THE Rockridge News

NOTE: No Town Hall Meetings in November or December

www.rockridge.org

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DAZZLES ROCKRIDGE

PHOTOS, MONTAGE DESIGN: CY GULASSA

by Jennifer Edmister, Tour Co-Chair

More than ten years after its inception, the Rockridge Kitchen Tour continues to draw hundreds of guests from the Bay Area and beyond. On October 2, tour guests enjoyed nearly perfect weather, and followed their guide maps to nine craftsman and contemporary homes in our very own Rockridge neighborhood. We were not surprised to see packed crowds at the perfectly charming two-bedroom bungalow on Locksley, with its gleaming stainless steel kitchen and impeccable décor; or at the master renovation on Taft, completed almost entirely by the owner herself; or at the stunningly modern kitchens on Hudson, including the wholly wheelchair accessible home, with the most asked-about reddish paint color in recent tour memory. As they strolled from home to home on a warm fall day, nibbling brie and sipping citrus punch, tour guests reported that a great time was had by all.

RCPC was also pleased to inform approximately 40 lucky raffle-ticket holders that they had won a prize generously donated by local merchants. Soon you could see many of your neighbors dining out on College Avenue and perusing the shops, gift certificates in hand.

As always, proceeds of the kitchen tour benefit the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation which represents the community of Rockridge on matters of land use and building design, parks and open spaces, traffic and pedestrian safety

KITCHEN TOUR, PAGE 4

BART Update

BART to Charge Parking Fees Beginning in December

by Bob Franklin,
District 3 BART Director (Rockridge)

As your Rockridge representative on the BART Board of Directors, I want to give you an update on the latest developments at BART and at the Rockridge Station.

Parking Charges

Charges for parking at 10 BART stations will begin in the next few months, including at the Rockridge Station this December. People will pay $1 to park weekdays

BART UPDATE, PAGE 9

PREPARING FOR A DISASTER IN NORTH OAKLAND

Councilmember Sets Local Disaster Preparedness Forum

Saturday, December 3, 10a.m.—noon at Peralta Elementary School (*Details in Calendar, page 15*)

Hurricane Katrina's toll on New Orleans reminds us of the importance of being prepared when disaster strikes. At Councilmember Jane Brunner's community advisory meeting, you can learn how the city of Oakland is preparing for a major earthquake and what steps you, your family and your neighborhood should take to be prepared. Speakers will include representatives from Oakland's Office of Emergency Services and the CORE Program (Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies). For more information, call Councilmember Jane Brunner's office at 238-7001.

Zac Wald, Aide to Councilmember Brunner

Commission Denies RCPC Appeal

by Deborah Weinstein, Chair, RCPC

As reported in the June 2005 issue of *The Rockridge News*, RCPC opposed the application for a minor Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to permit a real estate office at 5327 College Avenue (near Bryant Avenue). RCPC opposed the application because it believed that the proposed use, a real estate office at the ground level, was inconsistent with the City of Oakland's C-31 zoning guidelines.

On Wednesday, October 19, the Oakland Planning Commission heard RCPC's appeal, and statements by city staff and Heather Sittig of Maison Nouveau. The Planning Commission voted to deny the appeal 6-1.

Planning commissioners were of the view that the project met the necessary criteria for approval, noting that conditional use permits allow the City to attach conditions on proposed uses that limit their impact.

In the next issue of *The Rockridge News*, Heather Sittig and Hugh Robertson of Maison Nouveau will describe their plans for the space at 5327 College Avenue, including two key elements, a home-design library and art gallery in the front of the building. Approval of the CUP was conditioned on these two elements.

RCPC thanks community members who voiced opinions in favor of or against the appeal of Maison Nouveau. Because RCPC represents the community's interests, it is important that we hear from you.

Thank you for expressing your views.

Why Does RCPC Always Seem Opposed to Projects?

A primary function of RCPC is to provide zoning oversight. When a project is proposed, Land-Use Committee members confer with owners, developers and city planning officials to review zoning guidelines and urge compliance. If a project does not meet the guidelines, RCPC typically opposes the project and may even pursue an appeal if the planning department proposes to override the guidelines. If the project meets the guidelines, RCPC drops its opposition. Except for public projects, RCPC has only two speeds: it is either opposed or not opposed, depending on whether or not projects meet zoning regulations and criteria. Given the limitations of its role, RCPC does not "approve" development projects, except for projects which are dedicated to a public purpose. RCPC may endorse and strongly advocate for public projects that serve the entire community such as the Rockridge Library and FROGPark.

A witch's brew and a monster or two at the 14th Annual Rockridge Children's Halloween Parade held Sunday, October 30. Some photos from the event taken by Mike Taylor are included in this issue with a story to follow in the December issue. Boo!





Pomegranates
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

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NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING/DEADLINES

Publication date of the next issue is
- ☛ **December 3, 2005**
- ☛ **December deadline is November 17.**

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.)*

The Zoning Counter

428 Cavour Street

Proposal: To raise an existing 994 square foot single-family residence 2' in height and convert the existing basement into 759 square feet of new habitable space.

