THE Rockridge News

20th Year

www.rockridge.org

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Housing units and retail space will soon rise on this weedy lot at the corner of 51st Street and Telegraph Avenue now that developers and residents have reached agreement on the proposal. PHOTO: DON KINKEAD

Two Views on a Project Settlement

When the Planning Commission approved a development proposal for the corner of 51st and Telegraph, a group of neighbors appealed to the City Council. Councilmember Jane Brunner brokered revised project conditions acceptable to the neighborhood group and the developer. The agreement is discussed in the following report from a representative of the neighborhood group and a statement by developer Ron Kriss. — ***Editor***

We Will be Tested Again...

by Janelle Cavanagh, Project Neighbor

A neighborhood group gathered over 700 signatures in opposition to the height of the building originally proposed for the corner of 51st and Telegraph. Many in this group support growth for our neighborhood, but not "maximum density" projects with six-story heights in a predominately two-story neighborhood.

After the

➧ **We Will be Tested, page 13**

Green Light for CIVIQ

by Ron Kriss, Principal, Project CIVIQ

CIVIQ, the proposed project at 51st and Telegraph, was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission in January, and then appealed to the City Council by a group of neighbors.

➧ **CIVIQ Green Light, page 13**

RCPC April Town Hall Meeting Candidates' Night

Oakland Mayoral Debate & RCPC Board Elections Forum

The April 20 Candidates' Night will consist of two events: a debate between the three candidates for the mayor of Oakland and a brief presentation by each of the seven candidates for the Board of the Rockridge Community Planning Council. (Details, page 3). Attendees will also have an opportunity to vote for candidates for the Board of the Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL). (Details, page 5). The event begins at 7 pm at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, 5951 College Avenue.

Oakland Mayoral Debate

by Cy Gulassa, Editor

You've watched them on TV, read about them in the papers, and listened to critics; now it's time to come hear for yourself what Ron Dellums, Ignacio De La Fuente, and Nancy Nadel have to say about the future of Oakland and Rockridge. What's to be done about schools, libraries, crime, traffic, parks, redevelopment, zoning, trees, (take a deep breath), sidewalks, litter, billboards and budgets? What about city business taxes? Or the strong mayor proposition? This is your opportunity to ask tough questions and afterwards vote in a straw poll for your favorite.

The Contenders:

■ **Ron Dellums**, a native of Oakland, worked his way up the ladder of politics from Berkeley City Councilmember to long-term liberal Congressman. He won national fame for his oratory and steadfast opposition to the apartheid regime in South

➧ **Mayoral Candidates, page 6**

RCPC Board Election

by Deborah Weinstein, RCPC Chair

Prior to the Mayoral Debates on Thursday, April 20, at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church (5599 College Avene), the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) will hold a Candidates' Forum for the RCPC Annual Board of Directors' election beginning at 7 pm. Seven candidates are vying for six seats on the RCPC Board.

Residents are invited to meet and listen to the candidates, ask questions, and cast their votes. Votes may also be cast in front of the Rockridge Library on College Avenue at Manila on Saturday, April 22, from 11 am to 1 pm.

Rockridge residents who are over 18 and live within RCPC Boundaries are eligible to vote (see map at www.rockridge.org for boundaries). Voters will be asked to verify their address with a driver's license or a piece of received official mail such as a utility bill.

➧ **RCPC Board Candidates, page 3**

agenda: RCPC Town Hall Meeting

Note Location & Time Change

Thursday, April 20, 7:00 pm at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, 5951 College Avenue at Harwood

■ **Mayoral Forum: Mayoral Candidates Ignacio De La Fuente, Ron Dellums and Nancy Nadel address Oakland issues. Audience questions to follow (above).**

■ **RCPC Elections: Vote for 6 new board directors (candidates' statements, page 3).**

■ **FORL Elections: Vote for board members of Friends of the Rockridge Library (page 5).**

RCPC Inaugurates Rockridge Champion Awards

Cham·pi·on (chàm'pê-en) noun

1. One that wins first place or first prize in a competition.
2. One that is clearly superior or has the attributes of a winner: a champion at teaching.
3. An ardent defender or supporter of a cause or another person: a champion of the homeless.
4. One who fights; a warrior.

— *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition© 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company.*

by Cy Gulassa

The Board of the Rockridge Community Planning Council has unanimously decided to begin honoring members of the community who selflessly devote themselves to our collective welfare. With little publicity, they work tirelessly to improve the quality of life of the neighborhood and strive for balance among competing interests and visions. Whether it's standing before the planning commission to defend zoning regulations or organizing neighborhood construction of a local park or weeding a creek, they contribute much and expect little beyond the satisfaction that they have worked hard to do what they know is right.

Among the many deserving to be the recipient of the first RCPC Champion Award is Don Kinkead, who helped establish and has worked over the years to maintain *The Rockridge News*, a voice for the Rockridge community that has helped to define its identity and focus.

Twenty years ago, alarmed by developers who envisioned Rockridge as the ideal location for highrise towers and urban densification, a group of neighbors rallied the neighborhood to action. Don helped by putting together The Rockridge News to serve as a diligent observer of Rockridge happenings. Beginning as handbills stapled to telephone poles, the newsletter grew from a single page to its present 16 pages. Over the years, Don has served as editor, layout artist, reporter and photographer for the newsletter, helping spread news of Rockridge through the more than 1.5 million words printed over the last 20 years.

With great pride, RCPC pays tribute to Don as one of the early supporters of the thriving and prosperous neighborhood we celebrate today.



At a recent Board meeting, RCPC Chair Deborah Weinstein presents Don Kinkead with the first Rockridge Champion Award for his work with *The Rockridge News* since its inception.

Photo: Cy Gulassa

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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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Jo Ellis ..... Advertising & Community Calendar
Theresa Nelson ..... Neighborhood Merchant
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Susan Montauk ..... Business Manager
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Contacting *The Rockridge News*

- Are there community issues you'd like to see covered in ***The Rockridge News***?
- Do you have questions about newsletter distribution?
- Would you like to volunteer to be a *Rockridge News* block captain?
- Would you like to write a letter to the Editor?

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: 510/869-4200

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Newsletter Advertising/Deadlines

Publication date of the next issue is
☛ May 6, 2006
☛ May deadline is April 20.

Advertising rates are $26/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

The Zoning Counter is a compilation of recent applications filed with the Oakland Planning Department. Individuals may contact the case planner or the Planning Department for additional information by phone or on-line at www.oaklandnet.com.

5295 Broadway Terrace

Proposal: 8,497 square foot expansion, including a new exercise area, women's locker room and loung; and redesign of the swimming pool area, including a new pool and pool house, with landscaping.

