THE Rockridge News
20th Year
www.rockridge.org
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October Town Hall Meeting Previews November Ballot Choices

California's future is just around the corner and you have the power to shape it. Thirteen State propositions, three Oakland Measures and a chorus of candidates will be on the November 7 ballot, each pleading for your vote. Eleven of the 13 propositions relate to issues affecting fiscal policy, which often translates into increased taxes. For instance, Proposition 1B proposes selling $19.9 billion dollars in bonds to fund Safety and Security projects while Proposition 86 raises the tax on a pack of cigarettes from $.87 to $3.47 to fund public health initiatives. What are the advantages and hidden perils of these proposals?

At the October 19 Town Hall meeting, representatives of the League of Women Voters will summarize – in jargon-free language – the substance of the most controversial ballot items and weigh their pros and cons. This informed and lively presentation is an efficient way to review the issues and become able to vote responsibly. Join us Thursday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rockridge Library. League representatives will describe the initiatives and take questions from the audience. Also, you may visit the League's web site at www.smartvoter.org. Type in your Zip code to get a sample ballot and lots of analysis.

RCPC Town Hall Meeting

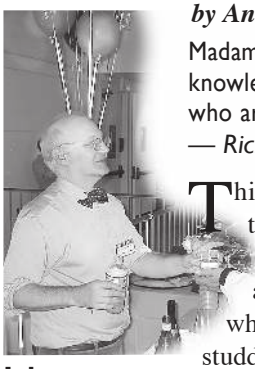
Thursday, October 19, 7:30 pm
Rockridge Library, 5366 College

■ **The November Ballot: Initiatives and Other Measures**
Join your friends and neighbors as representatives of the League of Women Voters summarize – in jargon-free language – the substance of the most controversial ballot items and weigh the pros and cons. Audience Q&A follows.

Rockridge Celebrates Library's 10th Anniversary in Style

by Annette Floystrup, RCPC Boardmember

Madam, a circulating library in a town is as an evergreen tree of diabolical knowledge; it blossoms through the year. And depend on it… that they who are so fond of handling the leaves, will long for the fruit at last.
— Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Irish playwright, 1751-1816



John Gussman dispenses sparkling cider at the Library celebration. PHOTO: ANNETTE FLOYSTRUP

This wonderful quote about the subversiveness of knowledge greeted the approximately 150 people who came to hear a star-studded panel of local authors discuss the topic, "Writers on Reading." Seated on chairs, perched on tables and countertops, and dotting the floor, the audience alternately listened raptly and laughed with delight as the evening progressed.

In addition to the distinguished panel, many cherished visitors and distinguished guests were in attendance, including three "generations" of librarians: Jean Langmuir, who was head librarian when the branch was still in the Jucy's building; Gail Weimann, head librarian from the trailer years and early days at the new library; current Branch manager, Pat Lichter,

▸ **Library Celebration, page 4**

Nancy Dutcher Honored for Library Project Leadership

by Annette Floystrup, RCPC Boardmember

Longtime community activist Nancy Dutcher was honored at the Rockridge Library 10th Anniversary celebration with a plaque presented by RCPC citing her management and organizational skills. Dutcher steered approximately 100 volunteers over 11 years towards the goal of building a new library branch building.

Pulling together neighbors with expertise from many fields plus city and state officials, Nancy marshalled her foot soldiers to find a building site, create a special Mello-Roos taxation district by running a political campaign that garnered over an 80% vote of approval, and lobby the State Legislature for library

▸ **Nancy Dutcher, page 4**



Nancy Dutcher displays her "Rockridge Champion" award. PHOTO: ANNETTE FLOYSTRUP

Rockridge Halloween Parade: October 29

Join your spookiest, fuzziest and silliest neighbors as we "trick or treat" together down College Avenue on Sunday, October 29 from 1–3 p.m.

Details and more, page 5

Measure N for Libraries on Ballot

by Jennifer Vetter, Chair;
Friends of the Rockridge Library

What is Measure N?

In a nutshell, Measure N proposes a $148 million construction bond that will pay for upgrades at all the branch libraries, expansion of six branches, building two new branch libraries in the Laurel District and in East Oakland, and renovating the shuttered Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center Arena and moving the Oakland Main Library there.

Didn't we just pass a library measure recently?

Measure Q, which passed by an overwhelming majority of 77.2% in 2004, paid for staff to open branches six days a week and evening hours, as well as after-school programs and a healthy budget for acquisitions of new books and other materials. Measure N, the new bond measure, is the first Oakland library construction bond since 1945.

Why should I care about this bond when I'm happy with the Rockridge Library just the way it is?

Some of Oakland's libraries, like the Piedmont Avenue and Lakeview branches, don't have public restrooms or a real children's area. Oakland's Main Library is in sorry shape, and that has systemwide and citywide repercussions. Before any new book, CD, video or DVD can be put out on a shelf at Rockridge, it has to go to the Main to be cataloged. Every city library program is run out of the cramped offices there. What should be the pride and joy of the system, a destination for tourists, families and researchers from all over the Bay Area, is instead a dilapidated and outdated building with no parking. The 55-year-old Main building would be more expensive to renovate than converting the Kaiser Center, which is beloved by Oaklanders and eminently worth saving.

Think of the new main library in San Francisco. Then think of Oakland. It's embarrassing. Think of how much the bathrooms in the Rockridge Library get used and then try to imagine your branch library not having a bathroom at all.

Even the Rockridge Library, wonderful as it is, desperately needs a climate control system installed, and this bond promises to pay for that, as well as Wi-Fi access and improvements to the teen area.

How much will this cost? And could that money be better spent on Oakland's many other needs?

Some may consider bonds an expensive way to raise money, and property owners can expect to pay about $40 per $100,000 of assessed property annually for 30 years to service this bond. Yet a bond is the best and arguably the only way to pay for this major renovation and construction project that will make Oakland a better city for generations to come. And I personally believe that supporting our libraries, with all the opportunities and after-school programs they provide, is both a wise civic investment and the right thing to do for Oakland.

Ed. Note: RCPC has not taken a position on Measure N.

