THE Rockridge News
20th Year
www.rockridge.org
VOL. 21 ■ NO. 11 ■ ISSUE NO. 229 ■ December 2, 2006 ■ CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES
Sponsored by The Rockridge Community Planning Council • 5245 College Ave. PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94618 • 869-4200

Rumors Abound Regarding Fate of Albertsons Site

Possible uses for former Albertsons include Ross Dress for Less, Trader Joe's, condos.

by Michael McDonald, RCPC Board Member, Land Use Committee

As of December 1, Mark Koenig of Terranomics, the real estate broker representing the College Avenue Albertsons site, confirmed that the Albertsons property was "in contract to be purchased," but would not comment on the identity of the potential new owner, nor would he comment on the prospective buyer's type of business.

Koenig's office further stated that there had been overwhelming interest in the College Avenue site from national and regional retailers, real estate investors of all types and housing and mixed use developers. Given the potential value of this site, and several other Bay Area Albertsons sites, Terranomics chose not to put an asking sales price on the site, but rather solicited bids from interested parties that were due in early August of this year.

Since the Albertsons site became available earlier this year, speculation as to who might take over the site has run wild in the community. Rumors include Trader Joe's, Ross "Dress for Less," and a mixed-use housing/retail development. In July, a meeting hosted by RCPC about the potential future of the site attracted a large attendance and responses from more than 200 Rockridge residents and community leaders who provided dozens of suggestions for the site's use.

In early November, students from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business and the Goldman School of Public Policy, working on a hypothetical development assignment for a class, met with the RCPC Land Use Committee, community residents and a representative from Councilmember Jane Brunner's office, and separately with local real estate developer Ron Kriss, to share their ideas for a mixed use housing/retail project for the site. In a presentation of the class project, UC Berkeley graduate students Joseph Wright, Jean Shia, and Elizabeth Kelly suggested the site might be ideal for an upscale mixed use housing and retail development with as many as 85 apartments or condominiums and 10,000 square feet of retail. Based on meetings with the community, the UC Berkeley

Koenig stated an announcement...was expected within 30 days, and that he felt "the community would be pleased."

Albertsons, page 3

EBMUD Calls for Water Conservation As Tunnel Bypass Enters Final Stage

by Claire Isaacs Wahrhaftig

Starting immediately, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) officials are requesting that water users north of Highway 24 reduce their use of water voluntarily by 10% daily, due to an operational adjustment during the final stage of building the new tunnel. In fact, water is not in short supply — reservoirs are full — but connecting the new bypass requires that the tunnel be closed until March, 2007. During that time, workers will drill through an additional 30 feet to reroute future water flow into the new bore.



Water Tunnel. Photo from EBMUD Web site.

Known as the bypass, this new bore replaces the one directly on the Hayward Fault and most prone to damage in the event of an earthquake. Built to the latest seismic standards, the new bypass was needed because supporting timbers in the old tunnel were too far apart for stability, and the tunnel had separated from the original bore by as much as five feet in places. These conditions made collapse probable in an earthquake.

Engineers have shored up the entire length of the 3.4-mile tunnel from near Orinda, but the

EBMUD Progress, page 4

RCPC Opens New Year with Planning Meeting

by Jessica Pitt, Chair, RCPC

On Thursday, January 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rockridge Library, RCPC will hold its third annual community planning meeting, which will provide an opportunity for Rockridge residents to express views on what the Board's priorities ought to be for the coming year. The community's suggestions will be incorporated

Planning, page 3

ROCKRIDGE SCHOOL EVENTS AND REPORTS

Chabot Elementary Carnival a Big Success

Chabot Elementary's Fall Carnival on October 29 was a big success, thanks to great weather, great enthusiasm and spectacular attendance.

We'd like to thank everyone in the community for supporting us, and hope that those of you who came had a wonderful time. We exceeded our fundraising target for this PTA community building event, which supports enrichment programs at the school for Art, Music, Technology, Library, Garden and Spanish programs to 500 Chabot students.

For those of you who missed it, mark your calendars for October 21 next year, when the Chabot Fall Carnival will return, better than ever.

For questions about this event or about Chabot's fundraising efforts or programs, contact Tamara Morrish at 205-6971 or tamara@secventures.com.

Chabot School Offers a Special Musical Treat

Join us in the Chabot Elementary School Auditorium on Friday evening, December 8 at 7 p.m., for a concert by Corinne West and the Posse.

This is a rare opportunity for an intimate encounter with this rising star and her talented band members, who have been making a buzz locally and nationally on the American/folk/bluegrass scene. The concert will be a family event that will raise funds for Chabot's enrichment programs, which provide Art, Music, Library, Technology, Garden and Spanish classes to Chabot students.

To learn more about the musicians, visit http://www.corinnesmusic.com. Visit our website at www.chabotelementary.org for a ticket order form. Tickets are $12 for adults, $6 for kids.

For more information, contact Karen Cheever at 910-0826 or chuckcheev@sbcglobal.net.

College Preparatory Students Excell in Scholarship Competition

Dr. Murray Cohen of the College Preparatory School recently announced that 23 members of the class of 2007 have been named semi-finalists and 33 as commended students in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Competition. In addition, four members have been recognized by the National Achievement for Black Americans, and four as honorable mentions and scholars by the National Hispanic Recognition Program. These students represent seventy percent of the College Prep class of 2007.

"The National Merit Program is important to all juniors and seniors in high school," said Martin Bonilla, CPS Director of College Counseling. Semi-finalists will enter into competition for scholarships to be granted next spring. The awards will help finance their college careers."

As National Merit semi-finalists, these exceptional students placed among the top 1% of California high-school students who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in their junior year



ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY

5366 College Avenue
597-5017
HOURS:
Mon, Tues: 12:30 – 8 p.m.
Weds, Thurs, Sat: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
Closed Sundays, and closed 12/25 and 1/1/07
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.

***Rockridge News* Production**

Cy Gulassa ..... Editor
Janet Somers ..... Copy Editor
Ortrun Niesar ..... The Muse
Claire Isaacs Wahrhaftig .... Writer
Barry Kaufman ..... Food
Jo Ellis ..... Advertising & Community Calendar
Theresa Nelson ..... Neighborhood Merchant
Lydia Gans ..... Photography
Susan Montauk ..... Business Manager
Don Kinkead ..... Graphics & Layout

RCPC Board of Directors, 2006-2007

Jessica Pitt ..... Chair
Mike Taylor ..... Vice-Chair
Janelle Cavanagh and Gloria Bruce ..... Co-Secretaries
Susan Montauk ..... Treasurer

Gloria Bruce, Janelle Cavanagh, Kent Deverell, Jennifer Edmister, Annette Floystrup, Cy Gulassa, Albert Hussian, Hiroko Kurihara, Mike McDonald, Steve Meyer, Stephanie Upp

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

To subscribe to ***The Rockridge News***, send your check for $20, payable to *Rockridge News* Subscriptions, to: *Rockridge News* Subscriptions at the address below.

CONTACTING *THE ROCKRIDGE NEWS*

- Are there community issues you'd like to see covered in ***The Rockridge News***?
- Do you have questions about newsletter distribution?
- 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

Articles published in *The Rockridge News* may be reprinted only with the permission of the Editor.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING/DEADLINES

Publication date of the next issue is
- **January 6, 2006**
- **January deadline is December 21.**

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, page 14.)*

Planning

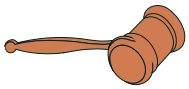
from page 1

into RCPC's annual strategic plan at its retreat in late January.

The meeting will also be an opportunity to update community members on the work of RCPC's committees over the past year. You will hear about important developments around traffic and pedestrian safety, plans for improving the area under-BART, and our efforts to redesign the RCPC website so that it becomes a valuable portal for information, news, and activities in Rockridge.

In 2007, RCPC plans to launch a new capital improvements campaign, with the goal of investing small amounts of money in capital improvement projects around the neighborhood, such as helping restore the pillars at the entrance to Birch Court. Please come with your ideas and suggestions for capital improvement projects that RCPC might take on. We will develop a list of priority projects and incorporate as many as we can into our annual budget.

We hope you can join us for this important meeting. We greatly value the input of community members and look forward to hearing your priorities for Rockridge in 2007.