Applicant: John Malick Associates Architects

Contact Person: John Grove, Project Architect 510/595-8042

Owner: Claremont Country Club

Planning Permits Required: Design Review and Minor Conditional Use Permit to expand, including a new exercise area, women's locker room and lounge; and redesign of the swimming pool area, including a new pool and pool house, with landscaping, in an R-30 zone.

Historic Status: B+ - Major Importance, 1+ - Contributor to an Area of Primary Importance, the Claremont Country Club District

Case Planner: Joann Pavlinec, 238-6344 or jpavlinec@oaklandnet.com

424 Avon Street

Proposal: To convert an existing four residential unit bulding into four condominium units.

Applicant: John E. Gutierrez

Contact Phone Number: 510/647-0600

Owner: Mattew Ranney

Planning Permits Required: Tentative Parcel Map to create four residential condominium units.

Case Planner: Jason Madani, 238-4790 or jsmadani@oaklandnet.com

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RCPC Board Candidates, from page 1

The RCPC Board consists of 12 elected and 2 appointed directors. Candidates serve two-year terms and act as community stewards on a variety of issues, including land use, parks, and traffic and pedestrian safety.

As the RCPC board represents your interests as a community — the way to ensure your voice is heard is to cast your vote!

Following are the candidates' statements.

Annette Floystrup
Birch Court



I have lived in Rockridge since 1955. I have been a child, renter, homeowner and home-based small businessperson here. It goes without saying that I love this community deeply. I have previously served on the RCPC board, and I was a part of the 11-year process that got the Rockridge library built.

I have a strong background in economic development, having served as both Board Member and Chairperson of the Bay Area Small Business Development Corporation, overseeing a $19 million revolving loan fund, with an emphasis on lending to women and minority owners.

I hope to serve my community again, as I feel that I bring a unique perspective to the RCPC Board, understanding the needs of residents and business alike.

Albert W. Hussian
Locksley Avenue



I have lived in the Rockridge District my whole life. I have seen all the changes to the District over the years: a freeway dividing the neighborhood, Market Hall, BART and more. Some of these changes have been for the better and some have been less than desirable. I am concerned with the Rockridge neighborhood. I would like to see growth in the areas of affordable housing, and a community center for our youth and others in our community. I am a member of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church and Coordinator of the Music That Cooks concert series, and I help with the Friday night dinners for the less fortunate.

Mike McDonald
Locksley Avenue



Rockridge is an amazing place. When my wife and I moved here in 1999, we got that immediately. In my first term as an RCPC board member, I got to see how much work there is to be done. I also got to meet and work with members of the RCPC board and witness firsthand the level of their dedication. I hope to continue to bring the neighborhood leadership and listening. Please honor me with your continued support. Thank you.

Susan Montauk
Boyd Avenue



In my years of service to the community as a director of the RCPC, I have had the good fortune to work with a great many of the diverse groups of people who make Rockridge the model community it is today. I've met them through RCPC events and projects such as the Rockridge Kitchen Tour and the Rockridge News. My work on the RCPC Schools Committee (SCOR) introduced me to another set of invested community members. I've joined neighbors to help build our beautiful library and our children's fantastical park. I've worked side by side with Rockridgians painting a mural under the freeway and pruning bushes along our Rockridge corridors. All these activities have given me a better understanding of our community and its needs today. With your vote I hope to continue to serve the community through the RCPC.

RCPC Board Candidates, page 3

FROG Park Corner

A monthly update on what's happening at the best community-built and maintained park in Oakland



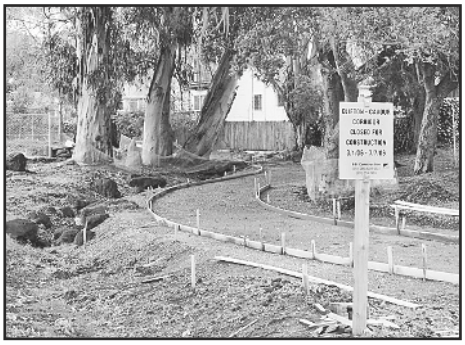
by Mike McDonald, RCPC Board Member and FROG Steering Committee member'

Phase II Construction Schedule: In case you haven't yet noticed, construction work is happening. Work on the greenbelt between Clifton and Cavour began early in March and will continue through July. Clearing and demolition is now complete, and concrete work will take place during April and early May, followed by landscaping and site furnishings in June.

Concrete work at the Hardy Park plaza is scheduled for May: swings, play equipment and a water fountain will be installed, along with improvements to the basketball courts. BBI, the contractor, is working to minimize disruption while maintaining their schedule. Look for upcoming announcements for the opening celebration to be held in July.

Kiosk and Improvements

FROG is preparing plans for the kiosk and improvements and site furnishings for Hardy Plaza. They will be built by community volunteers following Phase II construction. For more information, contact Mike McDonald (mike@m-c-d.net) or Jennifer Cooper.



"Closed for construction," but, with the creek path concrete forms going in, the Phase II FROG Park restoration project is on track. Photo: Don Kinkead

Saturday, April 22nd — Volunteer Maintenance Day

The Spring Volunteer Maintenance Day is Saturday, April 22. Contact Head Bullfrog/Chief Steward/Volunteer Coordinator Howard Ferrier at hwferrier@sbcglobal.net, or phone 653-6463.

Public Art project moves ahead:

Stay tuned for an update in next month's Frog Park Corner regarding the exciting Public Art Projects planned for the park. For more information, contact Jennifer Cooper, FROG Vice Chair, jennifer@live-work.com or phone 653-6581.

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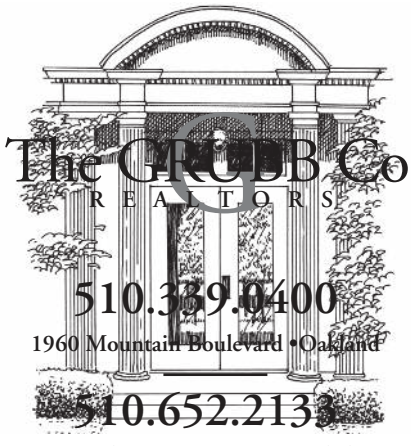
Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) 2006 Election

The annual election of the Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) will be held at the Rockridge Branch Library on April 20, 2006, at 7 p.m, concurrent with the RCPC annual election (see page 1). Five 2-year seats on the FORL board will be filled in this election. Current candidates include: Karen Carlson; Kristine Carraway; Jenny Scholten; Penelope Wong; and Jennifer Vetter. Others who may be interested in running should contact Jennifer Vetter, FORL Chair, no later than April 15, at jrvetter@comcast.net or 595-1817.

