653-8848 or www.adifferentangle.net.

Sick Plant Clinic

Bring your ailing plants to the University of California Botanical Garden and get a free diagnosis by UC plant pathologist Dr. Robert Raabe, UC entomologist Dr. Nick Mills and their team of experts. First Saturday of every month from 9am to noon. UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley (above Cal Memorial Stadium in Strawberry Canyon). For more information: 643-2755 or http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu.

Rockridge Montessori School Yard Sale

Educational toys, books and new and gently used kids clothes. Saturday, November 8, 9am to 12 noon. 5610 Broadway at Manila (look for the purple dinosaur). Partial proceeds will be donated to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Sponsored by the Parent's Association. For more information: 652-7021.

North Oakland Community Charter School (NOCCS) Events

- **Community Day**. Friday, October 2 from 9 to 11am. A celebration of our success and growth. See the school and meet the staff and students.
- **Yard and Bake Sale**. Saturday, November 5 from 9am to 4pm. Proceeds support the After School Program's scholarship fund. Call Judith Silver: 985-1024. Located at St. Augustine's, 410 Alcatraz (at Colby). For more details, call the school: 655-0540.

Activities and Events For Seniors

- **College Avenue Adult Center**

Light exercise, socializing, travel programs and music. Hot lunch at noon for $2. Every Wednesday, 9:30am to 1:30pm. College Ave. Presbyterian Church, 5955 College Ave. For details about field trips, call Kathy at 531-6724.

- **North Oakland Multi-Purpose Senior Center**

Program Highlights: Computer classes; Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program; driver safety; trips, tours and theater outings.

October Special Events:

- Flea Market in the parking lot. Saturday, 10/8, 8am to 4pm.
- AARP 55 Alive Driving Class for Seniors. 10/11 and 10/13. Call for times.

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: seniors age 60+ $2.25; $4. for those under age 60). Call 597-5085 for details about membership, newsletter, classes/events and volunteer opportunities.

Volunteers Needed

- **Second Start Adult Literacy Program:** Teach an adult to read. Free training. Nine month minimum commitment. Volunteers can meet with their students at the Rockridge Branch Library. For more information: 238-3432 or www.oaklandlibrary.org/services/SecondStart.
- **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 St. Colby). Contact Julia Kassissieh, Director: 655-0540 or director@noccs.org.
- **Friends of Temescal Creek:** Monitor water quality by collecting water samples at Temescal Lake for analysis. Important for Rockridge residents because Temescal Creek runs above ground near Frog Park. Volunteers meet on the third Saturday of each month from 10am to noon. Regular commitment preferred. For more information and for where to meet, contact Friends of Temescal Creek at fotc2005@yahoo.com.

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