Albertsons

from page 1

team is currently updating their project and findings and plan to forward a copy of their class project results to the RCPC Land Use Committee and Brunner's office. Their scenario may be helpful in thinking about best uses for the Albertsons site.

Terranomics' Koenig did state that an announcement as to the new owner was expected within 30 days, and that he felt that "the community would be pleased." RCPC will continue to monitor and report progress on this important community issue. RCPC is considering potential negotiation points based on how the community might respond to the new owner, once announced. For updates, read *The Rockridge News* and visit the RCPC website at www.rockridge.org. To be notified of updates via e-mail, send a request to Hiroko Kurihara, Chair, RCPC Land Use Committee, at h2Oakland@sbcglobal.net.

RCPC Seeks Web Designer

RCPC is redesigning its website. If you are a Rockridge resident with the right skills, please view the Request for Proposals at http://www.rockridge.org/.



Greetings, best wishes and happy holidays from the Board of the Rockridge Community Planning Council.

For well over 20 years, the Rockridge Community Planning Council has worked to preserve and enhance the unique character of Rockridge, promote the safety and security of residents, and assure strong representation in public forums. We are pleased to carry on that tradition of leadership, one that helped create our library, parks, friendly neighborhoods and walkable streets lined with fine shops and restaurants. Let us know what you think is best for Rockridge by reading *The Rockridge News* and attending our Town Hall meetings.

The Board— ***Front row, from left:*** Steve Meyer, Gloria Bruce, Susan Montauk, Albert Hussian, Hiroko Kurihara, Kent Deverell, Janelle Cavanagh. ***Back row:*** Jessica Pitt, Jennifer Edmister, Stephanie Upp, Annette Floystrup, Mike McDonald, Mike Taylor.

Small Office Specialists

GALVINS Workspace Furniture
WWW.GALVINS.COM

For a kitchen, *consult a kitchen expert.*
For a closet, *find a closet designer.*
For your office, *come to us.*

5933 College Ave. (off Claremont) Oakland, 510-654-9500
1265 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City, 650-365-7800

Changes on College

by Theresa Nelson

December 2006

New Stores & Restaurants

Habit
Women's Clothing and Accessories
5467 College Avenue

Favor
Handmade sterling silver
and acrylic jewelry
Caramia Visick, owner
5337 College Avenue
510/653-2741 or 888/653-2741
www.shopatfavor.com

Recapture Vintage Bridal
5405 College Avenue
510/530-5828

Shuz of Rockridge
(formerly Birkenstock Connection)
European fashion comfort shoes for
men, women and children
John Riker, owner
6012 College Avenue
510/658-9742

Somerset Restaurant
American comfort food
Lunch & dinner, brunch on Sundays
Gary Rizzo, owner
5912 College Avenue
510/428-1823

Closed

Soirée
5405 College Avenue

Grasshopper Restaurant
6317 College Avenue

Swallowtail Antiques
5332 College Avenue

Moved

Purple Pepper Pizza
Now at 4496 Broadway

EBMUD Progress

from page 1

final 1,500 foot portion in Oakland has been completely replaced. The water tunnel, built in 1929, serves 800,000 people daily from Crockett to Castro Valley, according to Charles Hardy, EBMUD public relations representative. The upgrade is funded by a $37-million bond issue, part of a ten-year, $100-million seismic upgrade following post Loma Prieta studies of the District's system weaknesses.

During this final stage of construction, the public is asked to observe a modest voluntary reduction in water use by 10%, by means of simple measures like:

- Turning off irrigation clocks and timers, irrigating less frequently
- Fixing toilet leaks; replacing loose flappers
- Washing cars at commercial car washes, which recycle water
- Substituting a broom for the hose in washing down driveways.

The goal is to reduce winter use from about 80 million to 72 million gallons per day in the areas from Emeryville, including Rockridge, to Crockett. During past winter closures, it was possible to reroute supply through auxiliary systems in case of an emergency in the overall system. However, until March, the engineers and workers will be connecting the new bypass and shutting down the old tunnel, a complicated operation that cannot be interrupted even during an emergency. Reducing the water flow by 10% will ensure a margin of safety against the need to rely on a temporary auxiliary system during the closure and startup of the new bypass.

"EBMUD's Seismic Improvement Program is a model for planning ahead and protecting the community," said William B. Patterson, president of the EBMUD Board of Directors. "Most of the work is done; now we need this group of customers to come through for all of us so we can be safe in the event of an earthquake."

For further information, call EBMUD at 287-1038.

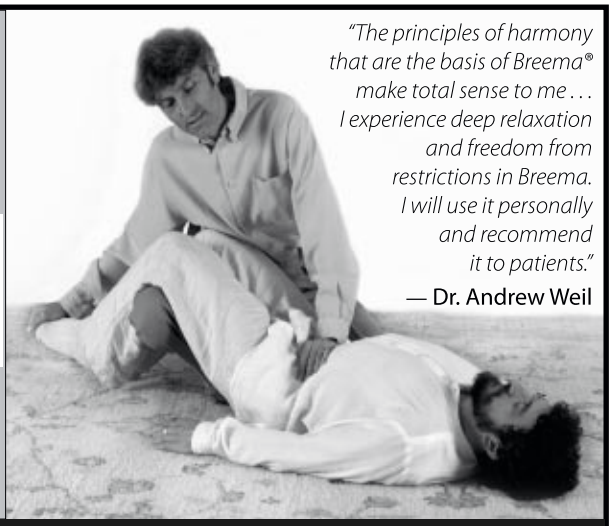
Rebecca Lueck, LCSW
Individual and Family Counseling
(415) 235-1071
Located at College and Alcatraz
Treating relationship issues, anxiety, depression, panic disorders, childhood trauma, grief, infertility and adoption, and addictions.
Sliding scale : Insurance accepted

Special programs for relief of:
- ***Low-back pain***
- ***Neck/shoulder pain***

The Breema Clinic
428-1234
6201 Florio Street
@ College & Claremont

- **OPEN HOUSE**, Dec. 6, 6-8pm
- Open Monday–Saturday
- Intro sessions only $35

www.breemahealth.com



"The principles of harmony that are the basis of Breema® make total sense to me . . . I experience deep relaxation and freedom from restrictions in Breema. I will use it personally and recommend it to patients."
— Dr. Andrew Weil

Jon Schreiber, D.C., Director • In Rockridge since 1981

Helping Our Feathered Friends Survive Winter in Rockridge

by Annette Floystrup

Once again we are rushing headlong into winter, and that can mean food shortages for our friends the garden birds. While you are providing for your family's holiday meals, take a moment to consider adding a bird feeder or two to your garden. They also make wonderful holiday gifts!

Ground Feeders

Enough seed always hits the ground to provide good sustenance for the Oregon juncos, those lovely little black-hooded birds with white chests and russet backs. We are also seeing the usual army of mourning doves in their elegant pearly taupe finery. These are locally plentiful (they clutch six times a year), but rapidly disappearing elsewhere. We have finally gotten some white-crowned and yellow-crowned sparrows, who also eat from the ground. Flocks of house finches and sparrows are often mutually exclusive because they are highly competitive for space (turf wars are not limited to humans). Ours tend to hang out at different ends of the house.

Insect Eaters

Last winter, with its heavy rains, was a wonderful opportunity to see many different species of birds, especially for backyard birders who put out a variety of bird foods. The almost unrelenting rains made finding suitable food difficult for many birds, especially the insect eaters who had to fill their protein requirements hampered by having evolved with beaks quite unsuited to cracking seeds. We bought a special seed mix with shelled sunflower and peanut chips, that allowed them to get the protein and fat from these oily seeds, as most insects don't fly in the rain.

We have a repeat visitor from last year, a spectacular Townsend's warbler. With his distinctive yellow head marked with a long black cap, black "Zorro" eye mask and throat and a yellow and black streaked belly, he adds real pizazz to the winter garden. This is the second warbler species I've seen at my house this winter, the other being the Audubon's or yellow-rumped warbler. The yellow-rumps were flying for insects against a warm wall just after a bad rain, but the Townsend's was eating the shelled sunflower chips in my seed mix.

Suet feeders are also invaluable sources of fuel for insect eaters and others on those cold days and nights, and our suet cakes are actively visited by red-breasted nuthatches and chestnut-backed chickadees, with Oregon juncos happily eating what hits the ground.