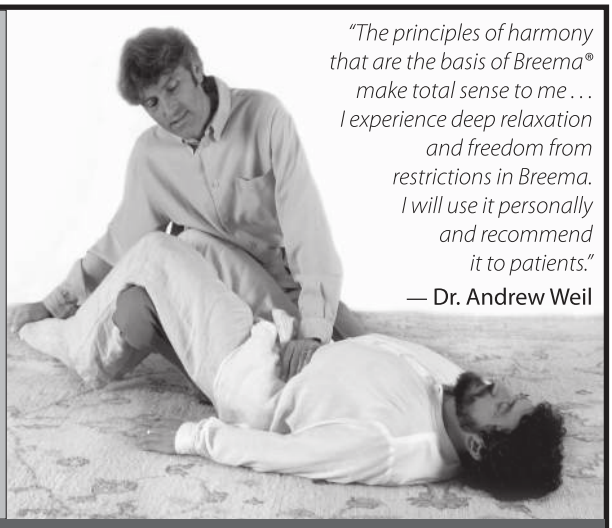
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Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: **CLOSED**
Library program details: See Calendar, page 15.

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?
- Want 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
☛ **November 4, 2006**
☛ **November deadline is October 19.**

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. (Classified Ad contact, p.14.)*

RCPC Land Use Committee

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.

5943 Ocean View Drive

Proposal: Application to construct an addition that will add approximately 1,633 sq/ft to an exisitng 2,148 sq/ft single-family dwelling.

Applicant: Cindy Chan, Jarvis Architects

Contact Person: Cindy Chan, Jarvis Architects 510/654-6755

Owner: Erin & Blair Allison

Planning Permits Required: Residential Design Review per Chapter 17.136 to construct additions to and existing single-family residence resulting in a dwelling with a total of more than 3,500 sq/ft of floor area.

Case Planner: Ann Clevenger at 510/238-6980 or aclevenger@oaklandnet.com

6732 Manor Crest

Proposal: Rebuild existing garage in kind, which is located within the front yard setback.

Applicant: Montclair Construction

Contact Person: 510/547-2457

Owner: Barbara Arnold

Permits Required: Minor Variance to rebuild existing non-conforming garage.

5154 Shafter Avenue

Proposal: To convert an existing four residential units into four condominium units

Applicant/Owner: Jill L. Watz & Jeff Stewart & John White

Contact Person: 510/301-9877

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

Case Planner: Jason Madani at 510/238-4790 or jsmadani@oaklandnet.com

Hail and Farewell

Changes to RCPC Board

by Jessica Pitt, RCPC Board Chair

In September, the RCPC said goodbye to Adrienne D'Angelo, our Board Secretary, and appointed Gloria Bruce and Janelle Cavanagh to fill two vacant positions.

Gloria Bruce recently completed a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning at UC Berkeley, and currently serves as a Senior Program Associate at the Berkeley Alliance, a community partnership with the City of Berkeley, the University of California at Berkeley, the Berkeley Unified School District, and the broader Berkeley community to strengthen collaboration across institutions. Gloria brings experience in land use planning and political and community processes. She lives on Forest Street and will bring the valued perspective of a Rockridge renter to the RCPC Board.

Janelle Cavanagh is the Chief Development Officer at Girls Incorporated of Alameda County, a nonprofit organization that runs after-school programs for girls from low-income families. Janelle lives on Miles Avenue. She has been active in Councilmember Jane Brunner's community process to develop design guidelines for the Temescal neighborhood. She also has extensive experience in fundraising, marketing, and public relations. We hope to enlist Janelle in the RCPC Kitchen Tour and other fundraising activities, as well as the redesign of RCPC's web site.

In September, Adrienne D'Angelo stepped down from the Board after two-and-a-half years. As Board Secretary, she tirelessly took detailed notes at our Board meetings. She also designed a beautiful promotional piece for RCPC, which we now hand out at all of our events. Adrienne brought a thoughtful and reasoned voice to RCPC discussions, and we will miss her. She and her partner had a baby boy in June, and Adrienne is now very busy and absorbed in her role as a new parent.

The RCPC will hold annual Board elections in April 2007. We anticipate a number of vacancies, and encourage people to consider running for the Board at that time.

Correction

With regard to "Locals Build Albertsons Replacement Wish List," *The Rockridge News*, September 8, 2006, page 1, Albertsons has not revealed whether it accepted any bids made on the vacant College Avenue site.

6107 Harwood Avenue

Proposal: Demolish and replace a one-story detached garage/workshop (418 sq/ft) located in the rear of the lot 1' from side property line

Applicant/Owner: David Falleck

Contact Person: 510/652-6198

Planning Permits Required: Design Review for addition and alteration; Minor Variance to allow a 1' side yard setback where 5' minimum is required; a Category III Creek Protection Permit to construct a garage/workshop 17' away from creek bank.

Case Planner: Jason Madani at 510/238-4790 or jsmadani@oaklandnet.com Peterson Z. Vollman at 510/238-6167 or pvollman@oaklandnet.com

5100 & 5110 Telegraph Avenue, and 5107 Clarke Street

Proposal: Subdivide parcel into four lots and 67 condominium units in conjunction with new mixed-use development. (Note: The proposal for the new development was approved under a previous permit, number CMDV05-469. This application is for subdivision purposes only.)

Applicant: 5110 Telegraph, LLC

Contact Person: Roy Alper 510/550-7177

Owner: 5110 Telegraph, LLC

Planning Permits Required: Vesting Tentative Parcel Map to allow four-lot subdivision and 67 condominium units.

Case Planner: Darin Ranelletti at 238-3663 or dranelletti@oaklandnet.com

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Library Celebration

from page 1

with renowned storyteller and children's librarian Gay Ducey. Oakland Library Director Carmen Martinez and Deputy Director Gerry Garzon represented the City.

Friends Of the Rockridge Library (FORL) chair Jennifer Vetter began the evening by assuring the audience that they were not going to be asked for money, which elicited a laugh from the audience. She went on to explain that FORL's board had decided the best way to celebrate the library's 10th anniversary was with a gift to the community.

Panel moderator Cynthia Gorney, an award-winning journalist and author (*Articles of Faith: A Frontline History of the Abortion Wars*) who teaches at the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley, kept a lively pace questioning panelists San Francisco Chronicle columnist Jon Carroll, writer and essayist Maxine Hong Kingston (*The Woman Warrior; The Fifth Book of Peace*) and novelist April Sinclair (*Coffee Will Make You Black; I Left My Back Door Open*) with questions about early reading habits, favorite books and early writing experiences.

All the panelists are self-described library habitués who, as children, loved the dark, inviting corners of the stacks and for whom the smell and texture of books was as magical as the words within. All the authors read and reread the classics, frequently reading books far above their age level, and sometimes above their level of understanding. The novels of Robert Louis Stevenson transported Carroll. Hong Kingston read Tennessee Williams' *Suddenly Last Summer*, and understood it at age 10, which amazed Carroll, who didn't "get it" until college. Both Sinclair and Gorney were great fans of author Beverly Cleary. All were ravenous readers.

