THE Rockridge News
20th Year
www.rockridge.org
VOL. 22 ■ NO. 2 ■ ISSUE NO. 231 ■ Febuary 3, 2007 ■ CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES
Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council • 5245 College Ave. PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94618 • 869-4200

Do You Love Your Kitchen?

by Jennifer Edmister



Share the love! RCPC seeks renovated kitchens to consider for the 2007 Rockridge Kitchen Tour, coming October 7. We are currently visiting fantastic kitchens throughout Rockridge. If you or someone you know is

K–Tour, page 13

RCPC Seeks Candidates For April Board Election

Filing deadline is February 28

Looking for ways to improve the quality of life in Rockridge? Concerned about development issues in Rockridge, zoning, schools, traffic, or crime? Have ideas for improving the BART plaza? Expanding our parks? Greening our streets? Well, Rockridge needs people like you. Taking a seat on the Rockridge Community Planning Council board will enable you to further your ideas and make Rockridge a more thriving, dynamic community.

Board Election, page 7

Rockridge Crimes On Increase

Comparing 2005 to 2006

by Susan Montauk, NCPC chairwoman



In 2006, Rockridge came in second in the entire city for an increase, from 2005, in so-called "Part 1 crimes" – homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, theft, car theft, and arson: not an accomplishment to write home about. First place went to Beat 3Y in Old Oakland (downtown), which had an extraordinary 124% increase in Part 1 crime. Rockridge's beat, 12Y (12Y boundaries are Broadway, the Berkeley border,

Rockridge Crime, page 13

Rockridge Area Condo and Retail Proposals Ignite Controversy

RCPC's approach to land-use issues questioned

by Cy Gulassa

Until recently, controversy over the spread of condominium projects in Oakland has been a quarrel largely confined to outlying communities – a quarrel off the radar screens of many Rockridge residents. But now, with two new condominium/multi-residential projects proposed for the area near College Avenue and Broadway, a third for Claremont Avenue (on the site of the Kingfish Pub), and yet another for Alcatraz Avenue, the clash between developers and neighbors has reached Rockridge's front yard and emotions are running high.

That was dramatically evident at an RCPC Town Hall meeting in mid-January, at which RCPC committee heads outlined their accomplishments over the past year and sought community ideas on ways to improve Rockridge.

Most of the suggestions, such as how to improve garbage handling and street lighting, were non-controversial. But when the meeting arrived at the final agenda item, on land use, discussion grew heated. A large number of people in the room voiced strong concern about proposed Rockridge developments (see land-use column, page 3), especially a 35-foot-high, six-unit residential build-

Condo Proposals, page 8



RCPC Chairwoman Jessica Pitt guides a packed Town Hall meeting through an agenda that included reports from RCPC committees as well as a heated discussion of housing/retail development proposed in Rockridge. Cy Gulassa

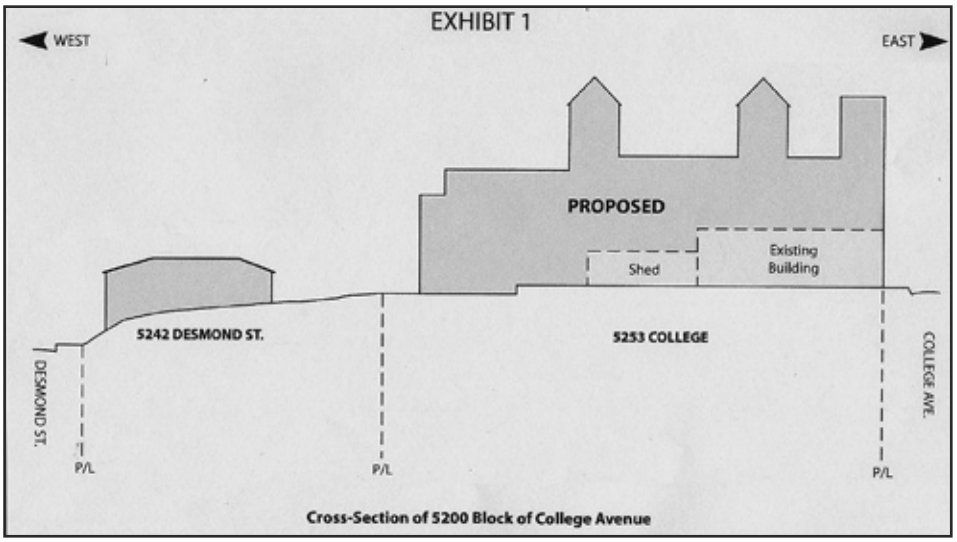
February Date for Backyard Bird Count

Editor's note: The response to Annette Floystrup's article on backyard birding in last month's issue was so enthusiastic that *The Rockridge News* is printing this follow-up for serious Rockridge birders, mostly reprinted from the Great Backyard Bird Count website.

What mid-winter activity is fun, easy, free, and helps bird conservation? What can parents and teachers

Bird Count, page 10

Eyes of the Beholders: Two Sides of a Controversial Rockridge Development



A cross-section of the development proposed for 5253 College Avenue shows the proposed building in relation to its original size and typical neighboring residences on Desmond Street. Photos below show project design models prepared by the applicant. The cross-section is from a letter to the city planner by a coalition of concerned neighbors led by Bert Verrips.

by Cy Gulassa

Of the many developments proposed for Rockridge (see "Rockridge Faces Major Residential and Retail Development Proposals," page 3), the Kirk Peterson project at 5253 College Avenue has become one of the most contentious. The three-story development would consist of six units, a rooftop terrace, six ground-level parking garages, and office and commercial space at ground level.

The Rockridge News asked owner/architect Kirk Peterson and Bert Verrips, one of the leaders of a coalition of neighbors who would be affected by the project, for their views. Verrips supplied a 32-page document that his group has sent to the city planner. The developer sent *The Rockridge News* a letter. Both are summarized and excerpted below.

Neighbors say:

■ **Scale:** The project's height and bulk are grossly out of scale with neighboring single-family homes. The proposed main structure would fall within the 35-foot height limit but it would sit on a slope, adding five feet of height at the rear. Also, the developer seeks a variance to shift required ground-level open space to a rooftop terrace accessible by an elevator tower and two stairwell towers, which makes the total effective height 60 feet.

■ **Noise and loss of privacy:** There would be noise and loss of privacy caused by people socializing on the roof terrace and looking down on neighboring yards and into bedroom windows. The rooftop proposal violates the city code requirement that a variance should "not adversely affect the character, livability, or appropriate development of abutting properties or the

Two Sides, page 12





Above and right: Design model for proposed development at 5253 College Avenue. In photo at right, the model is held to represent the potential appearance of the finished building amongst its neighboring structures.