Applicant: William Coburn

Contact Person/Phone Number: William Coburn 510-893-8826

Owner: Karen Hardison and Tracy Cosgrove

Planning Permits Required: Design Review per Chapter 17.136 for additions and alterations to an existing residence and Minor Variances per Chapter 17.148 to increase the height of the building which is already nonconforming because it encroaches into the required side yards (existing nonconforming and new side yards are: 2.25' and 3.2' at the east side, and 4.57' at the west side, whereas 5' minimum is ordinarily required for new construction).

Case Planner: Ann Clevenger at 238-6980 or aclevenger@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.

Anthony Chabot School Plans Annual Book Fair

No matter what you or your children like to read, there is something for all at the Chabot Elementary School Book Fair which will be open November 14-16 from 8:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., and November 17 from 7:45 to 2:45 p.m., followed by Family Night events from 6 to 8 pm.

Come look over the great selection of books for all ages and do some early holiday shopping.

Anthony Chabot Elementary is located at 6686 Chabot Road.



Farewell to Dan Ferdelman

Friends, neighbors and RCPC board members gathered for beer and barbecue in FROGPark a weekend ago to wish farewell to Dan Ferdelman, RCPC board member and former chair (see arrow), and his wife Marina (to Dan's right) and infant daughter Rosa, who are moving to Columbus, Ohio. Dan reports that although he hates to leave the Bay Area for his hometown, on the bright side, he just bought a handsome, 2,000 square foot house in an upscale Columbus neighborhood for $250K. *(Story follows in December issue).* Photo: Cy Gulassa

☑ **Nominate and Vote for Your Favorite Books**

Rockridge Library Hosts Kids' Book Week Celebration

by Erica Siskind

Did you know that Children's Book Week is celebrated all around the country during the third week in November? This year, we will have a special celebration in honor of Children's Book Week at Rockridge Branch Library: "Children's Choice Book Awards."

We are looking for kids to nominate and vote for their favorite books. If you are a kid 15 years old or younger, and you like to read, or you like to listen to books read aloud to you, *we need you*. Come in to the Rockridge Library to pick up a nomination form at the Children's Reference Desk and turn it in before Monday, November 14. Mom or Dad can register for youngsters. All participants will receive a bookmark.

The nominated books will be posted on our bulletin board from Monday evening until Saturday afternoon, November 14-19. So *we need you again* to come in and *vote* on your favorites. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony Tuesday evening, November 22, during a special Pajama Story Time, where everyone is invited to come dressed up as their favorite character in a book. Refreshments will be served.

Start thinking about which books *you* would like to nominate, in any or all of the following categories: "Favorite Book to Listen to," "Favorite Book to Read Myself," "Favorite Author," "Favorite Illustrator," "Funniest Moment," "Saddest Moment," "Favorite Illustrations," "Favorite Informational Book."

For questions, please call Erica at 597-5017. See you at the Library!



Kitchen Tour

from page 1

and schools. Among other credits, RCPC has published the Rockridge News since 1985. Past RCPC fundraising proceeds have gone to FROGPark, the community service project of North Oakland Community Charter school and the Lower Rockridge Parents Association, the Locksley Gardens project, and restoration of the Oceanus mural on Claremont Avenue.

RCPC wishes to thank all those who made this event possible.

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At the October RCPC Town Hall Meeting

October Meeting Message: Vote November 8



League of Women Voters representatives Judy Peck, left, and Mary Ann Taylor explained the nuts and bolts of the eight propositions on the November ballot to over 50 Rockridge neighbors at the October RCPC Town Hall meeting.

PHOTO: CY GULASSA

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November 14 Follow-Up Meeting Planned for Mixed Use Proposal at 51st and Telegraph

by Bill Lambert

In mid-September more than 35 people from the Temescal and Rockridge neighborhoods met to hear plans proposed for a new mixed-use, residential development project at the corner of 51st and Telegraph. Councilmember Jane Brunner was also present. A scale model was on hand for viewing and several plans and elevations were displayed. The presentation stimulated a long and spirited discussion about community values, the future of Temescal and various individuals' ideas for this project.

The developers and architects have digested the many comments they received at the first meeting and would like to discuss further refinements. The developers, Ron Kriss, Roy Alper and Pat Zimski, along with their architectural firm, Van Meter Williams Pollack, are planning this return engagement for Monday, November 14, at the Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph Avenue, 6:30-8 pm.



Architectural rendering of the development proposed for 51st and Telegraph

The Planning Department has scheduled public hearings on the project, the traffic analysis is complete and greater detail on the public plaza at 51st and Telegraph will be available. Plan to attend to hear more and to provide further input.

For more information, contact Bill Lambert at 550-4200x512 or bill@shastapros.com.

Open House At Emerson Elementary School

by Christie Beeman

If you live in Rockridge between Clifton and 51st Street, Emerson Elementary is your neighborhood school. To learn more about the school and what it has to offer, please come to a Family Literacy Night and Open House on Wednesday, November 16, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. There will be Literacy Night activities throughout the school from 5:30 to 7 pm — see teachers in action in their classrooms. At 7 pm, principal Wendi Caporicci and teachers will gather in the school auditorium for a community round table forum to talk about the school and answer your questions.