Today all the authors read for pleasure, though not as uninhibitedly as they did as children. Sinclair likes to read best sellers to participate in the popular culture; Carroll, one of the few daily newspaper columnists left in America, reads everything, but admits to an "over 40" difficulty with "getting" graphic novels. All lament the lack of time to read as much as they wish.

In a parting thought, Sinclair, who holds readings in prisons, juvenile halls, schools and drug rehabilitation centers, expressed the feelings of the panel when she said: "A reader is never poor. A book can take you places; there's hope when you are reading." She tells incarcerated readers that there is freedom in books because you can go anywhere in the imagination. These writers certainly have gone everywhere, and they have taken us with them.

Nancy Dutcher

from page 1

funds in a year where only 12 such requests were funded out of 50 submitted.

FORL and RCPC were delighted to present Nancy with a plaque inscribed:

RCPC is honored to declare a true ROCKRIDGE CHAMPION— NANCY DUTCHER

The Rockridge Community Planning Council is built on a foundation of volunteerism and community service. Since its incorporation in 1985, many people have contributed to the preservation and enhancement of the neighborhood. Over time, a few individuals have stood out for their substantial contributions to the betterment of the community at large. These neighbors make Rockridge the vibrant community it is today.

We hereby recognize you as one of these outstanding individuals, and thank you for leading the 11-year drive to fund and build a new Rockridge Library in 1996. Your years of tireless and dedicated service to our community have created a lasting legacy that serves not only Rockridge, but all of Oakland.

RCPC Board of Directors, 2006

Nancy Dutcher, a lifelong Rockridge resident, is married to architect Bill Dutcher. The couple has raised two daughters in Rockridge.

Thanks for all your help...

FORL board members presided over a lobby beautifully decorated with flowers from Bloomies and balloons from Rockridge Kids. Katrina Rozelle, Market Hall Caterers and Peaberry's provided cookies, fruit and beverages, and Frank Barzin and the guys at Green Copy went above and beyond to produce the evening's gorgeous program. Diesel Books manager Grant Outerbridge manned a book table all evening. A special thank you goes to The Rockridge Women's Club for a generous anniversary gift that enabled FORL to get new landscaping on the Manila side of the library.

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NCPC Tackles Homeless Encampments

The Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) has joined with the City to tackle the problem of local homeless encampments, believed to contribute to crime and blight in their vicinity. Some sites are near local schools and parks.

An NCPC committee met in September with Oakland Human Services Director Mike Church, Operation Dignity representative Tomika Perkins, and Kate Whitlow, aide to Councilmember Jane Brunner, to develop a plan to address the camps. Since that meeting Operation Dignity and Oakland Human Services visited each encampment to offer the homeless assistance in the form of shelter, food, medicine, counseling, and employment Encampment site property owners — often Caltrans in Rockridge — will be encouraged to clean trash and prune overgrowth.

Operation Dignity's goal is to offer services to the homeless to help them become participating members of the community.

The outreach process discourages encampments but doesn't prevent them. Fencing and landscape maintenance may be required. Oakland Human Services will work with Caltrans and other property owners to facilitate this process.



Caltrans properties targeted for clean-up include: Keith Avenue across from 5715/17, Presley underpass, Miles Avenue from 5790 to Claremont Middle School, Broadway underpass, Locksley/Forest underpass, and Hardy and Redondo Parks. The NCPC will survey residential areas along Caltrans property to determine the preferences of residents regarding pruning the vegetation that screens the encampments. If you live on blocks bordering Highway 24 and can help, contact us at info@rockridgencpc.com.

Report encampments to Mike Church via e-mail: MChurch@oaklandnet.com (cc: RockridgeHomelessCamps@yahoo.com) or at 238-6590.

The Rockridge NCPC meets the third Tuesday of each month; the public is encouraged to attend. Visit our website: www.rockridgencpc.com.

Calling All Goblins & Spooky Urchins

Rockridge Halloween Parade Set for October 29

by Stephanie Upp, RCPC Boardmember

Why didn't the skeleton cross the road? Because he didn't have any guts.

Fortunately, you don't need guts for the 15th Annual Children's Halloween Parade. All you need is a costume, a sweet tooth and an escort for those under the age of 12.

Join your spookiest, fuzziest and silliest neighbors as we "trick or treat" together



down College Avenue on Sunday, October 29, 1-3 p.m. Parade participants should meet in the Dreyer's parking lot, behind 5925 College Avenue, to receive a goodies bag, Halloween stickers and information from participating merchants. Parade coordinators will send out staggered groups of kids (with parents) to limit street congestion. Groups will travel up and down College Avenue where participating merchants will be waiting to offer a variety of Halloween tricks, treats and who knows….

When your candy bag is full, join us for more Halloween fun at the "Ghoul Yard" in front of College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue. Starting at 1:30 p.m., there will be storytellers, song singers, candy swappers. Most important, there will be hay bales to sit on for resting your tired trick-or-treating toes.

The parade is co-sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) and the Rockridge District Association (RDA). Interested volunteers should call RCPC member Stephanie Upp at 510/594.0755; merchants should contact Adam Borcherdt, RDA Administrator, at 510/604-3125. Rain will cancel the event.

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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.

ULTRA Equals Commercial Interest

Editor:

I read John Gatewoods's report on ULTRA (Urbanists for a Liveable Temescal Rockridge Area) in September's *The Rockridge News* (page 5). I am a 28-year resident of the Rockridge area. In this ULTRA concept I see nothing but commercial interest and greed:

- Rockridge already has economic diversity. We have neighbors in many economic levels and professions.
- There are already enough retail shops in Rockridge and Temescal. I ask the ULTRA group to take a walk on Telegraph and College to check it out. What is missing?
- How will having more people in Rockridge increase public safety? I do not believe the ULTRA founders are clear on the concept of public safety. Traffic conditions are already unmanageable and it will get worse with more people and more cars.
- Rockridge is already quite lively, friendly and diverse. How long have the ULTRA advocates lived here? Have they gone around and checked how much ethnic, gender and economic diversity we already have? Within 100 yards of my house we have Chinese-Americans, African-Americans, Hispanics, a diaper service man, gays, Lesbians, heterosexuals, 30-year olds, 65-year olds, UC Berkeley students, a hamburger joint, a fancy seafood place, a car repair shop, a post office, an art store, and more — all existing in harmony (well, as harmonious as neighbors and businesses being side-by-side, can get). What more diversity do you want? Temescal is even more diverse.