Balloting will be among all interested Rockridge residents who are eligible to vote in the RCPC annual election, and any other persons whose names appear on the FORL membership roster.

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RCPC Board Candidates

from page 3

Mike Taylor
Ross Circle



I joined the board just over two years ago because I wanted to learn more about Rockridge and help in maintaining its excellent qualities. During my tenure I've learned a lot about both the duties of the board and the challenges our community faces. I hope to apply my own special knowledge as a schoolteacher, a businessperson, and an active neighbor to help Rockridge stay true to its roots while addressing the unique opportunities that arise as our neighborhood changes. Specifically, I want to continue putting a spotlight on the improvements that are happening in our schools, and helping RCPC gain consistent interaction with the Oakland City Planning Commission.

Stephanie Upp
65th Street



My diverse experiences as a Rockridge resident reflect a broad range of community constituent issues, which I believe can add valuable perspective to the work of the RCPC Board. I am a recent homeowner, but spent five years as a Rockridge renter. I am a new parent who helped shellac fences as a Frog Park volunteer. I am a dog owner who has logged countless hours in Hardy Dog Park. I am also an SF commuter who "casual carpools" into work and BARTs home each day. My professional background is in economic and community development, and I've consulted with Alameda County on issues related to child care, transportation and asset development.

If elected to serve on the 2006 Board, I look forward to continuing my work on "Under-BART" beautification efforts, enhancing community outreach, and creating more linkages between my Fairview Park neighbors and the RCPC.

Deborah Weinstein
Boyd Avenue



Rockridge has been my home since 2001, is the birthplace of my 18-month old daughter, and the place my husband and I married and bought our first home. I've served on the RCPC board since 2002, as Secretary, Vice Chair, Co-Chair and currently as Chair. It's been such a great learning experience to meet neighbors from all avenues, discussing a variety of issues — land use, parks, schools, crime prevention, traffic and pedestrian safety, earthquake preparedness, seismic retrofits, kitchen tours, and community centers. I am proud of the work RCPC has done to represent the community's interests.

My experience working for the community with the RCPC board has enriched my life and helped to balance my professional endeavors in public relations and, more recently, as a fulltime mom. I would be honored to continue to serve the community for the next two years.

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Claremont School Spring Fling to Benefit School Arts

On Saturday, May 20, from 10 to 3, Claremont Middle School hosts its second annual Spring Fling, featuring a community stage, silent auction, and food and arts marketplace. There will be something to entertain everyone—even a jumper for the littlest member of the family. Proceeds will go toward arts programs that benefit all Claremont students.

The silent auction was our biggest fundraiser last year, and we are hoping to solicit even more donations for it this year. To donate an item or service for the auction, rent booth space to sell your food or wares, or perform on the community stage, call Bonnie Trinclisti at 510/547-2313.

The festival will be held on the school grounds at 5750 College Avenue at Miles. All are welcome.

Mayoral Candidates

from page 1

Africa. As the first African-American member of the House Armed Services Committee, he was critical of the military and wasteful defense spending. Lauded for his contributions, he resigned in 1998 after 27 years of Congressional service. Among other pursuits, he has since worked as a lobbyist for local and national businesses.

■ **Ignacio De La Fuente** became an American citizen at 21, settled in Oakland and began a career in union work that led to his present job as business manager of an international union serving 30 companies. He was elected to the City Council in 1992 and became council president in 1999 after passage of Measure X, the strong mayor initiative. He is the point person for downtown and neighborhood revitalization, and his achievements include the Fruitvale transit village and the conversion of the Montgomery Ward building into a school.

■ **Nancy Nadel**, elected for two terms to the EBMUD Board and its first female president, has served for nine years on the City Council. A popular progressive who ran unopposed in the last election, she prides herself on the redevelopment in District 3, including the creation of a transit village at the West Oakland BART station and the revitalization of the Jack London Square area and Old Oakland. Other improvements she shepherded include new market-rate condominiums in Uptown and new retail in depressed and blighted areas.

Note: RCPC, a nonpartisan neighborhood organization, takes no position on any of the candidacies in this election.



Peralta School Gardens Featured on County Tour

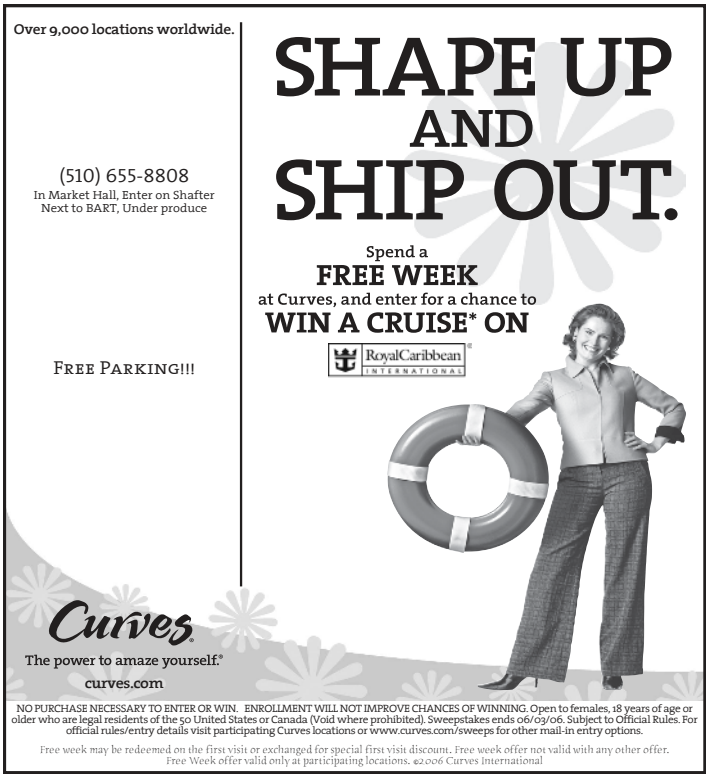
Peralta Elementary School's acclaimed schoolyard gardens will be highlighted in the Third Annual Bay-Friendly Garden Tour on Sunday, April 30, from 10 am to 4 pm. The free, self-guided tour is sponsored by EBMUD, the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program and StopWaste.org. It will include over 30 public and private gardens throughout Alameda County, showcasing natural gardening techniques.

The Peralta schoolyard is one of the few public gardens included in the tour, which celebrates the diverse styles of Bay-Friendly gardens. Other featured gardens include a Mediterranean-inspired retreat; a corner garden with rooms hedged by drought-tolerant plants; a native plant hillside terraced under a lofty oak; and an edible kitchen garden complete with hens and bees. For a sneak preview of the tour, visit www.BayFriendly.org.