See the school grounds, meet the dedicated personnel, and learn what Emerson has to offer. Current Emerson families, Emerson neighbors, and parents of preschool kids are all encouraged to attend. Emerson School is located at 4803 Lawton Avenue, near 49th Street. For more information: 450-0585.

"Walk the Talk," a Guided Tour Along Temescal Creek Pathway

by Jeff Norman

Join local historians, artists, activists, and neighbors in a "Walk the Talk" free tour along the path of Temescal Creek to learn about key neighborhood sites and the community history behind them.

The tour, to be held Saturday, November 12, 1-3 p.m., will feature guest speakers who participated in the community initiatives and collective actions that helped shape these sites. Topics will include the routing of the Grove Shafter Freeway (Highway 24), culverting of Temescal Creek, building of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt, closing of the Pussycat Theater, development of Temescal Plaza (Walgreens), and creation of the PostMark Temescal public art site.

The tour will begin at the bulletin board in Hardy Park (*aka* FROGPark), located at Hardy Street and Claremont Avenue. Be sure to bring water, hat, or umbrella as needed.

The tour will end with a reception at Temescal Amity Works, just off the intersection of Telegraph Avenue and 49th Street.

Walk the Talk is organized by Jeff Norman, community artist and founder of Shared Ground, and sponsored by Temescal Amity Works (www.amityworks.org). For more information, call 653-7190.



Oooooh! More spooky sights on College at the 14th Annual Rockridge Children's Halloween Parade held Sunday, October 30.



Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Talking Turkey

In the next few weeks, every major cooking magazine, newspaper food section and TV cooking show will feature articles and demonstrations on how to prepare, cook and present the Thanksgiving turkey. No other single food item gets as much media attention as the good old American turkey. While the term "turkey" is often used as a metaphor for a failed event, activity or even person, in November turkey is the golden bird of culinary delight.

Most families have their favorite method of preparing and cooking the Thanksgiving bird: oven roasted, deep fried, grilled or smoked. Our family maintains a large Thanksgiving folder with all our favorite recipes and endless shopping lists. Every year we argue over whether to include new dishes or alternative turkey preparations. Although we pore over our November cooking magazines, we generally end up with our long-standing traditional favorites. As for the turkey, we prefer slow smoking our bird over hardwood charcoal and hickory wood.

Whatever cooking method you use, the key to having an evenly cooked bird with a crispy, golden-brown skin is brining the turkey for at least 24 hours. What is brining? The turkey is immersed in a salt, herb and spice brine before being cooked. According to food chemist guru Harold McGee, the movement of salt into the meat results in greater water-holding capacity in the muscle cells, thereby making the turkey juicier. In addition, the turkey absorbs the aromatic flavors of the herbs and spices in the brine.

The annual Thanksgiving issue of the *San Francisco Chronicle* foods section always includes the brine recipe from Alice Waters of Chez Panisse. I guarantee that if you follow it, your Thanksgiving turkey will be juicy and flavorful. Have a joyous and healthy Thanksgiving.

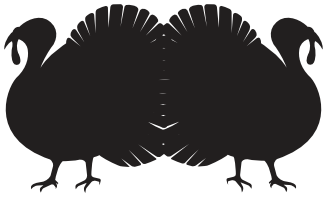
Chez Panisse's Brine for Turkey

Ingredients:

- 2½ gallons cold water
- 2 cups kosher salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 bay leaves, torn into pieces
- 1 bunch fresh thyme, or 4 tablespoons dried
- 1 whole head of garlic, cloves separated and peeled
- 5 whole allspice berries, crushed
- 4 juniper berries, smashed

INSTRUCTIONS: Place the water in a large pot that can easily hold the liquid and the turkey you intend to brine. Add all ingredients and stir for a minute or two until the sugar and salt dissolve. Put your turkey into the brine and refrigerate for 24 hours. If the turkey floats to the top, use a plate or other weight to keep it completely submerged in the brine. Before roasting, remove the bird from the brine and drain well. Pat dry.

Barry is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. He is available for cooking classes. Barry's email is kaufman42@earthlink.net.



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Theresa Nelson Ends 14-year Stint on RCPC Board

by Cy Gulassa

Theresa Nelson recently stepped down after 14-years of service on the RCPC Board, a span of time that saw Rockridge recover from the aftermath of road construction and mature into a vibrant neighborhood rated one of the best in the nation. While she says that RCPC's success is due to the vision and hard work of many community members, Nelson herself has been an outstanding leader who has done much for Rockridge.

According to her husband, Nelson is afflicted with a bad case of EED, which he cheerfully defines as "Excess Enthusiasm Disorder." In addition to working for RCPC, chairing its committees, writing articles for *The Rockridge News*, running her own consulting businesses for non profit enterprises, and singing with the Oakland Symphony Chorus, the California Revels and other choral groups, she is also a member of the Oakland Recreation and Parks Advisory Board and is chief fund raiser for many RCPC projects.