This is an appeal from a longtime Rockridge resident who is *really* interested in diversity and living in social harmony. I urge ULTRA not to be driven by commercial interest and ruin this beautiful neighborhood with overcrowding and more shops. ULTRA is an ultra-commercial idea that has no place in Rockridge or Temescal.

— Som Konar

Lane Change Would Solve Merging Problems

Editor:

May I recommend that the RCPC consider asking the city to make the left lane between Kale and Manila a left turn lane onto Manila and the right lane into the thru lane. This would eliminate the right lane becoming a merge lane as it crosses Manila and would avoid potential merging problems.

— A.A. Martin

Volunteers Needed for Parks

Oakland Parks Coalition Seeks Volunteers for City Park Survey

The Oakland Parks Coalition (OPC) needs volunteers to survey several parks in various council districts on Saturday, October 28, 9 a.m. to noon. The survey information will be used to report to Mayor-Elect Dellums and the City Council about the true state of our parks.

If you care about our parks and would like to participate, contact OPC at loveyourparksday@gmail.com or 510/287-2693 with your full name, phone number, and council district. You will be contacted with event details.





FROG Park Corner

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



FROG Fix-up Day a Success

by Theresa Nelson,
FROG (Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt) Chair

A huge thank you to everyone who donated their time and worked hard to make the September 16 FROG Maintenance and Planting Day such a success.

Thanks to Howard Ferrier, FROG Maintenance Coordinator, for careful planning, getting materials delivered, cheerful supervision, and collaborating with Cynthia Geddes and the hard-working students from College Preparatory School (CPS). Jennifer Cooper supervised the planting and volunteer clean-up teams, who significantly improved the pathway. Mike McDonald, Fernando Sorto, Michael Lyons, Mauricio Argueta (all from the McDonald Construction Team) and Barney Smits built the new kiosks, which will soon have a park map and donor signs.

Additional thanks to neighbors Jeff Clapp and Jimmy Pederson, who replaced fence sections and installed the new seat back at the sandbox; and to Josh Feldman, who skillfully replaced the chain on the tire swing under the Hardy Park play structure. Lisa Ferrier and her husband, Dan Johnson, supervised volunteers doing clean-up and spreading fibar at Redondo. Carroll Moore and Karen Cheever worked hard to carefully remove the graffiti on the train, which looks good as new. Ronnie Spitzer solicited donations of materials, food and water for our volunteers. Jacqueline Kellam worked with some CPS students to paint creative signs for the grand re-opening.

FROG Park is a vital part of our community, and it requires support and commitment from adults in the community to keep it looking good. We need your energy and volunteer time. Contact Howard Ferrier, hwferrier@sbcglobal.net or 510/653-6463 to get involved with FROG.



Upper left: Howard Ferrier and Jennifer Cooper oversee FROG fixer-uppers; above: College Preparatory School volunteers pledge to hop to it; left, volunteers in action; right: young volunteer commutes to cleanup site.

Photos Cy Gulassa

In My Opinion

Essays on matters of local interest are invited for publication in *The Rockridge News* as statements of personal opinion.

Proposition 90: The Devil is in the Details

by Steven Wolmark

Proposition 90, which will be on the ballot in November, is ostensibly about eminent domain reform. However, buried within the initiative are provisions that could have a profoundly negative effect on the quality of life for all Californians.

Proposition 90 would prevent state and municipal governments from exercising eminent domain to acquire property and transfer it to a private property owner unless it is used for a function typically fulfilled by the government.

In most cases, eminent domain is used by local governments to provide basic infrastructure and services anyway. But Proposition 90 would change the way public agencies that exercise eminent domain compensate property owners. Under existing laws, a property owner is paid "fair market value" for his or her property if it is acquired through eminent domain. Under Proposition 90, the property would be valued based on "the use to which the government intends to put the property." The likely result would be to significantly increase the cost to taxpayers for cities to provide basic services.

The most far-reaching provision of Proposition 90, however, would require governments to compensate owners if any new legislation or regulations "result in a substantial loss to private property." For example, if a city chooses to enact smart growth zoning in order to combat sprawl, an individual who owns property at the city's outskirts could claim economic loss and would either be compensated for this loss by the taxpayers or the city would have to drop the requirement. Unlike Oregon's Measure 37, Proposition 90 would not be limited to land use but would cover a wide range of areas such as environmental and consumer protection.

California's population is projected to continue to grow rapidly well into the 21st century and we as a state, city and community will be presented with significant challenges such as sprawl, traffic congestion, and strained government services as a result. Proposition 90 ties our hands in the face of these problems. Its defeat will help ensure a sustainable future for California.

A longtime resident of Rockridge, Steven Wolmark has over five years' experience in the financing, development and asset management of residential and commercial properties. He is a member of the Urban Land Institute and the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California.

About Prop 90

Summary of Proposition 90: Amends the California Constitution to require additional compensation to property owners if new laws or rules (such as building codes or environmental regulations) result in substantial economic losses to the owner. Disallows governmental taking of private property except for government use, correcting a public nuisance, or in states of emergency. Prohibits use of eminent domain for economic development purposes. The government must pay the property owner an amount greater than fair market value if necessary to place the owner in a position as if the property had not been taken.

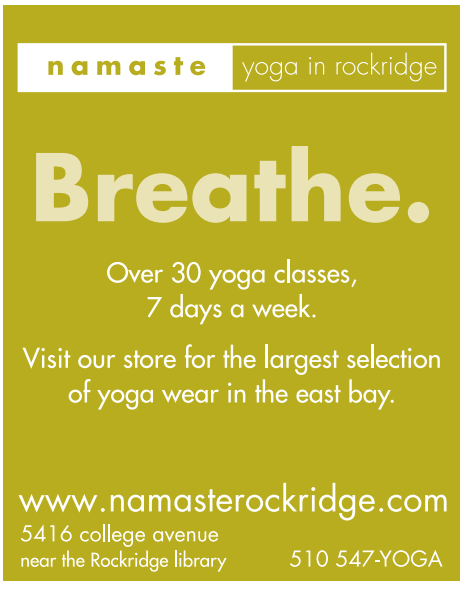
Fiscal impact from Legislative Analyst: Increased annual government costs to pay property owners for losses to their property associated with new laws or rules, and for property acquisitions. These costs are unknown, but potentially significant on a statewide basis.