PHOTOS BY ARCHITECT KIRK PETERSON

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, also Mondays 2/12 and 2/19
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

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
☛ **March 3, 2007**
☛ **March deadline is February 15.**

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.)*

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. (See www.oaklandnet.com/government/ceda/revised/planning.html for applictions on file.)

5830 Ross Street

[**Ed. Note:** This is a corrected notice of application on file first issued December 12, 2006. The correction is in bold in the "planning permits required" section of this notice.]

Proposal: To construct a new attached garage at the ground level (right/southeast side), expand an existing bedroom at the second level (right/southeast side), and expand habitable space in a portion of the existing attic level with a dormer at the front. Includes removal of the existing detached garage in the rear yard.

Applicant: Jarvis Architects

Contact Phone Number: 510/654-6755

Owner: Robert McClain

Planning Permits Required: Design Review to construct additions to an existing dwelling and a Variance to locate the new attached garage approximately **1 inch** from the right/southeast side lot line. (Note: the bedroom addition above the garage is proposed to be located 5 feet from the property line such that it meets the required 5 foot minimum setback).

Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property

Survey rating: C2+

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

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

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



RCPC Land Use Committee

Rockridge Faces Major Residential and Retail Development Proposals

Trader Joe's Among Likely Changes Coming to Rockridge

by Hiroko Kurihara, RCPC land use committee chairwoman

Below are some of the major developments in Rockridge that RCPC's land use committee is monitoring this year.

■ **Trader Joe's (Albertsons site)**: Trader Joe's has applied to the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for a liquor license for the former Albertsons site on College Avenue. If approved, TJ's will presumably be the new tenant. (A company spokeswoman would not confirm TJ's plans for this location.) Because the site is within 1,000 feet of a school, a variance is required to grant the liquor license. The Land Use Committee welcomes comments that RCPC will submit to the planning department as part of the variance process. In response to a written survey at January's Town Hall meeting, most of the 25 respondents called TJ's an acceptable tenant, although some expressed concern that the specialty retail grocery chain doesn't fit with the smaller shops that line College Avenue, but neither did Albertsons. One suggested that TJ's put affordable housing above its store, as exists over its North Beach location. Other ideas included an outdoor eating area like the one at Whole Foods, "greening" the parking area with permeable surfaces and trees, a bike parking area and a city carshare space. Concern was expressed about traffic and pedestrian safety for Claremont Middle schoolers and Oak Grove Avenue residents. Send comments to H2Oakland@sbcglobal.net or call 510/384-3146.

■ **5253 College Avenue:** Kirk Peterson Architects has applied for a permit to build a six-unit building above commercial space at this location, near Broadway next to the Pilates Studio. It will have an impact on residents to the west along Desmond Street. RCPC's position is that this project should incorporate retail at ground level, at least along the street frontage. RCPC has submitted comments to the city (see our website: www.rockridge.org) and will stay involved.

■ **332 Alcatraz Avenue (Berkland Church site):** Owner/builder Jerry Boddum is considering developing a single 14-unit building or six individual three-story buildings and is willing to meet with residents before submitting a formal application.

■ **5132 Telegraph Avenue (Global Video site):** Owner Hauser Architects is proposing a six-story, 144-unit, mixed-use development. RCPC along with FROG Park and Friends of Temescal Creek representatives have met once with the developer. Hauser's representative, Rockridge resident Will Mollard (415/701-0554 ext. 18), is willing to meet with other interested groups. A meeting to discuss this and other projects, facilitated by Councilwoman Jane Brunner, will be held February 15 at the Faith Presbyterian Church, located at 49th and Webster. This agenda item is slated for 7:45 – 9 p.m.

■ **5227 Claremont Avenue and 5248 Telegraph Ave (Kingfish Pub site):** North Oakland Co-Housing is buying this property from Shasta Productions and has hired a development manager, Co-Housing Resources, to hire the architect and manage the nonprofit, 30-unit project. A meeting to discuss this and other projects, facilitated by Councilwoman Jane Brunner, will be held February 15 at Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. This agenda item is slated for 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.

■ **5175 Broadway:** A 28-unit building has been proposed for the former gas station/Delancey Street Christmas tree lot across from Wendy's. A community meeting was held in early January; public notice of the project is on hold pending a study of traffic flow. The application can be viewed at the planning counter, 250 Ogawa Plaza, second floor. This project will go to the planning commission, probably on February 21. The planner is Pete Vollman, e-mail address PVollman@oaklandnet.com.

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

Why C-31 Zoning for College Avenue is in Danger

by Ronnie Spitzer

California 's planning system guides community development through the use of two basic tools: the "general plan" concept and local zoning. But in Oakland, these are in conflict.

The general plan is a comprehensive master plan that lays out a city's future development in general terms. The municipal planning code (also sometimes referred to as the planning/zoning code) is supposed to translate the general plan's broad policy statement into specific requirements for individual landowners.

The City of Oakland adopted its current general plan in 1998, following extensive community input. But the Oakland Planning Code, Title 17 of the municipal code (viewable online at www.oaklandnet.com under either Planning Code or Municipal Code – Title 17), was never updated after the general plan was adopted. And therein lie many problems facing current and future development in North Oakland.

Currently in Oakland, if a proposal conforms with the general plan but not the planning/zoning code, general-plan policies and land-use designations prevail, and the project requires either a conditional-use permit or re-zoning. Guidelines have been developed for a "best-fit" zone corresponding to the classifications of the general plan. Sounds reasonable, no?

But the devil is in the details. For North Oakland, the single general-plan land-use classification "Neighborhood Center Mixed Use" applies to College Avenue, Piedmont Avenue, Telegraph Avenue between Claremont Avenue and Highway 580, and MacArthur Boulevard. Four separate planning designations apply to these locations, each with its own height and density limits, parking requirements, open space provisions, and allowed activities. And all are superseded by general plan specifications.

Where does that leave Rockridge? The planning/zoning designation applicable to Rockridge's College Avenue is known as the C-31 Special Retail Commercial Zone. The maximum allowable height of 35 feet for commercial buildings along College Avenue contributes to the comfortable ambiance. Ground-floor commercial uses revolve around pedestrian-oriented retail stores, which fuels our successful business district. It is a formula that works well.

Yet under the general plan, the maximum allowable residential density is higher than the 100-units per acre permitted under C-31. While it is true that building to the general-plan-allowed density requires a height variance to the planning/zoning code, which formerly was difficult to obtain, developments in North Oakland now routinely receive these variances, often for two additional stories. In addition, multiple variances are now routinely granted, effectively thwarting a planning/zoning code meant to allow exceptions only in special circumstances.