Bird Feeder Regulars

Our three thistle feeders are positioned around the yard and one is designed exclusively for goldfinches. Among the finches, goldfinches are the only ones capable of feeding in the upside-down position, which is quite entertaining. We are attracting all kinds of finches including American goldfinches, pine siskins, and house finches.

Finches are fun to watch; they arrive in crowds (often as many as 10 to 30) and some are also very colorful. They range in size from 4½ to 6 inches. The American goldfinches are in their winter olive drabs with black wings barred in white, but some of them are already starting their transition to bright lemon yellow with black markings.

House finches are attracted to regular seed mix, which includes red and white millet, and really love hulled sunflower seed and peanut chips. This tasty mixture brings chestnut-backed chickadees, plain titmice (all gray with pointed head caps), and the occasional Bewick's wren (say "Buick") as well. These perky little brown wrens have long white eyebrows, white underparts and the characteristically entertaining stubby tail which points straight up and bobs and flicks with every movement.

Sugar is Sweet

Hummingbirds often have a tough time in the cold of winter. They are the Ferraris of the small bird world, with feul consumption requirements to match. In Rockridge, we typically see the Anna's Hummingbird which lives here year round. Fairly large as hummingbirds go, the Anna's is about 4" long and a beautiful green on its back with a rose-red head that can appear black in

Birds in Winter, page 10



Cooper's hawks usually stick to riparian areas and forest edges. A garden usually filled with birdcalls can be eerily silent when this predator is around.

PHOTO: FROM "ALL ABOUT BIRDS," CORNELL UNIVERSITY. ©MARIE READ

What's Your Home Worth?
Call Me for an Opinion of Value
Fatima N. Ali
510/845-0211
E-MAIL: Buyali@aol.com
Prudential California Realty



Mon – Fri 9:30 – 6:00
Sat 9:30 – 5:00
CHIMES PHARMACY
Serving Rockridge Since 1909
3210 College Avenue
Near Alcatraz
652-1990



Visit our store for the largest selection of yoga wear in the East Bay
YOGA
GIFT CERTIFICATES
AVAILABLE
namaste yoga in rockridge
Happy Holidays from Namaste
www.namasterockridge.com
5416 college avenue • 510 547-YOGA

a cross-cultural congregation striving to partner with the Rockridge community in lifestyle and service.
College Avenue Presbyterian Church
5951 College Avenue, Oakland 510 658-3665
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM • VISIT: CAPCCHURCH.ORG
OUR WONDERFUL COMMUNITY MEAL, FRIDAYS, 6-7PM
A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE



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.*

Vandals Come in All Sizes

Unfortunately, vandalism isn't just for kids on College Avenue anymore; adults are getting into the act, and it reflects badly on our community.

Many sidewalk repairs are being done on the Avenue to repair damage from street tree roots. Work crews expect that newly poured concrete will attract little fingers, and they do their best to see to it that their hard work is not defaced. But they don't expect adults to ignore safety barricades and temporary sidewalks to deliberately walk through a job site, or worse yet, roll a stroller through it.

In two recent incidents, College Avenue pedestrians showed a total disregard for the highly skilled cement workers and their work, caused extra work for the crews, and aroused the contempt of the crew foreman.

In the first incident, two fathers with small children sat down on the curb and proceeded to write their kids' names in the wet cement with their coffee stirrers. When challenged, they defended their actions, and huffed off with a few well-chosen expletives.

My question: what were they teaching their children about treatment of others' property? Or respect for the work of others?

The second incident involved two women who ignored both the safety barriers and all pleas to stop, and walked through the job site across hardening cement. This generated a good bit of work for the crews to repair the damage, after they had just put in 7 hours to do a job they could be proud of.

Ladies, I salute you! Nice sense of entitlement, and way to go to promote goodwill toward our community.

I hope that in the future we can be more respectful of everyone's hard work.

— Annette Floystrup



"Come Home to Claremont House"

4500 Gilbert St.
Oakland
(Piedmont / Rockridge Area)

RCFE #011440829



Claremont House
Independent & Assisted Living

Month to Month Rentals | Housekeeping
Active Social Calendar | Full Laundry Service
Adult Education Programs | Compassionate 24 hr Staffing
Transportation Services | Walking Distance to Shops
Fine Dining | Dynamic Enrichment Program

www.crmscommunities.com **(510) 658-9266**

Experience Corps: Older Adults Help Transform Oakland Schools

by Jessica Bullen, Experience Corps Field Manager

Over the past year-and-a-half, a dedicated force of local older adults has begun transforming the culture of designated Oakland schools. Through participation in Experience Corps Bay Area, a nonprofit, community-based organization geared to matching adults 55 years and older with public school youth as tutors and mentors, volunteers have not only enhanced academic and emotional support for local schoolchildren, but have added an intergenerational feel to school culture.

During the 2005-2006 academic year, 17 volunteers at two North Oakland Elementary School sites provided over 2,200 hours of tutoring and mentoring assistance. The results of their efforts were very encouraging; 9 out of 10 teachers said they were "extremely satisfied" with the work of the Experience Corps Volunteers, and reported "significant" to "extremely significant" academic improvement by students tutored by Experience Corps volunteers.

Experience Corps, a national organization, has been in the Bay Area since 1999 and in Oakland since 2005. While all Experience Corps programs follow an innovative team-based model which highlights quality training, each Experience Corps site adapts to its surrounding community. Experience Corps is looking for more older adults to join our existing three north and east Oakland teams, or help pioneer teams at new expansion sites in January. If you or someone you know would like more information, please contact Jessica Bullen, Experience Corps Oakland Field Manager, at 510/495-4966 or jbullen_ec@yahoo.com.

What's New at Curves?

New Owners!
New Look!
New Circuit!
New Hours!



Now we are open 7 days a week!
Bring this ad and get the rest of the year *FREE! !**

Curves

(510) 655-8808
Rockridge Market Hall's Lower Level
Free Parking & Bart

Curves.com

*New Members only. Offer based on first visit enrollment minimum 12 mo. cd program.
Not valid with any other offers. Valid in participating locations only. Offer expires 12/31/06.

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 and Frog Steering Committee Member

As you read in *The Rockridge News* last month, the FROG Park Re-Opening Celebration was a huge success and lots of fun. Since the re-opening, the park has been packed with families enjoying the tables and benches at Lily Pad Plaza, the swings and all the other wonderful additions and improvements. Thanks again to all who made Phase II happen.

2007 Kick-Off Meeting

On Thursday, January 11, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Rockridge Library, bring your ideas, questions and enthusiasm to the annual FROG Park kick off meeting which will focus on setting priorities for 2007. Current priorities being discussed include:

- a public restroom at Hardy Park
- extension of the greenbelt along Highway 24 to the BART parking lot
- co-promotions with the Farmer's Market at the DMV parking lot
- improving the Creek flow
- working together with the Hardy Park Dog Park owner's group for improvements.

If you can't make the meeting, but want to contribute ideas or have questions about how to get involved, email nelsontm@pacbell.net

Donor Recognition Letters

If you were one of the many generous neighbors who donated $250 or more to the Phase I or Phase II campaigns, you will be receiving a letter and a form acknowledging your donation and showing exactly how your recognition will be printed on the Donor Kiosk signs. Please note that we will need you to review, sign and return the form to us along with any changes you want made in the way your acknowledgement will be printed. Those we don't hear back from will have their recognition printed as we have it. If you have questions or want to make your response via email, you may do so to: frogdonor@yahoo.com

Thanks to those who helped with kiosk construction:

Mike McDonald
Michael Lyons
Fernado Sorto
Mauricio Argueta of the McDonald Construction Team
Ian Read of Level 4 Studio,
and neighbors Barney Smits
Jeff Clapp, and Jimmy Pederson

Newly constructed kiosks in FROG Park



PHOTO: CY GULASSA

BEYOND the PALE
COLOR AND INTERIOR CONSULTATION
JODY STEVENS
w. 510.595.1587 m. 510.681.6035



Lexine Alpert
WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY
510 547-4807
WWW.LEXINESWEDDINGPHOTOS.COM

Norman H. Burg, DDS
General Dentistry
(510) 652-1517
5700 Broadway, Oakland
A Prevention Oriented Practice

INSIDEOUT
architecture | interiors | landscape
Based here in Rockridge, we specialize in:
- Architectural remodels/additions
- Gardens/outdoor spaces
- New construction

www.AboutInsideOut.com 510.655.7674

2006 — A Banner Year for Library Friends

by John Gussman,
Friends of the Rockridge Library

For the Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL), 2006 was a time for celebrating past achievements, and for pressing ahead with new enhancements to the Rockridge Library and its offerings.