Peralta's extensive gardens are the product of years of tireless work by Peralta's staff and families, and generous contributions from the Potrero Nuevo Foundation, the Building Trades Union, The City of Oakland, UC Berkeley Cooperative Extension, and the Lower Rockridge Parents' Group. The result is a courtyard oasis incorporating cozy shaded tables and vibrant murals, a sunny amphitheater covered in colorful ceramic tile, and a whimsical picket fence featuring wooden cutouts of sunflowers and insects.

During the tour, Peralta students will guide visitors through the schoolyard garden, explaining the school's Bay-Friendly gardening techniques. Visitors will also have the opportunity to purchase Bay-Friendly plants cultivated by Peralta students and neighbors.

Registration for the tour is required. Registrants will receive a tour guidebook with garden directions and descriptions by mail. For more information or to register, visit www.BayFriendly.org or call 510/444-SOIL.



Measure Y Protesters Demand Results from Police, City

by Susan Montauk, NCPC Chair

It looks as if Oakland citizens are mad and they're not going to take it any more. At City Hall on March 9, 45 residents, many of them victims of the recent crime wave, voiced their concerns about the severe shortage of police on the streets. In the first two months of this year, crimes have soared. Chief Tucker reported to the Council that by the first week of March murders had increased by over 300%, and burglaries and armed robberies both by over 200% from 2005. City Council members, inundated with calls and e-mails from constituents, responded by passing a resolution calling for an immediate increase in training academies with the goal of reaching full staffing by January 2007 of the 802 police officers provided for in Measure Y.

In early March, OPD had only 703 sworn officers. Many of those were assigned to duties other than street patrols, and 67 officers were out on disability. That left only about 38 officers on beat patrol per shift for the entire city. Officers beginning their shifts would often have a backload of 10-15 calls for help and were forced to choose which to answer. Since violent crimes routinely get first priority, many callers waited hours for cops to arrive.

The call for more cops on the street now has reached a crescendo among citizens and officials. The City Council resolution seeks a long-term solution, but Oaklanders need immediate remedies. In his "Vision and Plan of Action to Reduce Crime and Improve Accountability," (see entire plan at www.oaklandnet.com), Chief Tucker writes that short staffing is only one part of the Department's present difficulties. His plan to deploy 84 officers during peak crime times by overlapping shifts had strong support in the City Council, but met some resistance from the Oakland Police Officers Association. The Council threatened to declare a state of emergency by mid-March if the union did not endorse the Chief's plan, but it postponed this decision when the city and union reached an agreement to put a maximum of 100 patrol officers on the street by adjusting the swing-shift. Resources provided from Measure Y will also be dedicated to stepped-up recruitment and hiring for the academies, casting a wide net for candidates from other states, if necessary.



This is one of the suspects wanted for forced entry at gunpoint on Lawton Avenue between Cavour and 51st Street on December 30 and in the 400 block of Cavour Street. He is about 6' 2" tall and weighs about 240 lbs. His accomplice on both occasions was a light-skinned African-American male about 6' tall and about 170 lbs. They are extremely dangerous. Their M.O. is to catch people off guard, coming home from grocery shopping, dinner, etc.

Rockridge Crime

On December 30, two men were accosted outside their Lawton Avenue home in lower Rockridge by two African-American males who forced them inside at gunpoint. The robbers cut electrical cord, bound their victims, and proceeded for the next hour to search the house for valuables. Shortly after the crime, one of the robbers used the victim's stolen credit card to obtain cash from an ATM and was photographed (box above). A similar crime took place on March 13, just one block away from the other. In the early morning before his work shift, a homeowner had stepped onto his porch to smoke a cigarette when he was forced inside at gunpoint, this time by three African-American males. These robbers, too, used electrical cord to bind their victims and made some of the same threats and comments as the perpetrators of the Lawton crime. The perpetrators have not been caught; fliers have been distributed in the surrounding blocks to caution neighbors.

Rockridge NCPC Meets To Address Crime

The Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meets April 18 at 7 pm on the California College of Arts campus, room B-4. Problem-solving officers and patrol cops will be on hand to answer questions about policing and crime prevention, and policing priorities for the next month will be set by attendees. See www.rockridgencpc.com for a meeting map and the latest 2006 Rockridge crime statistics. Join the Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network Yahoo Group to stay abreast of local crime. Go to www.yahoogroups.com



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5343 Boyd Avenue	4/2	$ 849,000	$ 849,000
5437 Shafter Avenue	3/2	$ 935,000	$ 920,000

While median prices in 2005 & 2006 have remained virtually the same, marketing strategies have changed. In 2005 properties sold for an average of 15% above the list price and this year, they are selling at an average of 1% below list price.

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Camp Galileo: A Summer for Discovery and Experiment

by Claire Isaacs Wahrhaftig

This summer, a new opportunity for alternative education and recreation is being offered to Rockridge children. Camp Galileo, a summer day-camp named after the great scientist, intellectual explorer, and creative thinker, will operate for the first time for five weeks at Holy Names school.

Camp Galileo has been operating in San Francisco and the Peninsula since 2002, under the direction of Galileo Educational Services founder and CEO Glen Tripp. Its mission is to help children discover their passion through teamwork, leadership development and hands-on exploration of art and science.

In 2002, Rockridge resident Tripp stepped down as President of the Rockridge Community Planning Council in order to devote time to his dream: establishing an alternative program of exploration for children. At present, Camp Galileo operates at 12 other sites in San Francisco, the Peninsula and the East Bay. About 10,000 children, grades K through 5, are enrolled each summer. The Oakland/Rockridge site has a capacity for 300.

Tripp's interest in alternative education began two years after college, when he started a job with Score Education Center, a national after-school education program. From then on, his undergraduate degree interests in economics and international relations took a major turn towards education: he discovered a huge need for children to "get stuff they don't get in school." Today's parents want to see their kids involved in hands-on education, he said. School is so heavily weighted towards training for testing that there is little time for creativity and problem solving.



Camp Galileo Kids visit the countryside.
PHOTO: CAMP GALILEO

Camp Galileo offers daily experiences for children in the age groups of kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2, and 3 to 5 in art, science, and outdoor activities. Each week, all age groups undertake "theme" activities in art, science and outdoor activities appropriate to their age group. For example, during "Psychedelic '60s and Space Explorers" week, grades 1 and 2 make tie-dye shirts and "lava" lamps, and create Warhol-style self-portraits. As space explorers, they build a space ship, analyze rocket fuels, design for maximum lift-off and landing impact, and test Newton's law of gravity. Other themes include Egyptian art, crime solving, amusement park engineering, and designing psychedelic '60s album covers and a concert poster.

To build a solid base for these activities, the camp has developed curriculum partnerships with the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose; Klutz, a division of Scholastic; and Art in Action.