Arguments for: Stops the government from taking private property and giving it to private developers. Ensures owners are fully compensated when their property is taken for government use.

Arguments against: Will lead to increased costs for California taxpayers. Enables large landowners and corporations to demand compensation from taxpayers by simply claiming a law has reduced their property values.

Compiled from: League of Women Voters Analysis of Proposition 90 (http://ca.lwv.org); http://www.smartvoter.org; California General Election Official Voter Guide (http://www.voterguide.ss.ca.gov). Assembled by staff of *The Rockridge News*. Not offered as an authoritative or complete analysis of the proposition. Not offered in support or in opposition to the proposition. RCPC has not taken a position on Proposition 90.







Local Elms Succumb to Elm Disease

by Annette Floystrup, RCPC Boardmember

Two old friends, neighborhood elm trees with Dutch Elm Disease (DED), were cut down at the end of August. These trees defined the beginning of Chabot Road above College Avenue. The race is now on to save and protect the remaining stand of elms on Chabot in the area in front of St. Albert's College. What can be done? There are positive steps available:

- Inject remaining elms with fungicide as a precaution. Bartlett Tree Experts does this in Alameda for about $485 per 30" diameter tree, measured 4½" above the ground. Treatment using Arbotect is good for 2-3 growing seasons. If DED shows up on the remaining elms and is caught early enough, the trees might also be saved through selective pruning and/or cutting out the infected portion of the cambium layer.
- Plant disease resistant elms on portions of Chabot Road with planting strips at least 3' wide to replace trees previously removed. Christopher Buckley has been donating disease resistant elms and other trees to Alameda, Oakland and Berkeley. Disease resistant elm varieties which Buckley has available include: "Patriot," "Commendation," "Triumph," "Valley Forge," and "Jefferson," all in 15- and 20-gallon containers. The last two are varieties of American elm considered DED resistant. Another elm-like tree Buckley has available is Silver Linden (Tilia tomentosa) which has been used for about 80 years in Alameda and has performed well.

Following are two websites with Dutch elm disease information: http://www.rainbowscivance.com/diseases/dutchelm.htn (a booklet entitled "diagnosis and management of Dutch Elm Disease" is available at the site); and http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_ded/ht_ded.htm

Rockridge-Elmwood Green Group Founded

by Judy Levy

Residents from the Rockridge and Elmwood districts have formed a new group whose mission is to do all we can as individuals and as a community to reduce our impact on global warming. Tentatively titled "Rockridge-Elmwood Go Green Now," the group was founded by Judy Levy and Martha Sloss, who felt a strong need to rally neighbors to take action because the environmental clock is ticking faster than most realize.

The goal is to plan ways to work together—households and businesses—to educate, provide resources, take action and document our progress.

We invite all to participate, including those who already are reducing their CO_2 footprint. We might begin by creating a checklist of ways to reduce energy consumption, including the use of more efficient lighting, appliances and solar energy.

Let's join together with a sense of urgency, local responsibility and a belief that we can all make a difference. Plan to attend the kickoff meeting and tell all your friends and neighbors to come Saturday, November 4, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. We will meet at the Rockridge Public Library, 5366 College Avenue. For more information, call 510/596-8877 or 510/386-5000.


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Photo: Don Kinkead

The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson

Says Who? Says You!

With a name like Says Who? you know there must be an interesting story to tell. Miklane Janner told me about the shopping trip she and Says Who? co-owner Susan Benson took 25 years ago. The two best friends went looking for something stylish in a larger size for Susan, and when told by one staffer that "large women aren't interested in nice clothes," Miklane replied, "Says who?" and a new store and clothing concept was born.

Miklane and Susan felt they could do a better job of providing fashionable clothing for women wearing larger sizes, and opened the first Says Who? on Telegraph Avenue 24 years ago. It still operates as their consignment and recycled clothing store called Seams To Fit, and they moved operations for new clothing to a store on Piedmont Avenue, where they remained until they lost their lease a few years ago.

The College Avenue store opened in February 2005 and will celebrate its 25th anniversary in March 2007. Miklane said when they looked at where their customers lived, they saw that many were in the Oakland-Piedmont-Berkeley area, and that Rockridge would be convenient to their long-established customer base. They found



the space near College and Chabot, painted the walls a warm tan and added Miklane's paintings and a one-of-a-kind front counter, painted with a trio of exuberant women.

Says Who? is a place for all sizes of women to shop for all-natural fiber clothing, the classic basics that you can build a wardrobe around. Clothing at Says Who? comes in both "plus" and "minus" sizes, with a focus on sizes 12 and up. Says Who? manufactures about 70% of its own clothing, primarily in Oakland, with some recent items coming from Indonesia. The owners found it difficult to source good cotton clothing in plus sizes, so they decided to make their own. These are exclusive to Says Who?, clothing you won't see anywhere else. Some of the items are one-size, like a soft, open-weave sleeveless tunic that can be worn two ways. Their clothing is known for its classic cut and beautifully dyed deep colors, and fabrics like silk dupioni and velvet burnouts. They also manufacture in unique prints, like their white jacket and shirt with a green, gold and red dragon print.

Says Who? coined the phrase "minus size" for size 12 and under, and Miklane designs the line and supervises manufacturing. They can accommodate sizes up to 4x-5x (24-26) and will make custom items on request. The basics can be adapted with a new collar, sleeves, or

Says Who?, page 13

Says Who?
5831 College Avenue
Oakland
510/547-5181
Owners Miklane Janner & Susan Benson
http://www.sayswho.com

Saleswoman Tanta Thomas welcomes customers to Says Who? at 5831 College Avenue.

Photo: Cy Gulassa

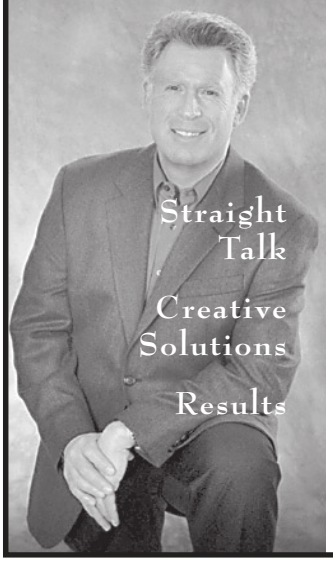
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The Rockridge Muse

by Ortrun Niesar

Rockridge Then...