The peak of the FORL year was the public event held in early September, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Rockridge Library in its permanent home at College and Manila (see the October issue of *The Rockridge News*). In the run-up to the event, the FORL board was working at full throttle, but with good results: the event was declared a definite success by all who took part.

The anniversary event gave renewed impetus to FORL's long-term efforts to promote and enhance the Rockridge Library. These include helping to build the Rockridge Library's permanent collection, upgrading the library's grounds and landscaping, replacing worn-out library furnishings and inadequate equipment, and, in other ways, bringing this valuable neighborhood resource to its fullest luster.

In recent years, FORL has devoted special attention to helping build the Library's reference collection. In 2006, FORL's contributions to this effort have taken the form of a new *Encyclopædia Britannica* and two large atlases, including the new Oxford *Atlas of North America*. (Among the earlier FORL gifts are other major, multi-volume reference sets — including the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the *Dictionary of National Biography*, and the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* — and two full sets of the NOLO Press legal self-help books.)



FORL is now branching out in the area of collection development, with a gift to the library to help build the holdings of quality audiobooks on CD. The nearly 30 titles to be acquired — all in high-grade "library editions" — include a number of prize-winning novels, memoirs, and works of history, ranging from Philip Roth's *The Plot Against America* and Edward P. Jones's *The Known World*, to Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*, and David McCullough's *1776*, as well as some of the popular historical novels by Patrick O'Brian. Several of the books are read aloud by the authors themselves; the rest are read by talented actors. The new audiobooks will begin to appear on the "Hot Picks" shelf at the library early in 2007.

During the past year, FORL also continued with its long-term effort to improve and care for the library's grounds and landscaping. This is a two-pronged effort, which involves pruning and weeding the existing landscaping, as well as selective installations of new ornamental rocks and shrubs. FORL's Landscape Committee has begun working closely with a new and energetic maintenance team from the Oakland Department of Public Works (Clinton Pugh and Oscar Smith, Sr.). As a result of this collaboration, the landscaping that FORL helped to install in 2004 (funded through a special donation from the Rockridge Women's Club) received its first full-scale maintenance.

Another ongoing FORL effort has been to fund and assist with the repair, refinishing, and replacement of key library furnishings. FORL was active in this area during 2006 — for example, replacing the library's large comfortable armchairs in the Reading Circle (special thanks to FORL Treasurer Phil Fitzwater for a private donation). Recently the board voted to fund an upgrading of the musical CD storage, to permit easier browsing.

In 2006, as in prior years, FORL funded a position for a summer intern from Oakland Technical High School to help the librarians manage the Summer Reading Game for children. FORL also renewed its funding for key subscriptions which are beyond the scope of the library's regular periodicals budget, such as *The New York Times*, *The*

Library Friends, page 9





Become a Friend of the Rockridge Library!

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ e-mail _____

Enclosed is my check for:

❑ Family Donation ..... $35. ❑ Student or Senior_____$15.

❑ Individual Donation..... $25. ❑ Business Donation ___ $250.

❑ I would like to make a special contribution of $ _____

❑ My employer will match my contribution.

Please make checks payable to FORL and mail to:
Friends of the Rockridge Library, 5245 College Avenue #311, Oakland, CA 94618.

Federal Tax ID #94-3011284

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

Library Friends

from page 8

Economist, the *New York Review of Books*, *Art in America*, *Morningstar*, *BARRON'S*, and *ValueLine*.

In 2007, FORL plans to move forward on various fronts, both old and new. The board is currently looking into options for improving the library's climate control and ventilation system. Persons with relevant technical expertise, who would be willing to help in this process, are urged to contact the FORL Chair, Jennifer Vetter, at jrvetter@comcast.net.

FORL's ability to assist the Rockridge Library, at the level described in this article, depends on donations from members and the public. Donations are tax-deductible. If you would like to donate to FORL — and especially if you enjoyed the September event — please use the form on the previous page, or contact Jennifer Vetter at the above e-mail address.

New Urban Cohousing Development Proposed for Temescal Area

by Karen Hester

After seven or eight years of fruitless attempts to find an appropriate site for a new cohousing group, members of the East Bay Cohousing umbrella group have located a wonderful site in North Oakland's Temescal neighborhood and will partner with a local development team to build a 27- to 30-unit new community just north of where Claremont and Telegraph intersect.

North Oakland Cohousing should be completed and ready to move into during the first quarter of 2009. This is a rare opportunity to be part of the first East Bay cohousing community to be developed in six years, and it is likely to be the last one for a long time to come. Cohousers who join at the beginning stage will be able to select unit sizes and prices.

If successful, the project will join with the smaller communities of Temescal Commons Cohousing near 42nd and Telegraph and Temescal Creek Cohousing, near 45th and Broadway, to create the epicenter of cohousing in the United States.

Cohousing communities combine the advantages of private homes with the benefits of more sustainable living, including shared common facilities and ongoing connections with neighbors. These intentional neighborhoods, created and managed by residents, offer an innovative solution to today's environmental and social challenges. (http://cohousing.org)

Green building practices will be emphasized, and the design and size of the units and the common house will be determined by the group in workshops with the architects; individual units are likely to range from studio apartments to 3-4 bedrooms, with common space for community meals, outdoor patios, children's play, guests, laundry, and workshop.

Contact Karen Hester for details about the project and if you have interest in becoming a member: 510/654-6346, karen@hesternet.net, or http://www.northoaklandcohousing.org.


Rockridge Resident

YOU MAY LIVE 30 YEARS PAST RETIREMENT.

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Leila S. Gough, Associate Vice President-Investments
1999 Harrison, Suite 2050 • Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 452-8060
www.agedwards.com/fc/leila.gough

A.G. EDWARDS℠
FULLY INVESTED IN OUR CLIENTS℠

2004 A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. • Member SIPC

[24778-v1-0668]RP-260-0805



piedmont dental BY DESIGN
Dale Herrero, DDS & Jill Martenson, DDS

"Hi Jenner here...look how big my baby sister Erin is getting...and she already has two teeth! Mommy is so excited and already brushing them!"

Call today for $187 New Patient Special: includes comprehensive exam, digital full mouth x-rays, study models (if needed), Smile Vision® evaluation, and cleaning ($600 value).

t 510 652 2911
f 510 652 0772

1331 GRAND AVENUE PIEDMONT CA 94610
piedmontdentalbydesign.com

More Classifieds

from page 14

Home Repair Expert

Carpentry, remodeling. Doors and windows, glass and locks, small electrical, plumbing jobs, drywall, painting, fences, decks and other odd jobs. Good rates. Rick 510/464-5934.

Jazz & Classical Piano Lessons

Rockridge jazz pianist with UC Berkeley music B.A. offers lessons in jazz, blues, classical, music theory, ear-training, technique. Experienced, patient teacher, all ages/levels. Janet 653-6783.

Feet Wanted! Relax, Restore, Rebound

Give yourself a gift and help me get certified in Reflexology. Free 1-hour sessions (donations gladly accepted). Pass the word to co-workers, family and friends. Near Rockridge BART. 510/601-0614 missjones@dotcomdetox.com.

Birds in Winter

from page 5

some light. A hummingbird feeder is an endless source of entertainment. Males are highly competitive and will dive in death-defying plunges from great heights, only to pull up in a sharp U-turn at the last possible moment. This is both courtship and fighting behavior. If you do put out a hummingbird feeder, remember to change it often and keep it very clean. Hummers are easily poisoned by mold toxins. An easy recipe for sugar syrup is 1 part sugar to 4 parts water, mixed until the sugar is disolved and then brought to a boil in the microwave for food safety. Cool and set out and in a few days, you will have these beautiful visitors to enjoy as well.

Unusual Visitors

Early this fall, we had a second apperance of juvenile Cooper's hawks (http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/, then click on "Alphabetical"). We had a single juvenile a few years ago, but this year there were two. They announced themselves with sharp "*kek kek*" feeding calls that sent all the songbirds in the area into hiding. A garden usually filled with birdcalls can be eerily silent when this predator is around.