When graffiti began appearing on public property—lamposts, stoplights—she learned how to safely handle toxic paints and every week for four years walked the main arteries of Rockridge, daubing out the marks of vandals. When her daughter, who was bundled off to meetings practically from birth, grew old enough to play games, she played "meetings" with her little friends. "Apparently there was no lasting harm," Nelson laughs, "because she's a great kid today—articulate, a good student, and comfortable around adults."



Theresa Nelson
PHOTO: CY GULASSA

When Nelson settled here in 1984, she was sold on Rockridge but recognized the need for changes that would enhance the quality of life. Many shops were closed and the neighborhood was in recovery. It was parking that launched one career as a community activist. Back then, BART riders parked cars with impunity, even across driveways, forcing residents to park blocks away from their homes. When a pregnant neighbor couldn't get to the hospital because of her blocked driveway, Nelson had enough. She joined the RCPC Traffic Committee, and residential parking permits soon followed.

From the traffic committee it was only a short leap to the RCPC Board and a voice in the struggles that helped shape Rockridge in the 90s: the fight to keep Dreyers from expanding and demolishing more Craftsman houses; the suit against the City for violating its own General Plan and zoning regulations; the BART battle over plans to add a second story to its parking lot and commercially develop surrounding property; the victory of Measure L that supported a new library; the creation of the Rockridge Area Plan (RAP) —Nelson was there through all of these, and more. She even founded, and for 14 years chaired, the Rockridge Halloween Parade.

Asked what contribution she is most proud of, Nelson points to FROGPark (Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt). Inspired by Nancy Dutcher, who lobbied nearly a decade for a new Rockridge Library, Nelson steadfastly pursued the dream of a family park in Rockridge. After an unsuccessful search for sites ("We examined every tiny little plot") and losing a bid for DMV property, the committee conceived the idea of a linear park anchored by play structures at either end. Serving as head of fundraising, she secured bond funds and raised $1.2 million for what came to be known as Phase One of FROGPark.

"The Big Build" in 2001 proved a transformational experience for Nelson. More than 1600 men, women and kids worked for 10 days to prepare the site and build the play structures. The day the construction started was symbolic: "I began my search for a park shortly after the birth of my daughter, and broke ground on her 11th birthday. I even brought a little cake to celebrate and sang happy birthday. Then we all got to work."

Now that she's stepping down, Nelson says she values most of all the friends she's made while working for RCPC. "I know someone on almost every block of Rockridge—good, hardworking, dedicated people who are smart and know how to get things done, but who most of all are real people who care deeply about their community. It's a privilege to know them. And I love my family. They've not only encouraged me to serve, they've been right there beside me. I'm very, very lucky."





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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.*

Mugging in Rockridge

Editor,

I want your readers to know that I was physically assaulted (mugged) by a high school student on Monday, October 17, around 6:45 pm on Oak Grove Avenue next to Forest. He ran up behind me and grabbed for my purse. For two full minutes I fought with the thief before he escaped with my purse. It was still very light out so people could have seen us and heard my screams for help, yet no one called the police or came to my rescue. One witness did explain later that he would have helped but didn't have his shoes on. Another said he saw the young man get into a 4-door sedan with two other juveniles and head down Colby Avenue. My wallet was found later with the credit cards by Zachary's, but my keys, digital camera, cell phone and paycheck for work with all my personal identification are still missing (or at the local pawn shop).

This reminded me of the story, "Rockridge Burglar Swipes Laptops," which appeared in *The Rockridge News* last month. It seems, however, that a mugging is a more serious problem than a break-in, especially when the thief uses physical force in broad daylight. I would like to remind readers to be alert and proactive—that could protect them and greatly reduce crime.

— Meghan

Note from the Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network (RNWN): On Sunday, October 30, a mugging was thwarted by citizen intervention. When a thief accosted a couple walking home after dinner on College Avenue, they ran down Taft Avenue yelling for help and pursued by the thief. Neighbors called 911, stepped out of their doors and joined in the yelling. The thief ran to a getaway car. Two OPD officers arrived on the scene in just minutes, but the thief was gone.

Learn what's going on with crime in the neighborhood. Share your concerns: Go to www.yahoogroups.com and search for Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network. Fill out the simple form and you will be enrolled.



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Top Scoring Rockridge Charter School Seeks New Location

by Allison Pugh

The North Oakland Community Charter School (NOCCS) at Alcatraz and Colby is one of the top-scoring public elementary schools in Oakland, yet could be homeless by the summer of 2006, school officials warned at the school's first Community Day on October 7. Families, students, educators and politicians gathered to celebrate NOCCS achievements, even as community leaders voiced concern over the site issue.

"You are a model school," announced Alameda County Superintendent Sheila Jordan who joined Oakland Unified representative Liane Zimny in pledging support. Oakland Planning Commission member Michael Lighty lauded the school community as "a diverse group committed to working together to provide an excellent education for Oakland's kids."

NOCCS joined just four other Oakland public elementary schools with an Academic Performance Index (API) over 900 in 2005. 1000 is the highest score possible. The state legislature gave NOCCS an award for its performance on state tests. NOCCS serves 104 children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Admission is by public lottery, and there are waiting lists for most grades.