The city's failure, after eight years, to reconcile zoning with the general plan is said by some to be illegal. Certainly, it is changing the face of North Oakland outside Rockridge by, in effect, re-zoning these neighborhoods.

The question now is, what's in store for Rockridge in the future?

Ronnie Spitzer is a former vice-chairwoman of RCPC.



YOU MAY LIVE 30 YEARS PAST RETIREMENT.

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Rockridge Resident

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

Mon – Fri 9:30 – 6:00
Sat 9:30 – 5:00

CHIMES PHARMACY
Serving Rockridge Since 1909
3210 College Avenue
Near Alcatraz
652-1990

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

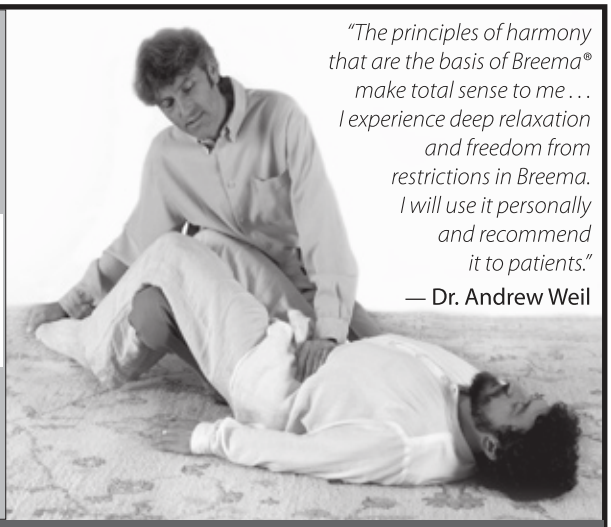


Special programs for relief of:
• *Low-back pain*
• *Neck/shoulder pain*

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

• Open House March 4, 4-6pm
• 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

FROG Park Corner

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



by Mike McDonald, RCPC boardmember and Frog Steering Committee member

Jennifer Cooper elected as new FROG Chairwoman

At its January meeting, the FROG Steering Committee unanimously elected Jennifer Cooper as the new FROG chairwoman for 2007. Jennifer has been vice-chairwoman for the past year and led the Phase II build projects. Many thanks to outgoing chairwoman Theresa Nelson, who will remain an active committee member, for all her hard work and leadership!

2007/2008 Key Priorities and Objectives Identified

The Steering Committee identified key priorities and tasks for 2007 and 2008 at its January meeting, as laid out below. Pretty exciting stuff…looking forward to seeing you all in the park. Remember: you are always welcome at our monthly FROG meetings, held (usually) on the second Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., at the Rockridge library. Contact chairwoman Jennifer Cooper to confirm meeting dates at jennifer@live-work.com

Permanent Restroom at Hardy Park

Lots of talk about needing a permanent restroom at Hardy Park vs. the current and lovely "porta-potty." This is a long-range project that will involve neighborhood discussion (some neighbors have expressed concern that a permanent restroom may cause transient/homeless issues), city support (the city is going to have to agree to maintain it) and financial support (a permanent restroom is going to cost some bucks). Steering committee member Mike McDonald has agreed to head up the committee to begin the discussion process. If you have an interest in working on this project or thoughts or ideas, contact Mike by e-mail at mike@m-c-d.net

Greenbelt Extension to BART

Do you know that there is a beautiful wooded ravine that runs along the morth side of Highway 24, behind properties on Claremont Avenue and between Hudson and Forest Streets? And do you know that this ravine could be a path and a connection from the Greenbelt in Hardy Park to the BART station? Currently fenced off, this land is controlled by Caltrans and perhaps others. However, steering committee members Ronnie Spitzer, Mike McDonald and Jennifer Cooper have agreed to take on this exciting project and figure out how to make the path happen. Imagine being able to walk from BART to 51st and Telegraph using only the Greenbelt. If you have an interest in working on this project or thoughts or ideas, contact Ronnie Spitzer by e-mail at rspitzer@sbcglobal.net

Other key objectives and tasks for 2007 and 2008:

Volunteer Recruitment

As always, we need more park stewards and volunteers. Come on people, this is your park and volunteering is fun, easy and a great way to meet your neighbors. For more information, contact Howard Ferrier by e-mail at hwferrier@sbcglobal.net

The Creek Flow Project

Getting the creek to flow year-round has become quite a project, and Joan Marie Wood continues to lead the charge. For more information, contact Joan Marie by e-mail at joanmariew@earthlink.net

Dog Park Issues and Enhancements

Park committee newcomer Paul Jackson is already jumping in and taking on enhancements and coordination issues for the Hardy dog park. Possible improvements identified include relocation of the gate near the swings, fence improvements, gate lock, safety and signage. For more information, contact Paul by e-mail at paulj@mp34u.com

Improvements at DMV/Farmers Market

Improvements including a new picnic table, landscaping, park orientation signage, a "parking" area for dogs and bikes, and possible swings head Jennifer Cooper's task list for 2007. Jennifer will also head up the completion of the public art project. Contact Jennifer for more information or how to help by e-mail at jennifer@live-work.com.

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

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

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

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.*

A Positive Vision for Development in North Oakland

Editor:

Members of the Temescal-Rockridge Community who support socially responsible higher density development in North Oakland have formed a group called ULTRA (*Urbanists for a Livable Temescal Rockridge Area*).

Like numerous respected housing, land-use and environmental organizations in the Bay Area (as well as our newly elected Mayor, Ron Dellums), members of ULTRA realize that in order to foster environmentally sustainable and equitable development, it is necessary to allow for higher height and density along our main transportation corridors.

Creating more affordable housing opportunities in our area is a central part of ULTRA's mission and we cannot do it if we restrict height and density too greatly. In its "Myths and Facts about Affordable and High Density Housing," the Association of Bay Area Governments agrees, stating as their number one fact, "To encourage housing affordability, California cities do need to promote higher densities."

However, we understand that we cannot solely allow for higher height and density without well thought-out development guidelines. We must also work together to shape the zoning in North Oakland to make sure that future development does what we want it to do for us.

Through education and active, positive participation, our community can achieve socially responsible higher density development along main commercial and transportation corridors that will support economic and cultural diversity, affordable housing and community-based commercial properties, local public schools, community services, neighborhood-oriented businesses, alternative transportation use, pedestrian and bike safety, more open green spaces, cultural venues, and healthy community interaction.

We hope you will join us in looking for creative solutions to realizing our vision for North Oakland.

We are tentatively scheduling an educational forum in late March to look at these issues and help us develop guidelines for future development. Please check our website for details as they develop: www.ultraoakland.org.