The camp's mission is to help kids discover their passion. Educators emphasize team building and leadership. One counselor is in charge of a group of 16, who then break into teams of two to four for each project. Outdoor activities offer challenges but are not competition-oriented.

Another goal is to demonstrate that creativity applies not only to the arts, but includes the sciences and activities in general. Kids discover that art and science are not so far apart. The camp is proud that it enrolls about 45% girls, compared to many science and computer camps which enroll mostly boys. This is particularly of interest in view of last year's controversial remarks by Harvard University Professor Lawrence Summers that fewer women become scientists due to genetic causes.

The director of Camp Galileo for Oakland/Rockridge is Beth Sondel, who received her graduate degree from Harvard in Education Policy and Management. The local Advisory Board includes professionals and parents.

Tripp says Camp Galileo started in Palo Alto because he had taught there and had a base of advisors there. A parent himself, he is truly pleased to at last open the camp in his own neighborhood — Rockridge — and hopes parents will take advantage of this unusual opportunity. For more information, call 510/595-7293, or 1-800/854-3684, or visit www.galileoed.com.


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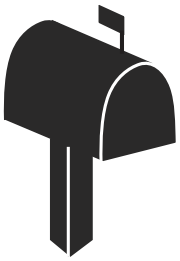
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Letters to The Editor

The Rockridge News *welcomes letters to the editor. 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.*

Eating Scene Goes Way Back

Editor:

In the March installment of "Cornucopia," our respected food columnist Barry Kaufman marvels at the transformation of College Avenue, over the past 20 years, into a gourmet dining hub.

Unfortunately, he has failed to recall much of the eating scene which actually existed in Rockridge in 1986. Probably Zagat's would not have noticed the Rockridge eateries of that era; but they were more affordable, by and large, than the restaurants of today, and some of the offerings were just as striking, or more so. I refer, for example, to Gugliemo's, with the mouth-watering eggplant pizza; Noble Pies, with its imaginative line of dinner pies and pasties, from African babootie to the end of the alphabet; or the cozy Simon's restaurant, at College and Broadway, whose succulent chicken-and-vegetable melange lives on in memory, though never trumpeted in any food column. Or to the Café Joli, which, with its delicious blintzes and specialty omelets, was regularly mobbed on weekends during the heyday years of Brunch. We even had, for a time during the mid-1980s, a restaurant which served very good, highly authentic Breton buckwheat crêpes.

Let's take just a moment to remember Figaro's, with the award-winning façade that delighted children of all ages from 8 to 80, where so many Rockridgers discovered the joys of *gelato*. And, without deprecating the wonderful new Bittersweet The Chocolate Café, what can restore the loss of Leaven & Earth, which once occupied the same space? The décor was unpretentious, but the éclairs and the chocolate chip sour cream cake have never been matched, and the chocolate Liquor Sliquors kept some of us going, well before anyone had caught sight of a truffle between Alcatraz and Broadway. (For a long time, after Leaven & Earth closed, I kept a supply of Sliquors in the freezer. The taste of one, when thawed, did as much as any madeleine cake to send a person *à la recherche du temps perdu*.)

John Gussman

Remembering David Ostrander

Editor:

This letter is to support the application I made to the Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt (FROG) to place a special memorial plaque for the late David M. Ostrander in the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt. I have requested that part of the personal donation I made and earmarked for the swings be used for this purpose and that the plaque be placed on the swings or other site agreeable to the family and FROG. This plaque would be separate from the one honoring donors to the Greenbelt.

David died tragically almost three years ago, killed by a fall off a cliff during a family camping trip. The fall was most likely caused by an epileptic seizure. Surviving David are his wife, Jennifer, and two children; his daughter, Anna, and son, Gilman, then aged three and one, respectively. A memorial plaque for David, possibly mentioning the names of his children, would be a fitting "thank you" to someone who was so integrally involved in creating our park.

There are many in the community who know of and appreciate David's contribution to the Greenbelt. David was a founding co-chair of the DMV Neighbors Association (DNA) and a founding member of FROG. He was articulate and forceful in working to locate the children's play structures in their current spots, against great opposition. In February, 1999, David, along with artist Eric Clausen, became among the first Rockridge voices to speak in favor of opening up the Alameda County Flood Control land to create a greenbelt anchored by Hardy Park on the north and Redondo Park on the south. In addition, he was a big part of the very first DNA creek cleanup of Redondo Park in 1999, when we rolled up a carpet of ivy that covered the asphalt walkways. Helping to raise seed money for FROG at the Flea Market and Bazaar that took place in the Claremont DMV lot in July 2000 was just one more among many of the ways David supported the Greenbelt.

Although David was not one to seek recognition for his efforts, it would be very fitting to place a memorial plaque in the Greenbelt to honor David's contribution to the children of Rockridge because, as his widow Jennifer says, "David's main goal was the creation of something that lived beyond him."

Jacqueline Hoeppner-Freitas
Former Chair, DNA

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Photo: Don Kinkead

The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson

Beautiful Bedrooms and Sweet Dreams

Berkeley Kids' Room
6022 College Avenue, Oakland
Owner Loretta Davis
510/420-0811
www.berkeleykids.com
Monday – Saturday 10 am – 6 pm,
Sunday 12 – 5 pm

When it's time for a new bed for your child, Berkeley Kids' Room is an important stop and a wonderful place to experience. The cozy, charming showroom offers adults and kids the chance to feel the smoothness of the wood, try the drawers, and most important, lie on the bed to find exactly the right match. In the store, you'll see that kids really enjoy trying out the beds, and seem to know instinctively what's both fun and best for a good night's sleep.

Berkeley Kids' Room features furniture that owner Loretta Davis calls "your child's first bed," and for many, the next bed as well. These solidly built, attractive pieces will stand up to years of use and still look great to hand down to the next generation. "We offer high-quality pieces in all price ranges, with a variety of looks to satisfy adults and children," Loretta said.

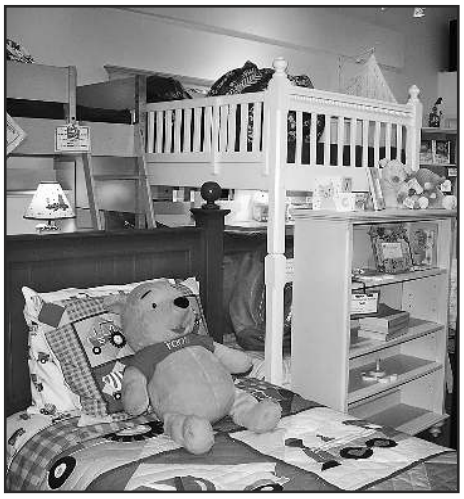
The store's website carries photos and descriptions of the more than 10 lines available, most of which are American-made, including Camelot, D.L. Mayra Hart, My Room, Silver Eagle, Vermont Precision, and Vermont Tubbs. Loretta can order from an extensive collection of styles and colors.