To continue the discussion from last month: There is a book about Rockridge in the offing. Authors are Robin and Tom Wolf and Pat Bracewell. The book is being published by Arcadia as part of their "Images of America" series. The idea is to follow Rockridge life through the past century via anecdotes and photographic images. What they are looking for is photos, not postcards, that illustrate in a more personal way what life was really like around here in those years. While there is quite a bit of material from the more recent decades, you may have something sitting in your attic or basement from before 1970 that would help illustrate an earlier Rockridge. Robin (you can get in touch with her at 510/435-5572) will travel with portable scanner and laptop to your home or business to retrieve images. Your photos never need leave your possession.

Think Photo Topics

Here are some topics that the authors are working on at the moment. Perhaps you can help. Robin would like photos of life in the Italian community that settled here in the early 1900s. She is also looking for photos of work at the Bilger Quarry (quarry workers, equipment, the old boarding house). There used to be farms here along Miles and Chabot Roads. Does anyone have information or photos? What was Lake Temescal like before the dam was built? Does anyone remember or have photos of the 1930s mural that used to be on the wall, until the 1970s, of what is now the Rockridge Café? How about the old pharmacies and markets on College: Farley's, Mounts, Chimes, the old Safeway, and the Rockridge Saloon? Who were some of the artists and writers and other memorable characters who used to live here? Do you have photos of the original Claremont School and children attending there, pictures of parades down College Avenue in the 1940s, and the neighborhood the way it was before the freeway and BART cut through it? Does anyone have photos of the homes being moved as Shafter became part of the freeway?

Rockridge Now...

Life goes on and it is important that we keep on chronicling it for those who will come after us. Be sure to catch this year's Rockridge Photography Exhibition in the Community Gallery at the Rockridge Library. A reception for the artists is planned for October 28, 5-7 p.m. The exhibition will be up throughout the month of October, so come by to view it.

Participants:

JP Andrews
James Baldocchi
Bill Emerson
Ally Finkle
Lydia Gans
Christine Garofoli
Bill Kepner
Fredi Moehl
Suzanne Olmstead
Tassia Reoutt
Martha Snider
Wendy Wheeler
Bruce Williams

Ortrun Niesar can by reached at oniesar@sbcglobal.net or 510/652-6664. Items for the Muse must be submitted by the 10th of each month.



Buyers look for a home building site at Rock Ridge (two words) in 1910 on a tour arranged by the Laymance Real Estate Company. Prospective buyers were instructed to take the College Avenue trolley to Lawton, then walk up Lawton to Rockridge Boulevard where they would board a touring car to view lots for sale.

Photo courtesy of Oakland History Room.



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5581 Lawton Avenue	4/2	$ 1,299,000	$ 1,500,000	09/07/2006
5862 Virmar Avenue	2/2	$ 849,000	$ 849,000	09/08/2006
5585 Taft Avenue	3/1	$ 895,000	$ 895,000	09/15/2006
5306 Shafter Avenue	2/1	$749,000	$749,000	09/21/2006
5526 Taft Avenue	5/4	$1,450,000	$1,500,000	09/21/2006

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Studio One Fund-Raising

Friends and Brunner Make a Splash for Art

by Patrick Daughton

The drive to fund new furnishings for the Studio One Art Center is underway. Councilmember Jane Brunner gave a huge boost to the effort by earmarking $250,000 of the City's budget surplus for the 45th Street Studio, now being renovated.

Also, the Friends of Studio One kicked off their campaign to raise the remainder of the $330,000 goal for furnishings.

On a gorgeous Sunday afternoon in late August, in a scene reminiscent of lazy summers past, dozens of neighbors, friends of the arts and families with excited children gathered around the Temescal Pool for a fun-filled, old-fashion neighborhood pool party.

The Studio, built in 1894, was recently designated a National Historic Landmark (*The Rockridge News,* September, 2006) and is undergoing a $12 million reconstruction. Located next door to Temescal pool, the Studio's construction progress was visible from poolside.

Fresh seasonal foods, good conversation and lawn games kept many of the adults busy while attentive lifeguards watched over the shallow end of the pool, filled with happy, splashing kids. The action on the ping-pong tables was as heated as the chair massages were relaxing. In the center of it all, Studio One staff artists led children and adults through one art project after another.

Also contributing to fund-raising, the Oakland Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities awarded the Studio $27,500 for adjustable tables, a front loading kiln, easels and other equipment designed to ensure the facility is fully accessible. In addition, local developers Ron Kriss and Roy Alper (Temescal Place) pledged at least $15,000 for furnishings.

The next fund-raising event for Studio One furnishings will be a 99-cent sale of cartoon art scheduled for the first Friday in December at nearby Boontling Gallery (7-10:30 p.m., December 1, at 4224 Telegraph Avenue; 510/295-8881 or http://www.boontlinggallery.com/).

To help the fund-raising campaign reach its goal, follow construction progress or to learn more of the history of Studio One and its role in our community, call Beth Maher at 510/420-5852 or visit www.friendsofstudioone.org/.

Temescal Planning Workshop Considers Development Direction

by Jeff Norman,
Temescal District Resident

More than 50 neighbors, business owners, and developers from Temescal, Rockridge, and upper Telegraph Avenue gathered on Saturday, September 16, for a half-day workshop to discuss the kind of development they would like to see in Temescal and along Telegraph Avenue from 40th Street to Berkeley.

The workshop, part of a process convened in April by Councilmember Jane Brunner in response to neighborhood objections to the development at Telegraph and 51st Street, was preceded by two informational evenings held in July and August at which invited panelists discussed development-related issues, including community character and historical preservation, pedestrianism, public transit, and the economics of development.

Participants in the workshop broke into seven groups, each facilitated by an Oakland Planning Department staff member. Issues tackled included the appropriate height and density of new development, whether affordable housing should be included in new projects, what buildings should be preserved from demolition, how new developments can enhance open space, and architectural design standards.

Following lunch, a summary of the views developed in each break-out group was presented to the larger group. While there were strong differences of opinion on such topics as height and density, a majority wanted to see affordable housing in new developments and the city's enforcement of current setback requirements.

Based on input from the workshop, Claudia Cappio, Director of Planning, will develop detailed planning guideline options for Temescal and Telegraph Avenue that she will present to the community on Thursday, October 26, 7 p.m., at Faith Presbyterian Church (49th and Webster). The community will have an opportunity to respond to those options at the meeting, after which the planning director will develop final zoning recommendations to be brought before the City Council for adoption.