— Suzanne L'Heureux

New Group Forms to Take a STAND

Editor:

In response to the flood of large-scale developments proposed for Rockridge, Temescal, and adjacent North Oakland communities, neighbors have formed the group STAND (Standing Together for Accountable Neighborhood Development) to challenge this current trend and provide a voice for the growing number of people alarmed by the number, size, and density of development projects that the city has allowed to sail through the approval process.

While we support growth and recognize the benefits that new development can bring, we believe the city has been doing a poor job of identifying the full range of impacts of these projects – on traffic, pedestrian safety, parking, community character, air quality, solar reduction, and noise – and of ensuring that these impacts are mitigated so that our communities truly benefit from these projects.

Our intention is to influence the design of new projects early in the planning stages by interacting with developers and city staff to give these new projects a form that allows an increase in density while maintaining the established character of our neighborhoods. To us that means advocating height, bulk and density controls that retain the human scale of streetscapes and avert compromising the quality of our 100-year-old, low-rise residences and commercial districts.

Legal guidance is essential in this process, since a public record must be established that can

Letters to Editor, page 7



"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

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 30% off + 30 Days *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 1/31/07.

Claremont School Spring Fling Coming

On Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Claremont Middle School PTA will host its third annual Spring Fling. The Spring Fling is a fun day to come out and support your local middle school community. Great food, local entertainment, games of chance, arts and crafts booths, a raffle, and much more are planned, with the highlight being our silent auction. The silent auction is our biggest fundraiser of year. Most donations come from College Avenue merchants, Claremont families, and staff. Proceeds from the Spring Fling fund programs that benefit ALL Claremont students.

Please consider making a donation. If you'd like to donate an item or service for the auction, rent booth space to sell your food or wares, or perform on the community stage, please call Becky Indrio at 510/655-5522.

The festival will be held on the school grounds, at 5750 College Avenue (next to the Rockridge BART station). All are welcome and admission is FREE.

Correction: In "Assemblyman: Restore Local Control to Oakland Schools" page 1, *The Rockridge News*, January 6, a report on API gains of Rockridge schools omitted Claremont Middle School. The California Department of Education reports that Claremont's score grew from 589 in 1999 to 631 in 2006 for an increase of 7.1 percent.

Letters to Editor

from page 6

later serve as the basis for appeals to the planning commission and the city council, and ultimately cited as grounds in lawsuits where the city has persisted in violating its own laws by approving projects inappropriate to their settings and not in conformance with the existing zoning ordinance.

We hope you will support our volunteer efforts by giving to a fund we have established to obtain the necessary legal expertise and to keep getting the word out to the wider community. Please send checks to Shared Ground at 477 Rich Street, Oakland, 94609.

For more information: 510/654-8925 or e-mail temescalneighbors@yahoo.com.

— Richard Weimer and Jeff Norman

Board Election

from page 1

RCPC is a nonprofit public benefit organization, founded in 1985 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.

RCPC will hold its annual election in April for six board directors, each of whom serves a two-year term. The board consists of 12 elected directors and one appointed director. (The editor of The Rockridge News serves as a non-voting, appointed 14th boardmember.) Candidates must be at least 18, reside within RCPC boundaries and inform RCPC of their intention to run for office by the February 28 deadline. (Note: Under RCPC bylaws, former directors are subject to term limits.) Simply send an e-mail by February 28 to rcpcelections07@comcast.net; or, send a letter, postmarked by February 28, to RCPC Elections, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618. A map and description of RCPC boundaries are available online at www.rockridge.org.

Candidates who meet the February 28 deadline will be required to submit a photo and a statement of up to 125 words describing their interest in running for the board. Statements and photos will be published in the April issue of the *Rockridge News* and must be received by the newsletter's March 22 deadline. Please include your address, phone number and an e-mail address. Electronic copies may be sent to rcpcelections07@comcast.net. Mail hard copies to RCPC Elections, 5245 College Ave, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618.

Candidates will speak, and voting will take place, at the April 19 Town Hall meeting to be held upstairs in the Rockridge library from to 7 to 9 p.m. Voting will also take place on Saturday, April 21, in the lobby of the Rockridge library, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All persons age 18 and over who reside within RCPC boundaries are eligible to vote.

For further information, e-mail RCPC Chairwoman Jessica Pitt at rcpcelections07@comcast.net.

Chabot Elementary's Annual Spring Auction to Raise Enrichment Program Funds

by Susie Poncelet

Join the Anthony Chabot Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association for our annual Spring Auction fundraiser, on Saturday, March 24, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., at the Pauley Ballroom at U.C. Berkeley. This year's theme, "Midnight at the Oasis," promises a wonderful evening of fine food, drinks, good company, live music, a live auction, and, of course, the silent auction. All sorts of wonderful prizes await those who attend, including donations from local merchants and custom events including dinners and parties.

The auction is Chabot's biggest fundraiser and all proceeds support the school's enrichment programs, including vocal and instrumental music, fine arts, library resources, technology, Spanish, and an on-site garden curriculum. The PTA also contributes to improvements in the physical plant. Chabot is the local elementary school in Rockridge and is one of the reasons this neighborhood is so desirable. We have a fabulous principal, wonderful teachers, and a topnotch curriculum. We appreciate the support of our local businesses and friends as we strive for excellence in our public schools.

Please contact Susie Poncelet if you would like to make a donation (for example, an item to be auctioned, a gift certificate, or a cash contribution), or if you would like to purchase advertising space in our catalog. You may also complete a donation form online, as well as purchase $26 event tickets, via our website: www.chabotelementary.org. We gratefully appreciate any donation you can make and donors to this event will be highlighted in our auction program and on our website.

For more information, please contact Susie Poncelet at 510/985-1246, or e-mail her at sponcelet@earthlink.net. Thank you for your support.

Condo Proposals

from page 1

ing plus commercial space, with rooftop deck, on high ground near the intersection of College and Broadway at 5253 College Avenue. Some said that the project is out of scale with the neighborhood at this end of College Avenue, that it ignores its impact on neighbors, and that it "alters the character of Rockridge."

One speaker called for a moratorium on all construction until the Oakland General Plan and the city's zoning ordinances are reconciled; another person urged RCPC to take a citywide stance against the "hostile acts of developers" who take advantage of a "rubber-stamp" Oakland Planning Commission and manipulate existing zoning rules to "maximize the construction envelope."

The debate intensified when some community members in attendance questioned the leadership of RCPC's land use committee chairwoman, Hiroko Kurihara, accusing her of having a bias in favor of high-density projects. (In addition to chairing the land use committee, Kurihara is a founding member of Urbanists for a Livable Temescal Rockridge Area (ULTRA), which supports high-density construction along Oakland's major corridors. The group's goals – as posted on its web site – are printed below.)

"Who do you advocate for, developers or Rockridge neighbors?" one participant demanded. Running through many of the comments was the concern that RCPC, an association of Rockridge neighbors, may be drifting from one of its stated core purposes, to provide leadership and representation of neighborhood interests, especially in the area of planning and zoning.