"With all that we have achieved, the school still faces a major challenge in that we have no permanent home," said NOCCS Director Julia Kassissieh. "We're passionately committed to staying in our St. Augustine location, but the church is taking bids from other possible tenants." Church members say they need more revenue from the prime location.

Kayla Kirsch, the school's site committee chair, called on community members to spread the word for possible locations. Call School Director Julia Kassissieh at 655-0540 for more information or to suggest available sites.

Why wait to make a resolution?


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BART Update

from page 1

between 4 a.m. and 3 p.m. Parking will remain free after 3 p.m. on weekdays and all day on weekends. Once you go through the faregates, you enter your parking spot stall number into a machine and pay the $1 fee by cash or with your BART ticket. There will also be a new option: daily reserved parking. If you want to take BART when the parking lot is usually full, you will be able to reserve a space by phone or online up to two weeks in advance for a charge of $4.50.

Smart Parking

The Rockridge Station began a Smart Parking Program last December that displays the actual number of parking spaces available on message signs on Highway 24. You may reserve a space by phone when you see that spaces are available or you can make a reservation online up to two weeks in advance. This pilot program began charging on October 3.

Wider Faregates

A new wider faregate will be installed at the Rockridge Station to more easily accommodate wheelchairs, luggage, bicycles, baby strollers and other large items. Over the next few years, at least one wider faregate will be installed in every BART station.

Seismic Retrofit

Last November, residents in the three BART counties voted to levy a new property tax to pay for the $1.3 billion cost to seismically retrofit the BART system. The program is underway with work beginning on the Transbay tube. Retrofitting at Rockridge will likely occur in 2007 and will include strengthening station structures as well as bracing the columns supporting the tracks, similar to how Caltrans strengthened the columns supporting Highway 24.

"A cement area with benches where people can gather would greatly improve the [station] environment."

Noise

The noise generated by BART unfortunately affects many in the Rockridge community. The noise and vibration from the screeching metal wheels on steel tracks reflect off the cement structures of Highway 24 and disturb many neighbors. Solutions are costly and have undesirable by-products, but we are monitoring new ways to address this problem.

My Priorities

Real-Time Departure Information

Hopefully soon, you will be able to access by phone, computer, e-mail and PDAs real-time departure information for BART trains from any location, so you will be able to better time your arrival to avoid having to wait unnecessarily on the platform. At some point there will be signs on the street level displaying train and bus departure times, so you will know if you have time to get a cup of coffee or a burrito instead of waiting on the platform.

Cleaning Up the Area Under BART

One of the things that a former committee of Rockridge citizens called the "UnderBART committee" wanted to do was to remove the ivy on BART property. I would like to begin at the intersection of College and Keith across from Cactus Taqueria by replacing the ivy with a more inviting surface. A cement area with benches where people can gather would greatly improve the environment. I have proposed to the BART Board to use a portion of the new parking fees to pay for some of these improvements.



BART Director Bob Franklin.

Photo: Courtesy of Mr. Franklin

Greater Cooperation Between BART and ACTransit

The new "All Nighter" bus service will begin in December, with buses stopping at most BART stations after midnight when BART stops running. This is one way that BART and ACTransit are working together. A longterm vision of mine is to have daily, weekly and monthly passes that can be used on both BART and buses. I think that this would make taking public transportation easier and more convenient.

Bob Franklin is the BART Director from District 3, which includes Rockridge. Bob can be reached by email at BobFranklinBART@aol.com or by phone at 510/655-1210.

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Community Yard Sale Brings Peralta School More than Money Can Buy

by Susan Killebrew

On Saturday, October 1, the Lower Rockridge Parents' Group (LRPG) held its fourth annual community yard sale to benefit Peralta Elementary School. More than 30 neighborhood households participated, turning Peralta's schoolyard into a bustling marketplace filled with merchandise ranging from baby strollers to a zebra-striped chair. School yard-sales are not uncommon, but as LRPG member Christopher Frost points out, "What everyone finds so impressive about this effort is that it's driven primarily by parents whose children are still too young to attend Peralta."

Peralta School has its own parent organization, the Peralta Parent Teacher Group (PPTG), which raises thousands of dollars each year to support school enrichment programs like art, music, P.E. and the school library. PPTG members have also created Peralta's acclaimed schoolyard, known for its abundant gardens and vibrant murals.

The Lower Rockridge Parents' Group plays a different role in supporting Peralta School. LRPG was founded by parents committed to increasing neighborhood involvement in the school. Their goal is to deepen the sense of community among neighborhood familes, believing that parents who know each other will want to send their children to school together. LRPG members regularly host get-togethers, including a monthly potluck brunch and an annual neighborhood summer picnic, and maintain a computer-based message exchange mailing list (listserve) of over 200 community members.



Peralta school neighbor Ben Riddell, right, helps customers select from the large inventory of gently used toys and clothes at LRGP's fourth annual community yard sale.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER WATERS.



Design for ironwork gate created by Peralta student Billy Hurth, to be fabricated using LRPG yard sale profits.

PHOTO BY LAUREN ELDER.