If you could not attend the workshop but want to express your views regarding density, height, setbacks, transitions from new developments to existing residential buildings, parking, design standards, buildings that you want to preserve, uses of commercial space, affordable housing, streetscape improvements, open space, or creek preservation in Temescal or for the subject area of Telegraph Avenue, send an e-mail to Councilmember Jane Brunner at jbrunner@oaklandnet.com.

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Says Who?

from page 10

different seaming or prints. The staff also works closely with customers, responding to what they'd like to see in the store. Since some of their customers have been with them for more than 20 years, and many of the staff for 10 years or more, they have strong relationships and can get sound feedback on women's preferences.

The store is organized by colors, with racks featuring purples, reds and burgundies, teals, green, black and whites, and creative prints. The wall on the right displays soft camisoles, playful sport and exercise wear, and soft cotton briefs and French-cut panties, among the bright rayon, cotton and silky scarves in a rainbow of colors.

In addition to the Says Who? line, the store carries Tianello (with items in the soft fabric Tencel), URU's line in silk, and Flax's Citron line. URU's silk jacquard jacket in a subtle floral pattern is touchable and well cut, and comes in versions with and without a collar or lapel, with matching tunics and pants in a variety of colors. The Tianello line offers clothing with a beautiful drape, like a cowl-neck top with a subtle windowpane pattern, and a buttery-soft sueded rayon print overdyed in different colors (this can also be special ordered). Ikot sarongs from Indonesia are made into unique clothing, with the sarongs cut and pieced together in a wrap coat with soft lapels. From Indonesia also comes a line of patchwork items, skirts, shorts and jackets, bright and bold and all one of a kind. The store's jewelry collection features items by local artists and consignment pieces, and offers a range of colors and styles to complement the clothing.

Miklane and Susan have been best friends now for 30 years, and not only run the business, but own a house together. Miklane described their relationship as "non-romantic significant others," and noted that their relationship was profiled in a book titled *The New Woman,* about women who are happy in ways other than traditional marriages.

Women from all walks of life can find exclusive, beautiful designs throughout Says Who? for themselves and friends. Stop in to see their unique offerings.



Chabot Elementary Fall Carnival Raises School Funds

The Chabot Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) invites the community to our Annual Fall Carnival to be held Sunday, October 29, 11-3 p.m., at the Chabot School lower playground, 6686 Chabot Road. Admission to the carnival is free; there are small fees for food and games.

Each class, Kindergarten through 5th grade, participates in the carnival by sponsoring a game booth, such as Ring Toss, Lucky Duck, Cake Walk and Bean Bag Throw, with great prizes available. There will also be arts and crafts opportunities. Food and drinks are available for purchase. Our Haunted House is not to be missed. There will be festive music and entertainment and a visit from an Oakland fire truck.

The Fall Carnival is our major community-building event as well as a wonderful fund-raising opportunity.

The Chabot PTA supports the school's music, art, garden, and computer programs, maintains the school's library, contributes to new playground facilities, and provides other improvements to our lovely school.

Bring your friends and family for a day of fun. Support Chabot Elementary School!

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Pop Singing Classes for Girls

New, eight-week session, "A Pop Xmas!" for Girls ages 8-12: Popular holiday tunes, vocal technique, group dynamics. Thursdays, 6:45-7:45, Oct. 12-Nov. 30. Performance Friday, Dec. 1. Lisa 510/653-0107.

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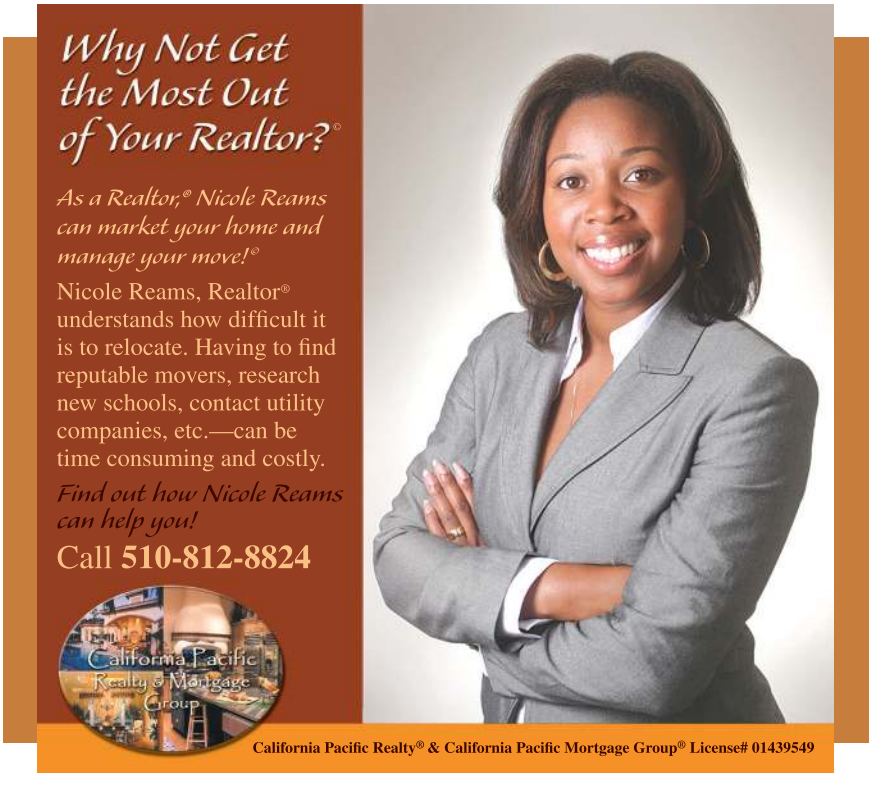
Sunday, October 15, 2 pm; Saturday, November 4th, 11 am; Saturday, November 4, 2 pm. RSVP not required. 6100 Broadway, Oakland, CA 04618. 510/652-4364. http://www.college-prep.org.

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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

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 Halloween Parade

Trick-or-Treat down College Avenue on Sunday, Oct 29, 1 to 3pm. Assemble in the Dreyers' parking lot behind 5925 College Ave. Meet with your treats in front of St John's Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Ave.; hear songs and stories and swap candy. Co-sponsored by RCPC and the Rockridge District Association (RDA). For details, or to volunteer help, see story, page 5.