Berkeley Kids' Room also features accessories to complete any room or serve as delightful gifts. Larger items include cotton rugs in bright solids, stripes, and prints of animals, sports, moon and stars, and ocean fish. Beanbag chairs are back and are popular, and come in cotton, denim, vinyl, suede-like fabrics and solid colors as well as prints of animal and soccer balls. The sophisticated style of the glider chair and ottoman by Best would fit in a living room as well as a child's room. An innovation is the "chair and a half," a plush and comfy seat big enough for two small children, which pulls out to a twin-size sleeper, available in many fabrics. And the Webkinz stuffed animals join smaller items such as clocks and wall hangings, the current favorites of many children.

New items in the world of children's furniture include changing tables with wide dressers; as the child grows, the dresser can be used on its own. Desks have morphed into computer hutches with fold-down keyboards. And for spring, there are a number of new loft beds and more accessories.

In addition to the beds, lofts, dressers, desks bookcases, chairs, toy chests and accessories, cribs, changing tables and toddler beds can be ordered, and some items can be customized. Berkeley Kids' Room also carries high-quality bedding in many styles and prints.

Loretta was raised in an Oakland home filled with custom furniture built by her father and grandfather. "I grew up in a project-oriented home," she said, "where something was always being made or adapted." At age 17 she bought and finished her first piece of furniture and went on to obtain degrees in design from Laney College and Cal State East Bay (Cal State Hayward at that time). She managed the children's section of the Berkeley Design Shop in 1984, purchasing her current children's furniture business when it was spun off seven years ago in Berkeley.



Berkeley Kid' Room display.

Photo: Lydia Gans

Since moving the store to Rockridge a little over a year ago, she has especially enjoyed working directly with children and parents from the neighborhood as they try out beds and other furniture. She noted that the store complements the other children's stores in Rockridge, and that customers say they like having a store like this in the neighborhood as an alternative to chain stores and catalogs. "I am so glad to be in a really community-oriented place thast's business friendly," she says, "and I really enjoy having the children' come in to try out the beds."

When you're looking for your child's first – or second – bed, or beautiful accessories for that special child in your life, stop by Berkeley Kids' Room and you'll likely find exactly what you're looking for.

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Dr. Jill Martenson, Rockridge neighbor since 1999.

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Farewell to Jackie Hoeppner-Freitas and Tony Freitas as They Move to the Hills

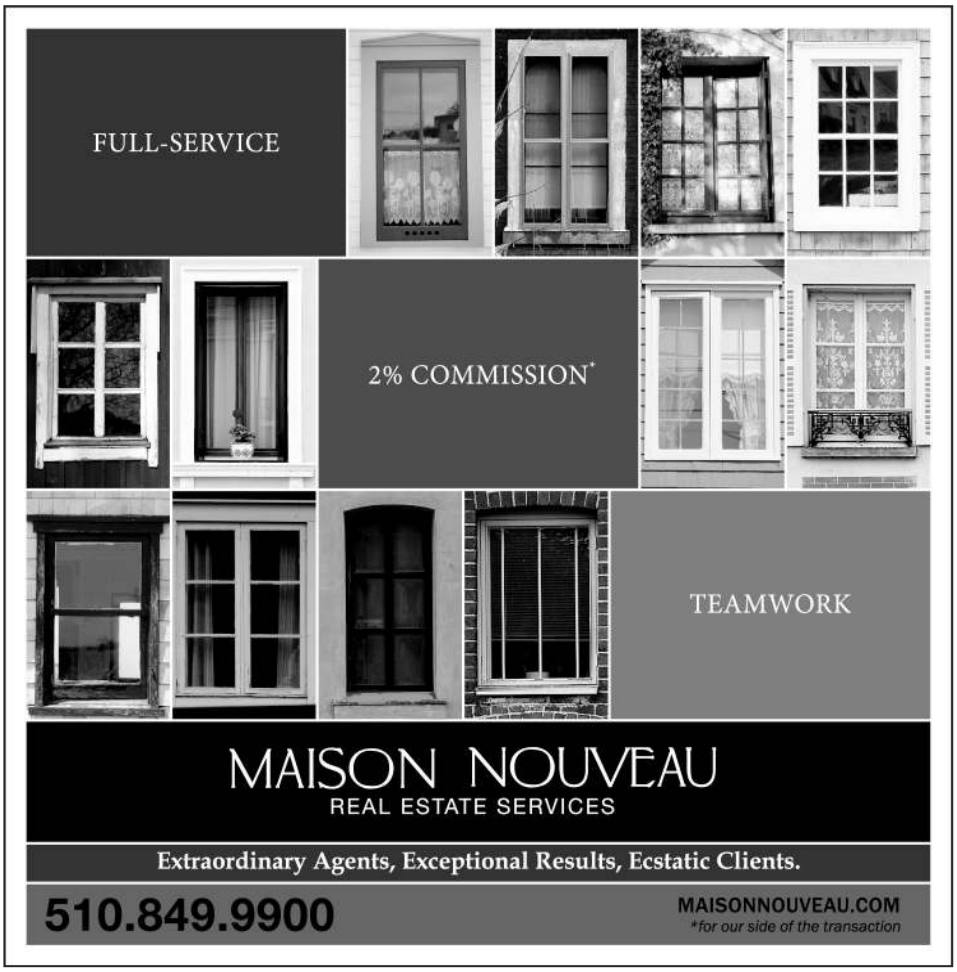
by Margaret Pinter

At the lunch sponsored by the DNA (DMV Neighbors Association) on Earthday following the clean-up projects, neighbors will honor Jackie Hoeppner-Freitas and her husband, Tony Freitas, who, along with their dog Reina, are retiring to the mountains after 22 years in the Rockridge-Temescal area. Jackie and Tony have worked tirelessly to improve our environs since the DNA was formed in 1998 to address proposed changes to the DMV parking lot and later, the Greenbelt Project. When the Fire Station on 51st Street was demolished, Jackie and Tony were successful in getting it rebuilt and keeping our firemen in the neighborhood. Jackie's organizational skills have given a framework and focus to our group and its positions on neighborhood issues. Tony has always made time for prep work, using his garden tractor to mow the parks prior to our cleanups, delivering the Columbo Club's huge kettles of food, and hauling tables for our potluck lunches. They will be missed for their spirit of giving, fair play and energy.



Tony, Reina and Jackie.