This year's yard sale raised over $2,700. The money will help pay for fabricating two ironwork gates designed by Peralta students in collaboration with artist-in-residence Lauren Elder as part of Peralta's ongoing schoolyard beautification project.

PPTG Co-Chair Christopher Waters summed up the community effort: "The LRPG's annual fundraisers always finance projects of great pride for our school. An even greater benefit is that they bring the community together. LRPG is grassroots community-building at its finest."

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Time to Fill 'Er Up

The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson



Photo: Don Kinkead



Ken Wong of Cartridge World

Photo: Cy Gulassa

Cartridge World
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www.cartridgeworldusa.com
Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
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Pickup and delivery available

When your inkjet or laser printer flashes that "ink empty" message, there's a new place where you can fill 'er up. Cartridge World on College Avenue (across from the College Avenue Presbyterian Church at Harwood) refills black or color inkjet and laser cartridges, copier toners and thermal fax ribbons for far less than buying new. The cost of ink far exceeds the value of the cartridge, running into hundreds of dollars per ounce.

Owners Ken and Mirna Wong, both Bay Area natives who live nearby, opened Cartridge World in February to help computer users save money, reduce waste, and operate in a more environmentally friendly way. A large banner inside sums up his philosophy: "Refill Not Landfill." Ken spent more than 20 years as a space and facilities planner and was always intrigued by green businesses. When a friend told him about this opportunity (Cartridge World is an individually owned franchise), he jumped at the chance, opening a store in downtown Berkeley 18 months ago, and the College Avenue store last February.

A display on the outside window compares the cost of new cartridges at a big-box office supply store with the refill price, which averages one third to one half less. For example, a high-capacity black cartridge refills for $17.50 vs. $33 new. A multi-color cartridge refill is $16 vs. $27.99 new, and a small, single-color cartridge goes for $7 vs. $10 new. When you add the cost savings to the waste reduction, it's a win-win idea. If customers are not satisfied with the quality, they are guaranteed a refund or replacement. As Ken says, "We want to make customers happy so they'll come back in the future."

So how does refilling work? I brought in some cartridges to find out. Each takes about five minutes to fill, so four would take about 20 minutes, long enough for a spin around the block, some window shopping or coffee at a nearby café. Laser cartridges fill in about 30 minutes. Ken also offers an exchange program wherein popular cartridges are refilled in advance and kept in stock. Just drop off your empties and walk out with refills without waiting. The store carries more than 200 bottles of inks formulated for each specific cartridge by the original manufacturer. As it turns out, there's no such thing as a universal ink. Home refill kits may work for a while but eventually may clog the cartridge and possibly even the printer itself. Due to different engineering and inks, the print quality of a generic cartridge may be of lesser quality than the original, and refills may not perform well. Cartridge World's 100% guarantee instills confidence.

The store also offers basic supplies: Pens, pencils, colored markers, scissors, glue, white-out, paper clips, padded envelopes, binders, Post-Its and specialty papers for inkjet and laser printers — all the basics you use at home and school. They also stock computer mice and cables, cleaning accessories, CDs, diskettes, and surge protectors, along with a full selection of new cartridges for inkjet and laser printers by Canon, Epson, Brother and HP.

Cartridge World offers other interesting services. Local schools and non-profits are encouraged to collect empty cartridges as a fundraiser and receive $1-2 for inkjet and $2-5 for laser cartridges at the store. Ken will also place collection bins at schools or businesses and empty them for free. Commercial accounts receive free pick-up and delivery.

So start saving your cartridges, and the next time your supply runs low, stop at Cartridge World and fill 'em up.

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The Muse Reflecting Rockridge

by Courtenay Redis

Perhaps you've seen a few of our local photographers in action on the streets of Rockridge, making images for our 5th Annual Rockridge Photo Exhibition, which is held throughout October at the Rockridge Branch of the Oakland Public Library. Eleven artists participated this year, and more than 40 guests attended the opening reception held on Monday, October 10.

As in years past, the 2005 event reflected the diversity of our community and included a range of styles, levels of photographic experience and themes. Longtime Rockridge resident and annual contributor Robert Hofmann presented three images of the Chinese Elm that reigns above his 62nd Street yard. Looking at Hofmann's detailed and richly textured photographs of this arboreal majesty, the viewer is reminded how exquisitely delicate even the mightiest creation can be.

Eight-year-old Tassia Reoutt, who has been actively photographing for three years and is also an actress, poet and founder of Monkey Buttface Productions was on hand with mother/agent/participating artist Wendy Wheeler for the opening reception to engage the audience in her vision of the world from a third-grader's perspective.