Cooper's hawks usually stick to riparian areas and forest edges. We live close to one of the few open areas of Temescal Creek, and there are many oaks and redwoods in the immediate area; perfect for this hunter.

This hawk is an Accipiter, a genus of bird that hunts with short bursts of speed, often chasing a songbird through tree branches and brush in a sprint. Eighty percent of their food is songbirds; the balance is small mammals. Our juveniles were just learning to hunt completely on their own, so they seemed to take more rodents than songbirds. We noticed a marked decrease in rodent activity in the ivy at St. Albert's next to our fence, so they probably had an impact on that population.

Natural Rodent Control

Apropos of natural rodent control, many raptors, including owls, make rodents their primary diet, but they have a grave enemy in human beings who use poison to control rodent populations. Poisoned rats and mice become food for these natural pest controllers, and the rat poison kills these magnificent birds.

In California there is a strong effort to repopulate the state with Barn Owls, (http://www.hungryowl.org) and our neighboring city, Berkeley, has made the Barn Owl its city bird. There is a grassroots organization, Hungry Owl Project, dedicated to helping these sweet faced birds in urban areas, and in Berkeley the group Keep Barn Owls in Berkeley (www.KBOIB.org) has formed to distribute information about these helpful birds. You can get directions for building an owl box from them or the Hungry Owl Project. Owl boxes DO usually get an occupant within a year or two, so this is a very rewarding project to do for your garden habitat.

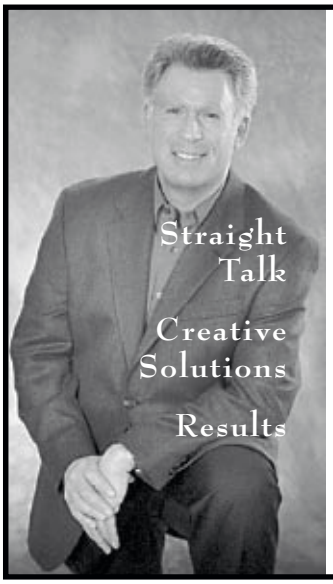
Rockridge has traditionally been home to a variety of raptors including the Great Horned Owl, with its signature "*who who*" call. This bird is not seen as often as heard, and perches in tall pines and redwoods in the daytime. One of the eeriest and most wonder-inspiring life events one can experience is having an owl glide past one in the night. Their flight is utterly silent due to their fluffy feathers, and their passage is more felt than seen.

Want to See More Pictures?

The Rockridge Library has field guides, encyclopedias and other books just about birds. Guides by the Audubon Society and Roger Tory Peterson are the classics to start from. Our local bookstores, Diesel and Pendragon carry many bird books both new and used. In addition, there are many wonderful websites about birds, including the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology where you can hear the birds as well as read about them. Search online at the library for keywords birds, wild birds, and bird feeding to get started. Happy discoveries.

GARDEN CLEANERS
$5 FREE DRYCLEANING with garment orders over $28
or $3 OFF orders over $15
Dry Cleaning only ☛ Present with incoming order
EXPERT SHIRT LAUNDERING!
Garden Cleaners
5808 College Avenue, Oakland
601-1188
Mon – Fri 7 – 7 • Sat 8 – 6
Across from Zachary's Pizza

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS
510.339.0400
1960 Mountain Boulevard •Oakland
510.652.2133
3070 Claremont Avenue • Berkeley



NEW MARKET STRATEGIES FOR BUYERS AND SELLERS
COMPREHENSIVE MARKET STRATEGY FOR SELLERS AND BUYERS
RENOVATION CONSULTATION FOR RESALE AND PURCHASE
OVER 200 VENDOR REFERENCES FROM FLOORS TO KITHCENS
60-STEP MARKETING AND PRE-SALE PLAN FOR OWNERS
OVER 30 ARTICLES FREE AT: WWW.JLAHOMES.COM
Jeff Auen, Realtor
Residential and Income Properties
Jaoffice@comcast.net
WWW.JLAHOMES.COM
1-800-805-8827
RE/MAX ACCORD

The Rockridge Muse

by Ortrun Niesar

Building Community Through Community Theater

Last week, Rockridge resident Claire Wahrhaftig and I made our way over to the Ashby Stage at 1901 Ashby, across from the BART parking lot. The theater now permanently houses the Shotgun Players. We wanted to catch a performance of *Love is a Dream House in Lorin*, a beautifully crafted play developed along the concepts of community-based collaborative theatre, a form of theatre developed in the '60s and '70s that has gained popularity nationwide in recent years. It promotes direct artistic collaboration with the community for the greater good of that community.

Written by Marcus Gardley, *Love is a Dreamhouse in Lorin* was conceived and nurtured in the history of the very turf the theater stands on. Few people know that this area was a separate community known as Lorin in the 1800s, annexed into Berkeley only in the years after the 1906 earthquake. The Shotgun Players, together with local residents, spent months researching the history of this community, which was home to practically every social group not granted entrance into Berkeley proper. The goal was to tell the story of this place as a means of reconnecting the past to the present, thereby forging a stronger sense of community today. How appropriate for a neighborhood that is, as everyone knows by now, poised to change again dramatically in the near future as more high-density housing comes to the area. The message is clear: a community, a neighborhood and the people who live in it cannot thrive without history, without a story. We want to thank the artists and all those wonderful, talented locals for giving that story a voice that cannot be ignored.

Beginning November 29, the Shotgun Players will perform *The Forest War*, "an ancient play for modern times" written by Mark Jackson, author of *The Death of Meyerhold*. Call 510/841-6500 or go to www.shotgunplayers.org. You can order tickets online, but you will still have to come an hour early and stand in line for seat assignments, not a good arrangement. We hope that they will come up with a better system soon. We do like their commitment to a sliding scale or "pay what you wish" policy.

Holiday Music

This year's offering from Bella Musica is Bach's magnificent *B Minor Mass*. Performances are 8 p.m. Friday, December 8, Arlington Community Church, Kensington, and 4 p.m. Sunday, December 10, St. Mary Magdalen Church, 2005 Berryman Street, Berkeley. Bella Musica is directed by Arlene Sagan who also has the Berkeley Community Chorus & Orchestra (BCCO) under her baton. Admission is by nominal donation. Call 510/525-5393 or e-mail info@bellamusica.org. BCCO has one more concert on Sunday, December 17, 4:30 p.m. at St. John the Worker church, 1640 Addison Street, Berkeley. They are performing Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, Aaron Copland's *Old American Songs* and works by Julian White: 510/433-9599 or www.bcco.org.

The 2006 Christmas Revels

Here's an invitation to join the Christmas Revelers on a "Theatrical Celebration of the Winter Solstice," held every year at the Scottish Rite Theater, 1547 Lakeside Drive in Oakland. This year's focus is the music, stories, dance and holiday traditions from the dark and wintry forests of late 18th-century French Canada. Special guest performer Pierre Chartrand of Montréal's Danse Cadence will dazzle you with his magnificent Québecois music and dance. Rockridge resident Theresa Nelson and her daughter Madeleine will again be singing in the chorus. Performances run Friday through Sunday, December 8-10 and 15-17. Performances are at 1 and 5 p.m. on weekends; this is great festivity for the entire family. Order tickets online at www.calrevels.org or call 510/452-9334.

And with that, I leave you to celebrate, enjoy and revel to your heart's content in this darkest time of the year, this season of incredible hope.



Realtor® Specializing in Rockridge

Saraya P. Motley

510-280-2162

Red Oak Realty

A Glimpse at November Sales Stats in Rockridge

Address	Bed/Ba.	List Price	Selling Price	Close Date
5925 Ocean View Dr	3/3	$825,000	$800,000	11/3/2006
5367 Belgrave Pl	2/1	$795,000	$826,000	11/3/2006
5427 Claremont Ave	2/2	$699,000	$685,000	11/6/2006
6128 S Rockridge Bl	4/3	$1,250,000	$1,400,000	11/7/2006
5506 Carlton	3/1	$1,050,000	$980,250*	10/17/06

Comparing last year, and this year early November: November 2005 median price of a home sold was $809,000, with average. time on market 18 days; in 2006, the median price was $813,000 with an average. of 31 days on the market. Values are holding in Rockridge, though there is a trend for properties staying on the market longer.