Some defended Kurihara. RCPC Board Vice-Chairman Mike Taylor said at the meeting that the board had reviewed complaints against her and had determined that her role in ULTRA does not constitute a conflict of interest. Former board member Adrienne DeAngelo added that in 2005, Kurihara helped a group of DeAngelo's neighbors successfully oppose a retail development near the intersection of Colby Street and Claremont Avenue, claiming these actions were evidence that Kurihara is not biased in favor of development.

Some also defended higher density. "Millions of people are coming to the Bay Area," one woman said, "and since they can't be stopped, it's best to accommodate them." Admitting hers was an unpopular view at the meeting, she urged groups to "negotiate" with developers to promote higher density even if residents objected. "It's better to make space for everybody rather than just be anti-development."

As the meeting drew to a close, Mary MacDonald, a former RCPC chairwoman, took the floor, saying she "felt the emotion in the room" and could no longer remain silent. In perhaps the most dramatic statement of the evening, MacDonald told attendees that many of RCPC's former board members disagree with the direction the current board has been taking in the area of land use. She described an RCPC retreat held a year ago, in which former board members met with current board members and raised serious "concerns about the new board's position on density." That meeting, along with other measures, she said failed to build their confidence in the current board's approach. "For those of you here who have perceived a difference in the direction of RCPC, you are not wrong," Macdonald said. "Former board members share your view."

MacDonald also criticized RCPC's plan to hold a series of small meetings in people's homes to learn their land use priorities. She said she feared that such a process could be manipulated "to support what is the position

Condo Proposals, page 9

What is ULTRA?

At the January RCPC Town Hall meeting, a clarification of the goals of Urbanists for a Livable Temescal Rockridge Area (ULTRA) was requested by some in the audience. Following are the goals as posted on the organization's web site at http://www.ultraoakland.org/.

We Want:

- Socially responsible higher density mixed-use along the main commercial corridor.
- Positive movement forward into a future of diversity and pedestrian-oriented mixed use.
- Prevention of strip malls and auto-dependence.
- Creation of places that bring activated, cultural arts spaces.
- Transit corridors, when properly planned and coordinated, can help revitalize neighborhood retail and commercial corridors.
- A broad range of housing types and price levels that higher densities could encourage can bring people of diverse ages, races, and incomes into daily interaction, strengthening the personal and civic bonds essential to an authentic community.
- Appropriate building densities and land uses should be within walking distance of transit stops, permitting public transit to become a viable alternative to the automobile.

ULTRA recognizes that height is the most controversial issue about new development along Telegraph Avenue. We strongly believe that setting an arbitrary height limit for development along the Avenue will impede the further revitalization of Telegraph Avenue. The economics of development change much more rapidly than City guidelines can. We believe that each project must be judged upon its merits. That is if a project would help achieve the goals articulated above then it should be approved whether its height meets an arbitrary limit or not. However we do accept the reality in our community of a desire for a height limit. We believe any height limit should be based upon the visual impact a building will have when viewed from the street.

20% OFF
Any Item
In the Store
with this Ad
offer good until 2/28/07

rockridge home
5418 College Ave. (510) 420-1928

Condo Proposals

from page 8

of some – not all – of [the] current board members to promote high density." She added, "If RCPC wants to hold planning sessions to learn the community's views on density, it has to hold several large, open, well-advertised meetings where the public can freely debate the issues." MacDonald's remarks received strong applause.

In response, Kurihara defended the board's plan to hold the small meetings at homes, senior centers, churches, and even schools, where she plans to talk to schoolchildren about the density issue. "I'm not quite sure what the fear is around having more intimate, coffee klatch kind of discussions," she said. "It's OK to talk to kids, and it's OK to go into people's homes and learn, block by block, people's concerns. There is no agenda here."

RCPC Chairwoman Jessica Pitt ended the meeting by inviting residents with strong views on land use and other Rockridge issues to run for the RCPC board. RCPC elections are slated for April. (See election notice, page 1.)

RCPC Seeks Community Suggestions For Local Capital Improvements

RCPC asked Town Hall meeting participants to suggest ways to enhance Rockridge's quality of life via a local capital improvements program the organization is sponsoring. Among their answers:

- better street lighting;
- gathering spaces along streets;
- more trees;
- a community center;
- graffiti abatement;
- better commercial garbage collection;
- more bike racks;
- restoring Birch Court's pillars; and
- a website "portal" to Rockridge.

Board Chairwoman Jessica Pitt said redesign of the website is already underway. The board will review the suggestions at its February retreat.

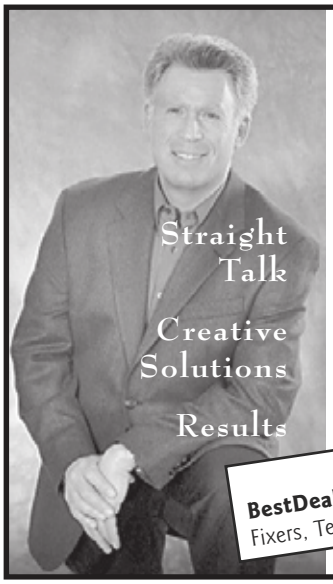


piedmont dental BY DESIGN
Dale Herrero, DDS & Jill Martenson, DDS

"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



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

Now: BestDeals-RealEstate.com
Fixers, Teardowns,and Rehabs





Bird Count

from page 1

do with children that connects them to a whole new world of natural wonders? This February, the 10th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, will give everyone a chance to discover the birds in their neighborhood and "Count for the Record." Last year, participants counted a record-breaking 623 species and more than 7.5 million birds. This year, Cornell and Audubon are challenging participants to break the record of 61,000 checklists submitted in the year 2000, the greatest number of checklists ever submitted during the annual four-day event.

Your Help Will Make a Difference

The success of the Great Backyard Bird Count depends on participants counting birds across the United States and Canada. Help spread the word by asking people to count birds for at least 15 minutes during February 16-19. It's fun, easy, raises awareness of birds, and provides an important record of where the birds are that scientists can use to track how birds are faring as their environments change.

Participants can take part wherever they are – at home, in schoolyards, or in local parks or wildlife refuges. Simply count the highest number of each species you see during an outing or a sitting and enter your tally on the Great Backyard Bird Count website, http://www.birdsource.org/gbc. You can also use the website to compare your sightings with results from other participants, as checklists pour in from throughout the U.S. and Canada. The website also offers identification tips and access to photos, sounds, maps, and natural history information on more than 500 bird species. You can also submit photos to an online gallery showcasing the dazzling array of winter birds found.