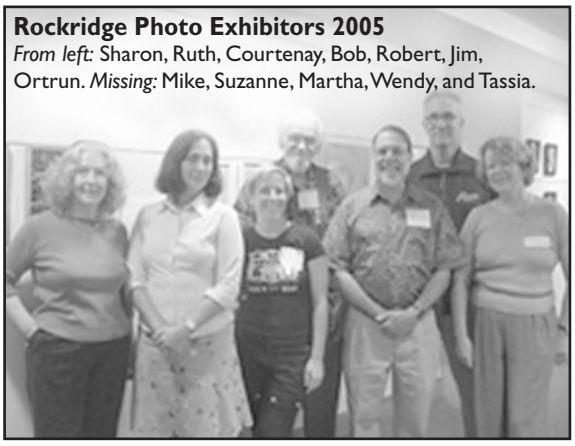
Another series, by photographer Eveyree Sharon Kain, presented four survivors of the firestorm that swept through the Oakland hills 14 years ago this month, including three images of flowers and one of longtime Rockridge resident Jerry DeJorno. The event was enriched by the presence of Ms. DeJorno and her stories of collaborating with her late husband, Pete, to design and construct by themselves their first home on Pinewood Road in the 1930s, a second home on Roble Road in 1941, and additional cottages and homes on Roble Road in the 1940s and Chabot Road in the 1950s. Theirs was a creative and prolific partnership until Pete passed away in 2000.

First-time participant Robert Krones submitted work he created since purchasing his first digital camera. At the age of 79, Bob has discovered a new way to see the world, and he demonstrated a humorous and joyous engagement in his image of children at play jumping over a puddle.

Other photographers who participated in the exhibition include James Baldocchi, Mike Coffield, Suzanne Olmsted, Martha Snider and Ruth Woodruff, who also curated the exhibit.

The organizers will be seeking new exhibition space for the Fall 2006 show, as the library venue will not be available. To participate in the exhibit, or recommend an exhibit space, contact Rockridge Muse

Muse, continued next page



Rockridge Photo Exhibitors 2005
From left: Sharon, Ruth, Courtenay, Bob, Robert, Jim, Ortrun. *Missing:* Mike, Suzanne, Martha, Wendy, and Tassia.



Exotic Rose ***by Eveyree Sharon Kain***

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Muse

from previous page

columnist Ortrun Niesar via oniesar@aol.com or call *The Rockridge News*.

Holiday Open Studios

Begin your holiday shopping at this year's artist open studios, each of which will have gift items available for purchase. Support your local Rockridge artists on the weekends of December 3-4, 10-11 and 17-18. Check artist sites for specific dates and times. Directories and maps will be placed at the Rockridge Library by mid-November.

Ann Daniels, 5599 Lawton, www.annscooljools.com
Karen LeGault, 2512 13th Avenue, www.karenlegault.com
Linda Lemon, 5524 Vicente Way, www.lindalemon.com
Liz Maxwell, 5808 Chabot Road, www.lizmaxwell.com
Joanne Yeaton, 2733 Alcatraz

Free Art Event

Pro Arts, an East Bay arts institution supporting artists for more than 30 years, will hold one of its two annual fundraising events in November. "[Outside of the] Box Art" is a free event, open to the public, held on Saturday, November 19, 7-9 p.m., at the Pro Arts Gallery in Jack London Square, 550 Second Street. This benefit event features a cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, raffle prizes, live entertainment and, of course, superlative artwork donated by local artists. New this year, Pro Arts will be auctioning "art experiences," like portfolio reviews and consultations with art professionals, a mural tour, custom street portrait and more. For more information, visit www.proartsgallery.org or call 763-4361.

Building Futures

Rockridge non profit Oakland Elizabeth House held its third annual Art Auction and Dessert Reception to benefit the low-income women and children served at their Colby Street transitional house. Selling artwork by more than 30 donors including Rockridge artists Liz Maxwell, Sylvia Sussman, Carol Aust, Carol Brighton, Kit Skeoch, Latisha Baker, Lisa Klein and Kathleen Garcia, EHouse also received great community support from local congregations St. Augustine's, St. Theresa's and Corpus Christi.



Artist Lorna Moglia holds the jewel she created especially for the EHouse event, valued at $3,000, while EHouse Board Member Sheila Lopez holds her winning raffle card.

For information on how to donate clothing, money, and food or to volunteer at EHouse, visit www.oakehouse.org or call 658-1380.

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. *December deadline is November 17.*
Place a classified ad: call Susan Montauk, 547-3855

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Artwork

Aliea Wallace is a talented East Coast artist living in Rockridge, now available for holiday commissions. Experienced in realistic and abstract painting/drawing and bookbinding. Call 415/272-5353 for rates. Portfolio and e-mail available at www.aliea.com.

Women's Martial Arts

Berkeley Martial Arts School has been training women for over 20 years. Female black belts teach small classes with lots of individual attention. Beginners and experienced students welcome. Contact 510/595-8583 or ka.gee@sbcglobal.net to schedule visit.

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Highly experienced piano/voice teacher now has openings in Rockridge music studio. Classical, jazz, pop, rock styles. All ages, levels. Lisa 653-0107.

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Pro Arts Juried Exhibition

Pro Arts announces that Michael Wilson, Associate Editor (US Reviews) for Artforum magazine, will select works for the Pro Arts Juried Annual exhibition Claim the World of Art as Our Domain. Entry deadline is Thursday, December 1, 6pm. Exhibition dates are January 7–February 26, 2006.

For more information: Christian L. Frock, Director of Exhibitions & Programming at c hristian@proartsgallery.org or 510/763-9425.