** Please note the corrected selling price for the Carlton property from that reported here in last month's update.*

Visit my website at www.eastbayhouse.com!

If you're thinking of buying or selling, give me a call for a free consultation.

Enjoy the Holidays with

ABOUT FACE and BODY

dayspa : oakland berkeley

Give a gift card, select a holiday present or just pamper yourself with our services:

FACIALS . MASSAGE . WAXING
NAILS . TINTS . SUNLESS SPRAY TAN

3190 college avenue *(at alcatraz)* berkeley, ca 94702
510.428.2600

sun-tues/ 10:30-5:30 wed-sat/ 10:30-8:00

Holiday Safety Requires Extra Vigilance Against Crime

Report from the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

by Susan Montauk, NCPC Chair

At this time of year, citizens often become nervous about their safety, and with good reason; historically, crime incidents rise at holiday time and people need to take extra precautions. Reports to the Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network Yahoo Group from mid-October to mid-November highlight the need to act judiciously and quickly: a pistol-whipping of a guard at the College Avenue Safeway during a robbery attempt, belligerent door-to-door solicitors and a mid-day armed robbery were recent unnerving incidents.



Knowing how to respond in such situations is your best defense. When two women were robbed of their purses at gunpoint by teenage boys around noon on Miles Avenue November 14, a neighbor who heard their screams dialed 911 from her cell phone, a mistake which cost valuable time. When you dial 911 from a cell phone, your call is routed to California Highway Patrol. After a wait of over five minutes, the witness called 911 on her land line, and several police cars arrived within minutes and apprehended one suspect. The emergency number equivalent to 911 for cell phones is 777-3211; program it into your cell phone.

In general, solicitors operating without special permits from the City of Oakland are operating illegally and, more likely than not, the person showing up at your door has no such permit. In any case, it is best not to open the door to solicitors, be they students selling subscriptions, or others. Use your judgment, of course; if the person is a member or officer of a religious or charitable organization to which you also belong, and is collecting on a volunteer basis, the person does not need a City permit.

Burglars are looking for easy prey and become especially brazen this time of year, so don't make your house inviting to them. A resident parked in his car in mid-November noticed a young male on a bicycle, 15-17 years old, with dreadlocks, riding along Miles Avenue between Cavour and Clifton, stopping to tug and push on first-story windows of three different houses. If you witness suspicious behavior, call 777-3333, the OPD non-emergency number. If a crime is in progress or imminent, call 911.

The Oakland Police Department provides safety tips on its webstie. Go to http://www.oaklandpolice.com and click on "Avoid Being a Crime Victim."

The Rockridge neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meeting — held the 3rd Tuesday of each month — provides a useful forum for voicing concerns with OPD officers and an opportunity to help set monthly priorities for our Problem Solving Officer. Go to http://www.rockridgencpc.com for meeting details, crime statistics and crime fighting resources.

COLLINS ROOFING
Family Owned & Operated

482-2227 Seamus
www.collinsroofing.com
Quality Work • Free Estimates
Lic # 695711

Kitchens
• Design
• Remodeling
• Showroom Sales
www.acornkitchens andbaths.com
Acorn
KITCHENS & BATHS
510
547-6581
4640 TELEGRAPH AVE • OAKLAND
HOURS: T-F 10-5 • SAT. 10-4

MAISON NOUVEAU
REAL ESTATE SERVICES
life moves you℠
Maison Nouveau is a boutique Real Estate company
Maison Nouveau is a boutique brokerage that provides unrivaled full service to our clients with a unique teamwork approach, in-house financing, an unparalleled marketing program, and commissions that make sense.
Call us today at 849-9900 and prepare to
be moved℠
MAISON NOUVEAU'S
RECENT ROCKRIDGE LISTINGS

5673 KEITH AVENUE
OFFERED AT: $1,095,000
SOLD FOR: $1,185,000
DAYS ON THE MARKET: 9

5681 KEITH AVENUE
OFFERED AT: $1,095,000
SOLD FOR: $1,125,000
DAYS ON THE MARKET: 10

5374 MANILA AVENUE
OFFERED AT: $585,000
SOLD FOR: $553,000
RECENTLY SOLD!

5895 CLAREMONT AVE
OFFERED AT: $799,000
AVAILABLE NOW
PRISTINE IN ROCKRIDGE!
MAISONNOUVEAU.COM
510 East Bay 849.9900
415 San Francisco 922.8800
707 Wine Country 431.0400

Rockridge Merchants Celebrate the Season!

When the twinkling lights go up at Market Hall and the decorations appear along College Avenue, it's time to enjoy some neighborhood holiday shopping. Stroll along College Avenue, Claremont and Broadway, find unique gift ideas for your holiday list, and enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner in one of our many fine restaurants.

You'll avoid the crowds in malls, chain stores and parking lots, save on gas and frustration, and support our local Rockridge merchants and services. Don't forget to check out the new merchants and restaurants in the burgeoning Temescal shopping district along Telegraph Avenue. There's something for everyone on your gift list, and for you and your home as well.

Women's Clothing and Accessories
With every imaginable style, size and price range, truly there's something for everyone:
Agatha Rainford Boutique
August
Body Options
Chic
Cotton Basics
Crossroads Trading Company
FIT
Habit
i-elle
Iniam
In Full Swing
Madame Butterfly
Mr. Sandman
Namaste
Recapture Vintage
Bridal
Rockridge Rags
San Francisco Dancewear
Says Who?
See Jane Run Sports
Sefina Studio
Serrahna
Viva Diva Boutique

Children's Toys, Games, Clothing and Accessories
For babies to preteens:
Baby World
Bella Vita "Upstairs"
Child's Play
Cotton & Company
Milk
Rockridge Kids

Arts, Framing, Jewelry & Collectibles
Items from all over the world and for the artist in you:
Blick Art Materials
Bosko's Framing Gallery
Christensen Heller Gallery
Favor
The Great Frame-Up
High Strung
Itsy Bitsy
Pavé Fine Jewelry
Thelma Harris Art Gallery

Books, Cards and Gifts
On any subject, for every taste and interest:
Diesel A Bookstore
Heartfelt & Impressions Ink
Itsy Bitsy
MVP Comics and Cards
Noah's Art
Rockridge Home
Pendragon Fine Books
Scout

Menswear
Styles for teens and men:
Alta Bates Showcase
August
Bambino Thrift Shop
Chic
Crossroads Trading Company
Rockridge Rags

Shoes for Men, Women and Children
Everyday wear and great shoes for the holidays:
Cotton & Company
Shuz of Rockridge (formerly Birkenstock)
Tootsies Rockridge
Transports
Twenty Two

Home Décor, Furniture, Table Accessories, Antiques, Fabrics, and Linens
Decorate your home, find the perfect gift, a new dining room table or rug, home office, and more:
Bella Vita
Berkeley Kids Room
Bird's Eye
Brass and Glass
Claremont Rug Company
Fenton MacLaren
Vintage Furnishing
Form Vintage Modern
Galvins Workspace Furniture
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
Hazara Gallery
Homesteader
Levant Oriental Rug Company
Loot Antiques
Maison d'Etre
Murasaki Fine Futon Shop
Poppy Fabric
Rockridge Furniture Company
Rockridge Home
Scout: Home, Garden & Travel
Talisman Antiques
Warm Things

Food
Food, glorious food, prepared, to make at home, gourmet ingredients, indulgences, and of course, fine wines:
Bittersweet a Chocolate Café
Eddie's Liquors
Enzo's Meat & Poultry
Great Harvest Bread Company
Hapuku Fish Shop
Katrina Rozelle Pastries & Desserts
La Farine Bakery
Lulu Rae's Confections
Manicaretti Foods
Market Hall Bakery
Market Hall Produce
The Pasta Shop
Paul Marcus Wines
Peaberry's Coffee and Tea
Ver Brugge Foods
Vino!
Yasai Market

Sports, Luggage & Travel
For the active ones in your life:
Hank and Frank Bicycles
Rockridge Luggage
Rockridge Two Wheels Transports

Bodycare, Hair & Beauty
To look your best and give to others:
Alexander Pope
BodyTime
SaHaira
Vero