Put Up Posters and Distribute Brochures

You can download a poster/brochure from the website and print it out. (Note that posters from ink jet printers may not last in the rain.) If you prefer to receive posters in the mail, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology will send them to you. Just e-mail Jennifer Smith at jls39@cornell.edu. Write "GBBC poster" in the subject line; in the mesage, provide your mailing address and the number of posters you would like.

You Can Become a *Rockridge News* Block Captain

We hope that you will consider picking up one or more of the routes vacated by two of our stalwart *Rockridge News* volunteers, Maria Cavallo of Hardy Street and a Harwood Avenue volunteer. Thanks to both of them for serving as *Rockridge News* Block Captains.

It takes 10-20 minutes once a month to deliver to a route. Here are five routes that need Block Captains:

- 04A Part of College Avenue from 5930 to 6022.
- 05J From 5920 College even numbers down College to Chabot Road, odd numbers on Chabot Road at College to Ivanhoe.
- 21G Along the odd numbers of 6000 Claremont.
- 15D Both sides of 5100 Shafter, between Cavour and 51st Street
- 04J Starting at Medical Insurance Building on Claremont, down Claremont to College, up Florio, doing 6214 (4 units) and 6201 (upper unit at rear of bank building).

Call 547-3855 or e-mail Susan at smontauk@gmail.com to volunteer. Be sure to mention the delivery route and give us a call-back number.

In Rockridge, There's Only One #1
Ron Kriss - "Listings SOLD in 2006"


List Price $699,000
Sale Price $685,000
www.5427Claremont.com
SOLD


List Price $799,000
Sale Price $850,000
www.5133Miles.com
SOLD


List Price $899,000
Sale Price $945,000
www.5344James.com
SOLD


List Price $850,000
Sale Price $845,000
www.5159Miles.com
SOLD


List Price $485,000
Sale Price $485,000
www.5100Lawton.com
SOLD


List Price $1,450,000
Sale Price $1,500,000
www.5526Taft.com
SOLD


List Price $769,000
Sale Price $765,000
www.5360Locksley.com
SOLD

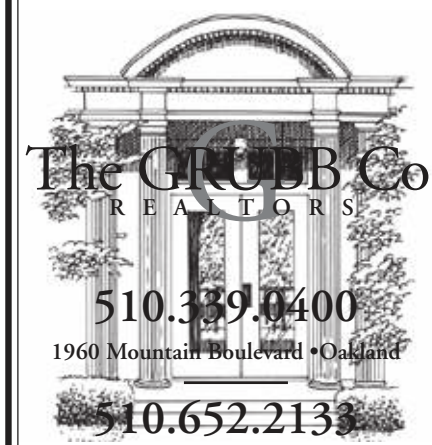

List Price $849,000
Sale Price $849,000
www.5862Virmar.com
SOLD


List Price $995,000
Sale Price $1,150,000
www.5419Locksley.com
SOLD

Find Out Why!

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

Ron Kriss, Broker Lawton Associates
510-547-5970 Ext. 55 ronkriss@jps.net


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

The Rockridge Muse

by Claire Isaacs Wahrhaftig

What Art Is Not

People often wonder, "What is art?" Like truth, beauty and happiness, it is almost indefinable. However, here's what art is not: craft. A craft can be part of art, but it is not the art. A craft teaches us to construct something according to rules laid down and longtime practices. Some folks are extremely accomplished at craft, and they go so far as to create something new, fresh, beyond the boundaries, thereby creating art. One example: the craft of quilting as seen in the recent exhibition at the De Young Museum, the Gee's Bend quilts.

But too often at schools and summer camps, leaders present a finished product and instruct the kids how to make it. That's not teaching art.

One day, when I was a kid at summer camp, we all made shoeshine boxes out of wood. These were used to store one's shoe waxes and brushes and to place one's foot upon while shining the shoe. The only variable was the limited number of colors we applied. That's a simple craft. My parents were pleased, sort of, but I was dissatisfied. There was little of myself in this product. I felt as if I hadn't really created anything at all. I was just good at following directions. And it wasn't something I wanted to try again.

But give the children the wood slats and chips, glue and paint, and let them go blast away at their creation. Some will build contained forms safely glued. Others will aspire to build up and out, testing the balance and security of each attached piece of wood. No two will look alike. That's art.

The late artist Art Grant used this approach with adults in Oakland night schools. He opened doors to police officers and pipefitters and seamstresses. People who thought they weren't artists were surprised to see what they could create when allowed and encouraged to do so. He just kept smiling at them – people who said, "I can't do that" – and they created like crazy. A few of them went on to explore art further. He offered his students what they often lacked in school: a chance to create freely, without criticism.

What are your children getting in school, after school and in camp? Does what they learn connect them with our ancestors, who danced and sang and drew and dramatized stories to share their experiences with the rest of the tribe?

Before literacy we had what we now call the visual arts to convey our feelings, thoughts, and experiences. Whatever our culture today, the arts are a basic and fundamental human experience. To ignore them in our homes and schools is to deprive us of one of the foundations of our souls.

Library and Art

In view of the lack of public exhibition space in Rockridge, it is a blessing that our great local library commits its upstairs walls and lobby display case to art shows. These vary greatly in quality and skill, but some display a surprisingly high level of accomplishment. Take a detour each month on your way to a meeting or the bookshelves and decide what you think. Often the work is that of a young artist showing his or her work for the first time. Some work may be amateurish but nevertheless passionately conceived. Looking at art by artists in this stage of development is a great opportunity to test one's own values and develop the critical ability to discern what works and what does not.

New year's resolution:
Do more yoga!



for class schedule and more information, visit **www.namasterockridge.com**

namaste yoga in rockridge

5416 college avenue • 510 547-YOGA



Realtor® Specializing in Rockridge

Saraya P. Motley

510-280-2162

Red Oak Realty

The New Year Brings a Different Picture

Address	Bed/Ba.	Orig. Price	Selling Price	Close Date
452 McAuly Street	2/1	$695,000	$675,000	12/26/2006
5014 Webster Street	3/2	$650,000	$627,560	12/27/2006
340 49th Street	2/1	$529,000	$571,000	12/29/2006
5241 Manila Avenue	3/3	$899,500	$791,000	12/31/2006
568 Martin Street	2/1	$535,000	$499,000	1/3/2007
5290 Broadway Terrace	2/2	$519,000	$445,000	1/5/2007
5714 Broadway	2/1	$735,000	$593,000	1/12/2007
6030 Colby Street	3/1	$985,000	$935,000	1/12/2007

What a difference one year makes! A year ago, houses stayed on the market an avg. of 38 days. This year the avg. is 52. A year ago, the depreciation in the median sales price of a home was 7.7%. However there was a 62% increase this year in the number of homes sold, from 5 to 8 homes.