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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). **December 3 Topic: Preparing for a Disaster in Oakland**. Speakers: Representatives from Office of Emergency Services and the CORE Program. For information on 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 CCA, 5212 Broadway at College Avenue, Building B-4. Full directions: www.rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

For Children:

- Toddler Story Time: 1st and 2nd Saturdays, 10:30am: 11/5, 11/12, 12/3.
- Pre-School Story Time: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am: 11/16, 12/7.
- Pajama Story Time: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm: 11/8, 11/22

Special Event for Kids and Families:

- **Active Arts performs "Two-Minute Tales"** for Children's Book Week, 2005, on Saturday, November 12, at 3pm. Well-known folk and fairy tales performed with much humor, especially for children ages 3 to 9.
- **2005 Children's Choice Book Awards** at Rockridge: From November 1 through 14, kids can nominate books for awards in a variety of categories...and then during Children's Book Week, they can vote to choose the winners. Pick up a nomination form before November 14th at the Children's Desk, and return for a ballot between November 15 and 19. The awards ceremony will take place during Pajama Story Time on November 22, 7pm. All ages welcome. For more details call Erica: 597-5017.

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:

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

Art Exhibits:

- **Gallery:** Edith Yu; Abstract Watercolors
- **Display case:** Harlan Conti; Archival Photography

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

Library Hours:

Monday and Tuesday, 12:30 to 8pm.
Weds, Thurs and Sat 10am to 5:30pm
Fri, 12 to 5:30pm
Closed Sundays.

NOTE: Closed Thurs and Fri, Nov 24 and 25.

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings

All events are **FREE and open to the public**

- Sunday, 11/6, 4pm. **Olivier Said** & **James Mellgren:** *The Bar: Spirits, Cocktails, Knowledge.*
- Sunday, 11/13, 3pm. **John Hodgman:** *The Areas of My Expertise: An Almanac of Complete World Knowledge.*
- Sunday, 11/30, (call for time). **USF writing students**: Students in Rusty Morrison's Creative Writing Class read their work.

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

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.

Peralta School Kindergarten Events

- Parent Forum: Meet current Peralta parents. November 17, 6:45pm
- School Tours: Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning in November. Call 879-1450 to schedule a tour date.
- Kindergarten Open House: Meet principal and teachers. Wednesday, January 18, 6:45pm.

To RSVP for childcare for events or for more information call 655-2737. 460 63rd Street. 879-1450 or www.geocities.com/peraltaschool/

Emerson Elementary School Family Literacy Night & Open House

Wednesday, November 16, 5:30 to 8pm. Meet the principal and teachers and tour the school. There will be Literacy Night activities throughout the school from 5:30 to 7pm and a community round table forum with the principal at 7pm. Tours are available on Wednesday mornings by appointment. Call principal Wendi Caporicci, 879-1152. 4803 Lawton Avenue (between 48th and 49th streets).

Chabot Elementary School Annual Scholastic Book Fair

Monday, Nov. 14 through Thursday, Nov. 17: 8:45am to 2:45 daily and Family Night on Thursday from 6 to 8pm. 6686 Chabot Road. For more information contact Caroline Aszklar: 530-1905 or SBJULES@aol.com.

Women's Cancer Resource Center: Art Exhibit

Oaktown: Art about Oakland and our Communities. Watercolor, drawings, photography and paintings by five local artists. November 4 through December 16. Wheelchair accessible. Women's Cancer Resource Center, 5741 Telegraph Ave. For more information contact Margo Rivera-Weiss, Art Gallery Coordinator: 420-7900 x 111 or margo@wcrc.org.

Exhibition: California College of the Arts (CCA)

Aesthetics of Ecology: **Occupying Space for Sustainable Living:** A juried exhibition featuring work by artists, designers and architects. Free and open to the public, November 16 through December 8. Opening reception: November 16, 6 to 8pm. Presented by the CCA Alumni Council. For more inf. call 703-9595.

Sick Plant Clinic

Bring your ailing plants to the University of California Botanical Garden for 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.

North Oakland Multi-Purpose Senior Center

Program Highlights: Computer classes; Health Insurance counseling and advocacy program; driver safety; trips, tours and theater outings.

November Special Events:

- **Stagebridge Senior Theater Company** presents "Never Too Late!" a cabaret musical revue. Hors d'oeuvres at 6 pm, Musical Cabaret 7 to 8pm, followed by dancing at "Club NOSC." Fundraising donations to benefit Hurricane Katrina relief. Saturday, November 12.
- Pre-register in November for free digital photography class scheduled for December 5 through 9, from 9am to noon.

Center Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:45am to 4:45pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. The Newsletter, "North Oakland Senior Times" has a schedule of classes and a monthly lunch menu: (suggested donation: seniors age 60 + $2.25; $4 for those under age 60). Call 597-5085 for details and opportunities to volunteer.

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. More information: 238-3432 or www.oaklandlibrary.org/services/SecondStart.
- **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.
- **Emerson Elementary School:** needs volunteers to work in the school library, especially Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for a 3 hour shift. Contact Tara Wolf: 879-1152.

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