Music
For your moods:
Flashback Guitars
The Groove Yard
Saturn Records

Pets
For those who are part of the family:
Redhound

Flowers
For the perfect touch at home or a party:
Bloomies
Spring Fever Flowers
Sun Flower
The Meadows

For more details on hours and locations, listings and websites for many Rockridge stores and services may be found on the Rockridge District Association's web directory: http://www.rockridgedistrict.com/

Regency Antique Restoration
Professional and Experienced

ALL Furniture Repairs
In-Home Services
New finishes & waxing
FREE ESTIMATES
Pickup & Delivery
534-0603
Bruce Wagg
bruce@bayareaantiques.com

Host Families Needed To House International Students
Educational Services, Intl.
Share the Beauty and Diversity of the Rockridge Community!
436-4848 • info@edservintl.com
www.edservintl.com

Your Neighborhood Rockridge Mortgage Specialist

Rates are Low!
It's a good time to buy as we move into a Buyer's Market!
Take advantage of great inventory —
Call now for Pre-approval!
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Monica C. Di Perna
510-225-5635
monicaloan@aol.com
15 years in the mortgage industry;
I am a Rockridge resident
GUARANTEE MORTGAGE CORP

RN classifieds

Your Message Could Be Here

Your 36-word message is $20. (Phone number counts as one word). Mail to: **RN Classifieds**, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618. *January deadline is December 21. For information: e-mail* smontauk@gmail.com

Contractor's Delight Coming Soon!

Home for Sale : 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, garage. 1,590 internal sq ft. Lot size: 4,200. Close to BART, College Ave, and golf course! Maria Cavallo–Merrion: 510/919-8841.

Insurance for Your High Valued Home

The new Next Generation Homeowners Policy has the coverages you need and the options you want. For a free quote please call Pat Ela at 510/688-7688 of Farmers Insurance Agency.

Love Cats? Need a Little Exercise?

Volunteer a half hour and take a scenic stroll to feed a colony of sweet fixed ferals. Food on site. Ideal for dog walkers! Rewarding & fun. 601-9724.

Licensed Architect

As-built drawings, residential additions or new construction. Rockridge resident licensed since '03, 5 years' experience, starting out on her own. Affordable rates. 510/903-1104 or LYndsay@kocharchitecture.com.

Premium Dog Day Care

We specialize in interactive small sized play groups and activities with skilled and passionate staff. We offer personalized gentle care in a positive environment. Pride and Pedigree, 510/834-PUPS (7877), www.prideandpedigree.com.

Christmas at St. Augustine

Community Festival of Lessons and Carols: Sunday, December 3, 4 pm. Family sing-a-long of favorites with choir and orchestra. Christmas Eve: Family Mass, 5 pm, Midnight Mass, 11:30 pm. Christmas Day: 10:30 am. 400 Alcatraz, 653-8631.

"From Head to Toe"

Tom Daniels, haircutter and Halina, manicurist/pedicurist remain together in a new location: Milagro Salon, 5269 Broadway & College. Come, let us pamper you. Tom: 923-0403 Halina: 593-5080.

Original Art Now in Rockridge

Nancy R. Wise California Impressionist oil paintings in Mission style frames are now on display at The Rockridge Furniture Company, 5601 College Ave. 510/652-5753, M-Sat, 10-5:30, Sun, 11-5.

Fulfill This Year's Resolutions at Inside Outside Fitness!

Your friendly, independent, neighborhood gym has a new owner, new look, new classes and new energy. Pay-as-you-go or have unlimited workouts. 4444 Piedmont Avenue 510/655-8308, www.insideoutsidefitness.com.

Handyman

Carpentry, electrical, kitchen, bath, decks, roof, fence, drainage, foundation repair, windows, walls, dry rot, termite damage. Lic #458473 Don 510/812-0310.

Rare Rockridge Office Space

1,300 sq. ft. +/-. Freshly remodeled office space—upper Broadway, Rockridge, for lease. 7-8 work stations, reception, conference, 1 private, 2 bathrooms, storage, kitchen. Great light, close to BART, College, freeway. Ron 510/547-5970 X 55.

Economical Mendocino Cottage

In hidden coastal community. 1 BR plus living room sofabed, fireplace, fully-equipped kitchen. Viewing/walking distance to the water. You supply sheets and towels. $85/day (3-day minimum), $525/week. 510/482-5577. saturn82004@yahoo.com.

Do You Need a Pet Sitter for the Holidays?

Our service provides your pet(s) and property with care by a loving pet professional. Bonded and insured. Call 510/386-3163.

Aesthetic Pruning and Garden Maintenance

Combining art and science in the care of your garden. Complete garden maintenance or seasonal pruning of trees and shrubs under 20 feet. Specialties: Japanese maples, pines, camellias. Bruce Thompson 510/428-4964.

Pride Chiropractic

15 years experience, same location. Quality, affordable, friendly, healthcare in comfortable, no-rush office. Evening appointments. Dr. Mark Heltemes, 6245 College Avenue, near Claremont Avenue. 510/652-2059. www.pridechiropractic.com.

Tahoe Condo for Rent

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

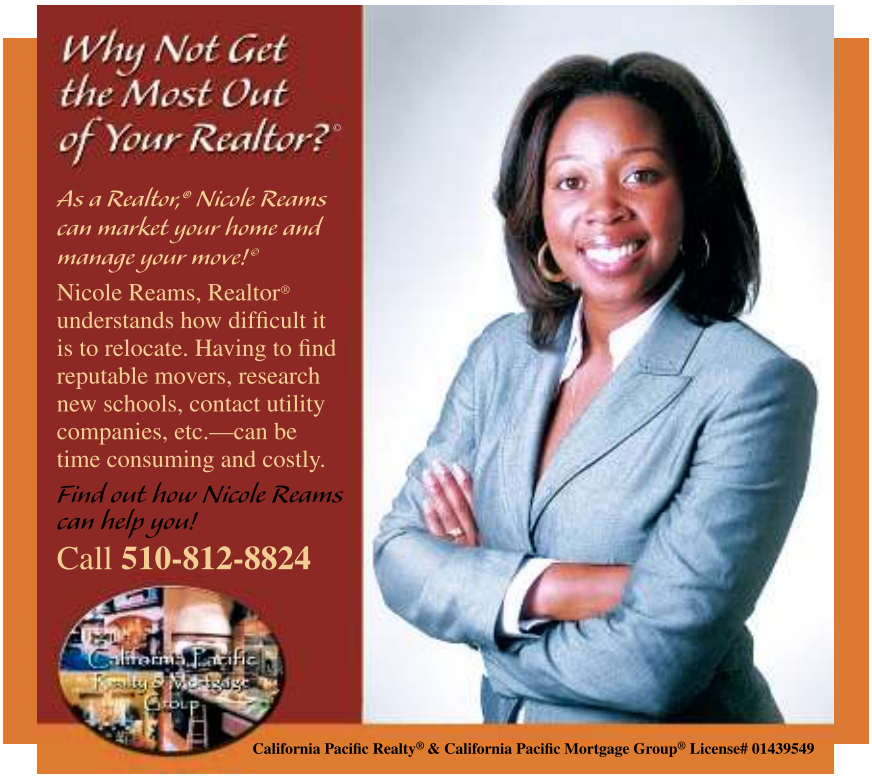
Low Stress Carmel Getaway

Comfortable, cheery 3BR+2BA family home available for short-term rental. Fully furnished from piano to ping pong, sunny patio. Quiet, peaceful—pines, oaks, birds. Only two hours away. Reasonable weekly rates. 510/547-1856.

Housecleaning Cooperative

Reasonable rates. Expert & reliable service from local employment cooperative. Call 499-5836 and we'll send someone to spiff up your home. Ask for our references from Rockridge clients.

More Classifieds, page 9



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.), Ralls Bldg. room 203. Directions and more information: www.rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN

- **Toddler Story Time**: 1st and 2nd Saturdays, 10:30am: 12/2, 12/9, 1/6.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am:12/6, 12/20, 1/3.
- **Pajama Story Time:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm: 12/26, 1/9 Note: see below for special event on 12/12.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES:

- **Opera Piccola:** performing ***The Guest***, a Middle-Eastern folktale. Free live theater for children ages 2 to 12, but all welcome. Tuesday, 2/12, 7pm.