PHOTO: MARGARET PINTER



Earthday Spring Cleaning in Rockridge

by Margaret Pinter and Susan Montauk

Come celebrate Earthday in Rockridge, Saturday, April 22, 9 am 'till noon by working at one of several project sites. The City of Oakland will provide a limited number of gloves and tools so volunteers are encouraged to bring their own favorites, marked with their names. Wheel barrows, rakes, shovels and pruning implements will come in handy.

Gardening Projects: Pick One

These projects entail litter collection, pruning, weeding. Sign in at the DMV parking lot at the corner of Redondo and Cavour and enjoy pastries contributed by Bakesale Betty and coffee provided by Alem's Coffee House. Then choose to work at one of the following:

- Redondo Avenue, down to the children's play structure at the cornier of Redondo and Clark
- Hardy Park, or
- The 51st Street public way and median.

Graffiti Eradication On Telegraph Avenue

Meet at Telegraph and 58th Street to paint bus benches and trash cans and do some minor cleanup work. Materials provided. Contact Chris with any questions: chridjack@bigplanet.com

Lunch

At noon, participants are invited to the after-event traditional potluck sponsored by the DNA Neighbors Association to take place in the driveway of 5275 Redondo Avenue. Pasta, green salad and garlic bread will be provided by the Colombo Club. Bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. The DMV Neighbors Association will provide beverages and going-away cake in honor of Jackie Hoeppner-Freitas and her husband, Tony. (See adjacent story.)

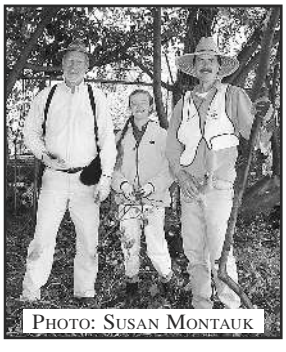


PHOTO: SUSAN MONTAUK

Pleased with the results of their clean-up work in last year's Earth Day program, three volunteers pause for a photo.

The Rockridge News Needs Your Help

Do you have 10-15 minutes to spare each month? Would you like to share this time with your community? Here is a *Rockridge News* delivery route that needs a volunteer:

District Captain for Routes 07A-07F: Box with bundles will be delivered to DC's doorstep the first weekend of each month except August. The District Captain delivers bundles to six houses along Broadway and side streets, including Mendocino.

Call Susan Montauk at 547-3855 or e-mail her at smontauk@juno.com to discuss your availability.





The faithful seven who bundle the 6,000 copies of *The Rockridge News* each month celebrate the newsletter's 20th anniversary issue with a glass of champagne. Copies are counted out, assembled in packets and passed out to 150 volunteers who then deliver it to the 5,500 homes and businesses in the Rockridge community. From left: Meredith Kaplan, Bill Dutcher, Nancy Dutcher, Jo Ellis, Ken Ellis, Gail Durkin, Susan Montauk. PHOTO BY CY GULASSA



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We Will be Tested

from page 1

Planning Commission approved the plans, the neighborhood group appealed to the City Council. Moments before the appeal came before the Council, the group reached an agreement with the developers through negotiations led by Councilmember Jane Brunner. The group is not happy with the outcome but feels it was our best option.

This battle is over, but given the political pressure toward maximum density development in the city, we will be tested again soon enough. Jane Brunner agreed to convene a meeting on Thursday, April 27 at 7 pm at Faith Presbyterian Church, (49th and Webster) to begin forming a community design review process that will review all future projects in the neighborhood. Everyone who wants to prevent similar battles over scale and density — especially Rockridge residents — is urged to attend. This process, if organized well with strong community participation, will provide us a more effective role in determining future neighborhood development.

Negotiations on 51st and Telegraph included:

1) The tower element on the corner of Telegraph and 51st Street will be reduced from 65 to 57 feet. The rest of the building extending along 51st Street will be lowered from 57 to 52 feet. The developers agreed to an additional requirement of either reducing the entire building by one more foot (tower would be 56 feet, the rest of the building, 51 feet) or stepping back the corner tower at the fourth floor (thereby reducing the appearance of height).

2) The side of the building facing Global Entertainment will be stepped back at the fourth floor to allow more light into the Greenbelt pathway.

3) The developers will pay $15,000 for a pedestrian safety study that, with community input, will identify pedestrian safety hazards and improvements for adjacent streets.

4) The developers will pay $50,000 into a fund for pedestrian safety improvements at the five intersections on the periphery of the development.

5) Proceeds from a lien on the former theater property (estimated to be about $250,000) to be paid by the developers will be earmarked for pedestrian safety improvements.

6) The developers will pay $20,000 toward the cost of permits in an Approved Residential Parking Permit area to residences in the area bounded by Telegraph Avenue, Cavour Street, Shafter Avenue and 49th Street. Residents in this area may vote on instituting this program on their block.

7) Brunner's motion at the Council meeting noted that this development will not be seen as a precedent for other developments. She also requested to initiate a process to update the Zoning Ordinance and reconcile it with the General Plan. The current gap between these two planning documents has allowed the mayor and Planning Commission to push their high-density agenda.

Note: RCPC voted in January to drop opposition to the 51st Street and Telegraph Avenue project provided conditions were agreed to as described in a letter posted at www.rockridge.org. RCPC plans to attend the April 27 forum on neighborhood design guidelines.

CIVIQ Green Light, from page 1

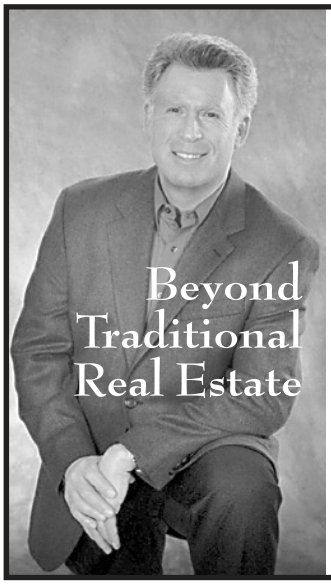
Councilmember Jane Brunner led a mediated negotiation that resulted in an "11th hour" agreement; the appeal was withdrawn prior to the Council hearing.

The agreement includes some height reductions at the corner of 51st & Telegraph; relocation of an upper level access concourse, a pedestrian safety study and related area improvements, and developer contributions towards a possible future residential parking program for the area around the project.

We want to thank Rockridge area residents for their participation and support of design improvements for the project. Of great community significance is the extension of the FROG park walkway we will create from Clarke and Redondo along the northwestern side of the project to a wide, sun-filled plaza at 51st Street. This exciting pedestrian thoroughfare, including two new public plazas, will fulfill the long-held neighborhood goal of connecting the FROG Park greenbelt to the Telegraph and 51st intersection.