Commemorate 15th Anniversary of The Oakland Firestorm

Participate in family wildfire prevention activities, smokehouse simulation, community booths, Parade of Fire Engines, Color Guard and Drumline, Smokey the Bear, Market Hall Foods and more. Hosted by the Oakland Fire Dept. and BART, with participation of more than 20 Community Wildfire Prevention Partners collaborating in the ongoing effort to prevent or respond to wildfires. Saturday, Oct. 21, 10am to 2pm, (with a Remembrance Ceremony at 12 noon), Rockridge BART station. Call: 238-7388 or www.Oaklandnet.com/WildfirePrevention.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN:

- **Toddler Story Time:** 1st and 2nd Saturdays, 10:30am: 10/7, 10/14, 11/4.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am: 10/18, 11/1.
- **Pajama Story Time:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm: 10/10, 10/24: (see special event below).

Special Events for Kids and Families:

- **Special Halloween Story Time presented by the Witches of the Rockridge Library**, followed by non-edible treats. All ages invited to come in costume. Tuesday, Oct. 24, 7pm.
- **Trick-or-Treaters:** Stop by before 8pm on Halloween, Tuesday, Oct 31, and get a treat. See you then in costume!

FOR TEENS:

- **Anime Club:** Watch and talk about new anime (Japanese animation) with other teens. 2nd Tuesday of each month from 5 to 6:30pm in the upstairs meeting room. On 10/10 we will watch *Azumanga Daioh*. For questions about this or any other teen event, call Susy, the Teen Specialist Librarian, at 597-5017.

FOR ADULTS:

- **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/).Third Saturday of the month (10/21) from 1 to 5pm. For more information: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Knitting Classes for Seniors** (50+), in collaboration with the Pleasant Valley Adult School. Instructor: Teri Barr. All levels welcome. Beginners 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.
- **Book Reading/Signing:** To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Black Panther Party, the former Minister of Information **Elbert "Big Man" Howard** will discuss the Party's history and read from his memoir: *Panther on the Prowl*. Saturday, 10/7, from 3 to 4pm.
- **Celebrate National Stamp Collecting Month: Randi Turri**, President of the East Bay Collector's Club, will give a presentation on stamp collecting. Saturday, 10/21, from 3 to 4:30pm.
- **"Positive Black Males in Literature."** Readings from their books by several authors, including **Frank Thomas Williams** and **Gary Norris Gray**. Fourteen year old **Gabriel Lambirth** will play guitar. Presented by the Black Publishers Association and the Rockridge Branch Library. Everyone is welcome to bring literature by their favorite African American male author to read from: fiction, non-fiction or poetry. Saturday, Oct 28 from 11am to 5pm in meeting room #1.
- **Rockridge-Elmwood "Go Green Now":** All welcome. Develop creative ways to take action and reduce global warming through education and shared resources. Saturday, Nov 4, 10:30am to 12:30pm. For more information call Judy Levy: 596-8877 or 386-5000.
- **Lawyers in the Library:** Free legal advice. First Tuesday of each month: 6pm to 8pm. Advance sign-up starts 5pm. **NOTE: cancelled on Tuesday, Nov 7 because of Election Day.**

ART EXHIBITS:

Gallery: October: **Rockridge Photography Exhibition; artists' reception Oct 28, 5-7pm**

Display Case: October: **Rockridge Library 10th Anniversary photos**

November: **both the Gallery and Display Case** will exhibit oils, watercolors and ceramic sculptures by the **Alvarado Art Group**.

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 Events

All events are FREE and open to the public

- Sunday, 10/8, 3pm. **Gail Sher:** *Writing the Fire*.
- Monday, 10/9, 7:30pm. **Amnesty International Meeting**. All welcome
- Thursday, 10/19, 7pm. **Chefs and owners of Doña Tomas restaurant** in the Temescal District celebrate the release of their new cookbook, *Doña Tomas*.
- Monday, 10/23, 7:30pm. **Tina Cassidy:** *Birth: the Surprising History of How We Are Born*.
- Tuesday, 10/24, 7pm. **Kate Atkinson:** *One Good Turn*.
- Friday, 10/27, 7:30pm. **Simon Winchester:** *A Crack in the Edge of the World*.
- Wednesday, 11/1, 7:30pm. **Peter Barnes:** *Capitalism 3.0*.

5433 College Ave. For more information about other events, Book Discussion Groups and El Grupito, the Spanish discussion group: 510/653-9965 or www.dieselbookstore.com.

Chabot Elementary Fall Carnival

Fun for everyone: game booths, great prizes, arts and crafts opportunities, haunted house, entertainment. Food and drink available. Fundraiser/community building event by the PTA supports music, art, garden, school library and other school improvements. Sunday, Oct 29, 11am-3pm on the lower yard of Chabot School, 6686 Chabot Road. (at Patton St.). For more info: Tamara Morrish, 653-1180 or tamara@secventures.com.

Independent Institute Policy Forum

"The Reality and Legacy of the Iraq War," featuring journalist **Mark Danner**, author of *The Secret Way to War: The Downing Street Memo*, and national security expert **Ivan Eland,** author of *The Empire Has No Clothes: U.S. Foreign Policy Exposed*. Topics include long-term implications of U.S. policies in the region and its effects on domestic politics throughout the Muslim world; global jihad; oil prices and the U.S. economy. Tuesday, Oct 17. Reception at 6:30pm; program at 7pm followed by Q & A. The Independent Institute Conference Center, 100 Swan Way. For information and ticket reservations call 632-1366, or order online: www.independent.org/events/detail.asp?eventID=122.

College Prep School Open House

Meet faculty and students to discuss academic and co-curricular programs. Refreshments served and admissions/financial aid materials available. Sunday, Oct 15 at 2pm and Saturday, Nov 4 at 11am and at 2pm. At the College Preparatory School, 6100 Broadway. For more information call Katherine Day Hase at 420-2351 or www.college-prep.org.

Benefit: East Bay Humane Society

Purr-casso Art Sale and Gala. Cat-themed art sale featuring decorative, wearable and functional art pieces celebrating our feline friends. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages served. Free parking and admission. Sunday, Nov 5, 12 noon to 5pm at the Hollis Street Project, Grand Hallway, 5900 Hollis Street, Emeryville. For more information call 845-7735 x 13 or www.berkeleyhumane.org.

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.

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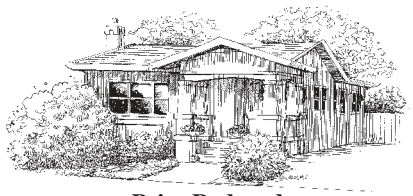
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