FOR TEENS AGES 13 and up:

- **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 12/12 we will be playing video games based on anime and making an anime related craft. 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 (12/16), 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.
- **Lawyers in the Library:** Free legal advice. First Tuesday of each month (12/4, 1/2) from 6 to 8pm. Advance sign-up starts 5pm. For more information call 597-5017.

ART EXHIBITS

Gallery: December: **John Bartkoviak**; oil paintings.

January: **David Hardy and group**; paintings from the Atelier School of Classical Realism

Lobby Display Case: December: **Dana Davis**; photography.

January: "Season of Non-Violence Exhibit."

LIBRARY HOURS:
Monday and Tuesday, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 10am to 5:30pm
Friday, 12 to 5:30pm
Closed: Sundays; also Mondays 12/25 and 1/1.

Diesel Book/Readings and Events

All events free and open to the public.

- Sunday, 12/17, 3pm. **Jeff Norman**: *Temescal Legacies: Narratives of Change from a North Oakland Neighborhood*. Examines 5 historically significant changes to Temescal, Rockridge and surrounding areas since World War II.

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.

Rockridge Artists Open Studios

Rockridge Artists will once again be opening their studios around the neighborhood. All media of artwork offered for one-of a kind holiday gifts. Includes ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, paintings and more. The first 2 weekends in December (12/2, 12/3; 12/9, 12/10). Get up-to-date maps with times and directions to participating studios at the Rockridge Library and Bosko's Frame Shop on College Avenue. For more information call Liz at 654-5741.

Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair

Benefit for Oakland Elizabeth House, transitional residence for women and children in North Oakland. December 3rd, 10am to5pm. St. Augustine Gymnasium, 400 Alcatraz Ave. (corner of Colby). For more information call Sophie at 658-1380 or sophie@oakehouse.org.

Los Hilos De La Vida/Threads Of Life

Exhibition of Latina-themed folkloric Story-Quilts by women and children of the quilter's cooperative in Anderson Valley (Mendocino). Opening reception with the artists on Sunday, 12/3 from noon to 3pm. Regular Gallery hours: Monday – Friday, 9am to 5pm. The show runs 12/3 through 1/19/07 at the Women's Cancer Resource Center and Art Gallery 5741 Telegraph Ave., 420-7900. For more information about these quilters and quilts: www.loshilosdelavida.blogspot.com or Molly at 707-895-3277.

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts Holiday Performances

- **The Nutcracker:** presented by the Berkeley Ballet Theater (BBT) Children's Division and Youth Company. Performance times: 12/8 at 7pm; 12/9 at 2pm and 7pm; 12/10 at 2pm; 12/15 at 7pm; 12/16 at 2pm and 7pm; 12/17 at 2pm. Children can meet cast members at the Sugar Plum Party following the matinee performances on Saturdays, 12/9 and 12/16. For tickets, contact BBT box office: 843-4689.
- **Circus Finelli's Holiday Extravaganza:** Four hilarious clowns, joined by some of the best circus performers in the Bay Area, trained at the San Francisco Clown Conservatory. Acrobatics, juggling, dance and live music. Performance times: Wednesday, 12/20 through Sunday, 12/24 at 1pm and 3pm, plus a 9pm performance on Thursday, 12/21. Advance tickets at CBON Ticket Line 925-798-1300.

2640 College Avenue, Berkeley. For more information or to find out about tickets at the door, call 845-8542 or marilyn@juliamorgan.org.

Community Christmas Festival

All welcome to join in a family sing-along of new and old favorites, with choir and orchestra. Sunday, 12/3 at 4pm. St. Augustine Church, 400 Alcatraz Ave. (near Colby). For more information call 653-8631.

Holiday Concerts & Events at Chapel of the Chimes

Free music performances and **free hot cocoa and cookies** for all visitors.

- **Oakland School for the Arts Concert Ensemble:** performs carols and gospel music. Saturday, 12/9 from 3 to 4pm. For more information call 228-3218.
- **Bay Area Flute Fest:** Performances by flautists from across the Bay Area, plus workshops and exhibits. Sunday, 12/10, from 1 to 5pm. For more information: 333-0474 or www.bayareaflutefest.com.
- **Carol Alban and Ensemble:** chamber music performance. Saturday, 12/16 from 3 to4pm. For more information: 228-3218.
- **Visit Santa Claus** and give him your list on 12/10 and 12/17 from 2 to 4pm.
- **Light the Menorah for Chanukah** on 12/16 and 12/17 from 3 to 5pm.

4499 Piedmont Avenue. For more information call 228-3207 or www.lifemarkgroup.com

Workshop at Bananas

Support Group for Paid Caregivers: babysitters or nannies that work in the homes of families, full or part time, live-in or out. All welcome, including those who speak English as a second language. Share stories and exchange ideas. Topics include children's songs and making your own first aid kits.

Bananas, 5232 Claremont Ave. (near 51st and Telegraph). Register by phone or on-line, or get more information, at 658-7353 or www.bananasinc.org.

North Oakland Multi-Purpose Senior Center

Program Highlights: Computer classes; Health Insurance counseling and advocacy program; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's caregivers support group; AARP driver safety classes; BART tickets for seniors over 65; Farmers' Market every Wednesday from 10:30am to 2:30pm. 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 ($2.25 to $4). Call 597-5085 for details about membership, classes/events and volunteer opportunities.

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.

SIMPLIFY!



Clutter Control
Paper/Filing Systems
Kitchens/Closets
Space Planning
Packing/Unpacking

Solutions for the critical mess
Non-Judgmental & Confidential
www.SummersOrganizing.com
Barbara ✔ 415-381-0707

ROBERTS ELECTRIC

COMMERCIAL **RECO** RESIDENTIAL

INSTALLATION • REPAIR • 220 WIRING

NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODEL

FREE ESTIMATES

2408 Webster St. **834-6161** Oakland

SERVING THE EAST BAY SINCE 1932 CA. LIC# 728215

Flush with Confidence



- **Sewer Pipe Diagnostics**
- **Trouble Shooting & Repair**
- **Trenchless Sewer Replacement**

510/465-3000

Berkeley — Oakland — Rockridge



VINITA GOKHALE

ROCKRIDGE REALTOR AND HOMEOWNER



Highest Sales Prices, Lowest Commission

510-717-0630

Email: Vinita@realtyadvocates.com

REALTY ADVOCATES



Open Sunday, Dec. 10th & 17th 1-5 pm

New Condos in Temescal

574 48th Street

12 Brand New Condos in Temescal

1 bed/1 bath from $389K

2 bed/ 1 bath from $475K

www.Gate48.Net

Office Space for Rent – Rockridge

approx. 1,350 sqft of 2nd story office space.

Flexible plan, lots of light, just remodeled.

www.5767Broadway.com

"YOUR 24/7 REALTOR" LAWTON ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

Ron Kriss, Broker

Lawton Associates

510-547-5970 Ext. 55

ronkriss@jps.net

"#1 in Rockridge Real Estate"

Jan Fougner

OWNER – BROKER



BUYING OR SELLING IN ROCKRIDGE? IF YOU NEED THE SERVICES OF A REALTOR, CALL ME. I HAVE 29YEARS OF ROCKRIDGE SALES EXPERIENCE AND THE EXPERTISE YOU NEED.

655-2330

ROCKRIDGE REALTY

6019 COLLEGE AVENUE

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT ASHBY LUMBER?

1,458 years of Experience, ...as of today.

ASHBY LUMBER
HARDWARE & BUILDING SUPPLIES

824 ASHBY AVE BERKELEY
(510) 843-4832 OPEN 7 DAYS
2295 ARNOLD INDUSTRIAL WAY
CONCORD (925) 689-8999 Mon-Sat

KEVIN BROWN

Broker

654-8707 or 593-4780

PROVIDING

Professional,
Full Service
Real Estate Brokerage
To Rockridge Clients
For Over 27 Years.

SPECIALIZING IN

- ***Residential Sales***
- ***Income Property***
- ***Commercial***
- ***Property Management***

Better Homes Realty

Better Homes Realty

5353 College Avenue
Oakland



With over 300 homes sold –
Experience Counts

Is there a move in your future?

Talk to me about featuring your home For Sale in this ad space as well as other creative marketing ideas

Terry Kulka 510/339-4789

terrykulka@att.net

http://www.terrykulka.com

COLDWELL BANKER