The project implements the City's General Plan, which calls for Telegraph Avenue in this area to "Grow and Change." It will provide infill housing along one of the City's busiest transit corridors and in proximity to two BART stations. With a million new people projected to come to the Bay Area in the next 15 years, this is the kind of project the City needs, and is why it was so enthusiastically supported by Planning Commission members and staff. Accommodating these new residents along urban transit corridors is the most environmentally effective solution for the continuing growth of the Bay Area. Project CIVIQ is designed to promote walking, house bicycles and create space for two City Car Share vehicles. The project will also set a new Bay Area standard for energy efficiency and use of solar energy.

Perhaps the most tangible offshoot of the project will be the 125 or so new resident shoppers in the Temescal commercial district. The project's 67 residential condos and retail space will continue the revitalization in this area, producing a more vibrant and commercial environment for all to enjoy.



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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Compiled by Jo Ellis

Councilmember Brunner's Community Advisory Meeting

First Saturday every other month, 10am to noon. **No May Meeting.** For more information on all District One issues or events, 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. Meets 3rd Tuesday each month, 7 to 8:30pm at California College of the Arts (CCA), 5212 B'way (at College Ave.), Bldg. B-4. Directions and more information: www.rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

FOR CHILDREN:

- **Toddler Story Time**: 1st and 2nd Saturdays, 10:30am: 4/8, 5/6.
- **Pre-School Story Time**: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am: 4/19, 5/3.
- **Pajama Story Time**: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm: 4/11, 4/25.

FOR TEENS:

- **Bookwormz** (Teen-Led Book Club): Usually meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month, but because of Spring Break the April meeting is on the 4th Saturday, 4/22, from 1 to 2pm in upstairs mtg. room.
- **Anime Club**: Watch and talk about new anime (Japanese animation) with other teens. We will watch Full Metal Panic, and discuss our trip to the SF Cherry Blossom Cosplay (costume) contest and parade at the end of April. Usually meets on 2nd Tuesday of each month, but because of Spring Break, mtg. is on 4/18, from 5 to 6:30pm, in the upstairs mtg. room.
- **Third Annual Manga Contest:** Win prizes and have your art displayed. For ages 12-19. Deadline is April 21. Contact Susy, the teen specialist librarian, at 597-5017.

FOR ADULTS:

- **Knitting Classes for Seniors** (50+), in collaboration with the Pleasant Valley Adult School: Instructor is Teri Barr. All levels welcome. If you are a beginner, bring light color yarn and a pair of size 8 needles. If experienced, bring projects to work on. Tuesdays, from 12:30 to 2:30pm in the upstairs meeting room. Classes extended to run through the end of May.
- **Writing from the Soul**: Writing for Creative Expression and Spiritual Growth. Class by Suzanne West, Chair of the Liberal Arts Dept. at JFK University. Saturday, 4/15 from 2 to 4:30pm. Class limited to 30. Call 597-5017 to sign up.
- **Lawyers in the Library**: Free legal advice. First Tuesday of each month: 6pm to 8pm. Advance sign-up starts 5pm.

ART EXHIBITS:

- **Gallery:** April: Susan Hall: watecolor plus oil and acrylic on canvas.
  May: Stan Cohen: Oak Art Group.
- **Display Case:** April: Betty La Cuse: paintings (for the non-profit Heifer Project).
  May: Evelyn Montandouen: gourds

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017
LIBRARY HOURS:
Monday and Tuesday, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 10am to 5:30pm
Friday, 12 to 5:30pm
Closed Sundays.

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings

All events are FREE and open to the public

- Sunday, 4/9, 3pm. **Franz Wright** (Pulitzer prizewinner for poetry): *God's Silence*.
- Monday, 4/10, 7:30pm. **Anna Moore Lappe & Terry Bryant:** *Grub: Ideas for an Urban Organic Kitchen*.
- Wednesday, 4/19, 7:30pm. **Daniel Alarcon**: *War by Candlelight*, a short story collection.

5433 College Ave. For more information about other readings, book discussion groups and El Grupito, the Spanish discussion group: 510/653-9965 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 from (4/15), 1 to 5pm. For more information: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.

Cinco De Mayo Celebration At Claremont House

The residents and staff of Claremont House invite all Rockridge neighbors to our **FREE Cinco de Mayo party.** Fantastic and authentic music and great food. Saturday, May 6, from 11am to 2pm: 4500 Gilbert Street (corner of Pleasant Valley, across from main entrance to the Rockridge Safeway and Long's), on the 2nd floor patio. RSVP at 658-9266 by May 1.

Oakland Elizabeth House Celebration

Join us for an **Open House** to celebrate our 15th Anniversary as a transitional residence for women and children, and to honor our loyal volunteers. Friends old and new are welcome. Sunday, April 23, from noon to 4pm. 6423 Colby Street (off Alcatraz), near St. Augustine Church. For more information: 601-1213 or www.oakehouse.org.

Events: California College of the Arts

- **Lecture by Gyongy Laky**, textile artist and founder of Fiberworks, Center for the Textile Arts in Berkeley. Laky's sculptural improvisations conceptually address environmental issues of use, overuse and sustainability. Wednesday, April 19, 7pm. 5301 Broadway. For more information: 594-3747.
- **Barclay Simpson MFA Awards Exhibition**: award-winning work by CCA graduate students in Fine Arts. April 24 – 28. Reception and awards presentation: April 24, 5:50 to 7:30pm at Tecoah Bruce Gallery, Oliver Art Center. CCA Campus, 5212 Broadway. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri., 10am to 5pm. For more information: 551-9213.

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. No registration necessary. UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley (above Cal Memorial Stadium in Strawberry Canyon). For more information: 643-2755 or http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu.

Activities and Events for Seniors

- **College Avenue Adult Center**

Light exercise, socializing, travel programs and music. Hot lunch at noon for $2.00. Every Wednesday, from 9:30am to 1:30pm. College Ave. Presbyterian Church, 5955 College Ave. For details about upcoming 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 and Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group. *Sign up now for the Asparagus Festival in Stockton on April 22.* Center Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:45am to 4:45pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way

The Newsletter, "North Oakland Senior Times" provides a full schedule of classes as well as a monthly lunch menu: (suggested donation: seniors age 60 + $2.25; $4.00 for those under age 60). Call 597- 5085 for details about membership, newsletter, classes/events and opportunities to become a volunteer.

Volunteer Opportunity

- **Jewish Coalition for Literacy**

Reading tutors to introduce students in local elementary schools to the excitement of reading. Tutors are given comprehensive training and on-going support. Time commitment of one hour per week to work with one to three students. Call 839-2900x274, or www.jclread.org.


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