Visit my website at www.eastbayhouse.com!

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

aboutface&body

dayspa oaklandberkeley

serving you since 1981

Specialists in Brazilian waxing
Free loofa with all bikini waxes and this ad

3190 college avenue
/at alcatraz/
berkeley, ca 94705

p/ 510.428.2600
www.aboutfaceandbody.net

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

Two Sides

from page 2

surrounding area."

■ **Solar access and lighting:** The main building has a rear yard setback of only 10 feet and a side yard setback of 5 feet. Because it would sit so close to nearby homes with small yards, the building would affect the livability of adjacent properties by, among other things, blocking solar access and causing lighting impacts at night due to its necessarily large number of windows.

■ **Traffic noise:** The project calls for six ground-level garages accessible via a 10-foot-wide alley. There would be engine noise, door slams, beeper alarms, screeching tires and loud voices in an acoustically sensitive area.

■ **Inappropriate business activity:** The proposed professional offices in the rear are inappropriate because of their proximity to dwellings.

■ **Inadequate egress:** The access proposed for the rear of the project – a 10-foot-wide alley – would be impassable to most emergency vehicles.

"In brief, the zoning standards do not confer a right to develop property to the maximum building envelope. The blind adherence to the allowable limits of zoning standards, coupled with permissive variances, results in an overly massive development that is inappropriate to the existing neighborhood context and adversely impacts the peace, health and safety of neighbors."

The applicant says:

"College Avenue is characterized by a mix of uses and building sizes...The proposed project represents a type and size of development that is not uncommon along the Avenue, and is common in similar neighborhoods throughout Oakland. This historic pattern also includes adjacencies of commercial and residential occupancies, including single family homes next to larger structures.

"...I am agreeable to RCPC's suggestion of moving my office to the rear portion of the project...

"This proposed development demonstrates the sort of thoughtful design that will augment the aesthetic character of the area. I work hard to design buildings that are 'historically informed' and fit well in their physical context. To see the sort of work I do I invite you to look at my web site, KPAarch.com, or at 5330 College Avenue or the building going up on Piedmont Avenue at Pleasant Valley.

"...I have expressed my willingness to meet with neighbors, but that I prefer to wait until I receive written comments from the city. I am sure that there will be some conditions if the application is approved, prompting some revision of the design. The planner has already suggested that the roof deck be pulled back from the edge.

"I am posting my drawings of the project in the front window here at 5253 College, along with a study model of the building. I have invited neighbors to visit my office and look at the plans; only one has. I hope more people will look at the design and form their own opinions of the project. The project will have an impact on the adjacent properties. I hope we will be able discuss the proposed building based on an accurate understanding of the proposal."

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

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 & UPCOMING LISTINGS



647 66TH STREET
COMING SOON!
3 BEDROOM & 2 BATH
MAISONNOUVEAU.COM



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!

MAISONNOUVEAU.COM

510 East Bay 849.9900
415 San Francisco 922.8800
707 Wine Country 431.0400

Rockridge Crime

from page 1

Telegraph Avenue and 51st Street), saw an overall Part 1 crime increase of 29%.

In Rockridge, robberies topped the list. Attempted robberies increased sixfold, from 1 to 6 incidents; armed robberies also were up, from 37 to 55 incidents. Auto burglary and car theft increased by significant numbers.

Upper Rockridge's Beat 13X was more fortunate this year, with a 9.7% reduction in Part 1 crime from 2005. (2005 saw a short-term peak of activity, with the Broadway rape and a cluster of burglaries in late summer and fall.)

There was a 57% increase in homicides in the city as a whole, but Part 1 crime citywide increased by only 5.5%. Reasons being put forth by police and others for the increase include these possible explanations:

■ Pressure on the police force to complete the tasks mandated by the "Riders" settlement agreement creates onerous restrictions on police arrest procedure and, thus, fewer arrests.

■ Juvenile crime is on a sharp upswing. Several years ago, with juvenile crime declining statewide and changing attitudes about the efficacy of institutionalization, activists persuaded the county to downsize the plans for the construction of the new juvenile hall, scheduled to open in 2007. Concurrently, the Alameda County Probation Department has drastically reduced the number of kids it is holding, accepting only those who commit the most serious crimes. With no place to take them, police began to arrest fewer juveniles. The news was not lost on the criminals, who continue their work with impunity.

Why, though, has Rockridge's whopping 29% Part 1 crime increase surpassed Oakland's 5.5%? One likely explanation is that Rockridge is an increasingly upscale neighborhood and the criminals know it. Car theft has historically been the crime of choice in our community. Now, combined with the above factors tending to increase crime citywide, residential burglaries and armed robberies are not far behind.

The best prospects for crime prevention do not reside in the enforcement sector. While OPD strives to reach its goal of 805 cops, shortages in staffing are the norm, with just over 700 police currently on duty. Community policing, neighborhood watch organizations, and smart prevention measures appear to be the best bulwark against this crime trend. Citizens should take measures to make their homes unattractive to burglars and be very alert when walking streets or exiting cars and homes, always on the lookout for suspicious characters.

Here are some concrete steps to take: Call the non-emergency number if you suspect someone may be looking for a crime opportunity: 777-3333. From home call 911 if you see a crime in progress; from a cell phone call 777-3211. Write down license numbers of suspicious cars and take a photo when possible. Join the Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Network Yahoo group to report crimes and suspicious behavior. Attend the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meetings, held the third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., at California College of the Arts.

WhistleStop is an action safety program that can provide residents of our community with another practical way of self-protection and neighborhood awareness. WhistleStop combines individual action ("I can signal for help") and neighborhood action ("We can protect one another").

Whistles are available for $2.50 each at Cotton & Company, 5901 College Avenue, Oakland.

See www.rockridgencpc.com for directions, crime stats and other resource material.

Count of Reported Part-1 Crimes by Beat

1 Jan-31 Dec 2005 1 Jan-31 Dec 2006

NA = not available	12Y		<Beat>	13X		
CRIME	**2005**	**2006**	**%Chg**	**2005**	**2006**	**%Chg**
Homicide	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Aggravated Assault	16	22	37.5%	1	1	0.0%
Firearm – 245 (A)(2) PC	1	1	0.0%	NA	NA	NA
Other than Firearm – 245 (A)(1) PC	9	8	-11.1%	1	0	-100.0%
Domestic Violence	3	2	-33.3%	NA	NA	NA
Miscellaneous Assault	3	11	266.7%	NA	1	NA
Rape	3	0	-100.0%	1	0	-100.0%
Forcible Rape	3	0	-100.0%	1	0	-100.0%
Attempted Rape	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Robbery	37	55	48.6%	4	4	0.0%
Robbery – Armed/Strongarm	32	48	50.0%	4	2	-50.0%
Attempted Robbery	1	6	500.0%	NA	1	NA
Robbery – Residential	4	0	-100.0%	NA	NA	NA
Carjacking	NA	1	NA	NA	1	NA
Burglary	177	197	11.3%	87	73	-16.1%
Burglary – Auto	70	86	22.9%	32	38	18.8%
Burglary – Residential	86	87	1.2%	42	31	-26.2%
Burglary – Commercial	10	19	90.0%	7	4	-42.9%
Burglary – Other	11	5	-54.5%	6	0	-100.0%
Arson	2	5	150.0%	NA	NA	NA
Larceny	87	133	52.9%	33	32	-3.0%
Auto Theft (includes attempts)	81	108	33.3%	49	48	-2.0%
Total Part One Crimes	**403**	**520**	**29.0%**	**175**	**158**	**-9.7%**

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

K–Tour

from page 1

putting the finishing touches on a kitchen remodel, or is enjoying a new kitchen, now is the time to show it off. For more information, contact Jennifer Edmister at toejrb@earthlink.net or call RCPC at 510/869-4200. ***(Note: This is a new number.)***

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. *March deadline is February 15. For information: e-mail* smontauk@gmail.com

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 510/761-7168.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Join the Inside Outside Fitness Startup Challenge

Make fitness a habit & win prizes! Get that resolution started with six weeks of workouts, personal training, relaxing massage and motivational meetings. 4444 Piedmont Avenue, 510/655-8308, www.insideoutsidefitness.com.

Unexpected Guests?

Short-term rental, lovely room 2 blocks from Rockridge BART in owner's flat. Wi-fi, cable, TV. Photos available. Barbird@aol.com 510/652-7044.

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.

Handyman

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

Feather River Art Camp

www.featherriverartcamp.com — June 24 – July 1, a perfect joyful blend of art, nature, creativity, camaraderie. Adults and kids. Sign up now for an amazing art experience. Class sizes limited. 510/601-1619.

Pop Singing Classes for Girls

New, 8-week session, "Do You Believe in Magic"! for Girls ages 8-12: pop tunes, vocal technique, group dynamics. Thursdays, 6:45-7:45, March 1-April 19. Performance: Friday, April 20. Lisa 510/653-0107.

Female Fitness Buddy

Late 40s mom seeks female fitness buddy for running, aerobic walking, light cycling. Available Tue & Fri daytimes, some weekends and evenings. Rachel, 659-7691.

Money is Legal Tender

It's also emotional currency. Explore what money triggers in you. Emotional Currency™ Workshops for women and couples offered regularly. For more information: Kate Levinson, Ph.D., M.F.T. (#MFC 15955) at 652-7786 or www.emotionalcurrency.com.

GOJI! Time Magazine's Superfruit of the Year!

Experience the Himalayan Health Secret—more energy, better sleep, increased immune system. Wholesale price available! Distributorships available! www.TheGojiLife.info or 510/919-0122.

Handle Life's Ups & Downs with Greater Ease

Gain skill in relating to others, balance caregiving/self care, find your inner strength, increased joy, creativity! Annie Goglia, Life Coach, Rockridge. Free two hour consult. kalamari@juno.com 510/655-1433.

Pilates in Rockridge

Beautiful studio on College Avenue, specializing in private and semi-private training in Pilates and Gyrotonic. Excellent trainers! PILATES PLUS, 5255 College Avenue 510/420-1412, www.pilatesoncollege.com.

Tai Chi Classes Starting Feb 3

Rockridge United Methodist Building, 303 Hudson at College, Thurs-10 am, Sat-9 am. First class is free. For more information contact Gail Sprung, 415/786-2469. E-mail: Harmonytaiji@yahoo.com or www.harmonytaiji.com.

COLLINS ROOFING

Family Owned & Operated



482-2227 Seamus

www.collinsroofing.com

Quality Work • Free Estimates

Lic # 695711

Why Not Get the Most Out of Your Realtor?©

As a Realtor,® Nicole Reams can market your home and manage your move!©

Nicole Reams, Realtor® understands how difficult it is to relocate. Having to find reputable movers, research new schools, contact utility companies, etc.—can be time consuming and costly.

Find out how Nicole Reams can help you!

Call **510-812-8824**





California Pacific Realty® & California Pacific Mortgage Group® License# 01439549

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Compiled by Jo Ellis

Councilmember Brunner's Community Advisory Meeting

First Saturday every other month, 10am to noon. Peralta Elementary School: 460 63rd St. (parking on Alcatraz Ave., just east of Telegraph).For March 3rd meeting topic and information on all District One issues, call 238-7001 or www.oaklandnet.com (the site for all City-related information).

The Greater Rockridge N'hood Crime Prevention Council

Residents and business members of NCPC's 12Y and 13X areas are invited to voice their concerns about crime and public safety. 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: 2/3, 2/10, 3/3.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am: 2/7, 2/21,3/7.
- **Pajama Story Time:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm: 2/13, 2/27 (special guest storyteller; see below).

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES:

- **Annual Valentines-making Workshop:** bring colorful scraps of paper and a list of your favorite people. We provide scissors, glue and envelopes. All ages welcome; kids under 7 must bring a grown-up. Friday, 2/9, from 3 to 4:30pm in Community Meeting Room.
- **Celebrate Black History Month:** guest storyteller **Muriel Johnson** presents traditional folk tales from Africa and the American South. All ages welcome. Tuesday, 2/27 at 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, upstairs meeting room. Film on 2/13 is *Bleach*. 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 (2/17), 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.
- **Celebrate Black History Month:** discussion with **Robert Johnson**, author of *Wake up Black America*." Saturday, 2/17 from 2 to 4:40pm.
- **Sahaja Yoga Meditation:** presentation of this method of meditation. All Sahaja yoga classes are free and open to the public. No pre-registration or special clothing required. Tuesday, 3/6, 6:45 to 7:45pm. For more information: 522-3436, epoliss@yahoo.com or www.sahajayoga.ca.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice.** First Tuesday of each month from 6 to 8pm. Advance sign-up starts 5pm. For more information: 597-5017.

ART EXHIBITS:

Gallery: February: paintings from **The Atelier School of Classical Realism** (held over)
March: **Tomye**, a Studio One artist.

Lobby Display Case:
February: **John Baldwin:** collage and acrylic.
March: Entries in the **Creative Re-use Contest**, sponsored by the Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA).

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, 2/12 and 2/19

Rockridge Storynight

First of a monthly open mic series. Tell and listen to stories with an open heart and creative spirit. 15 yrs and up welcome. Hosted by storyteller **Annie Goglia**. Tuesday, 2/13 from 7 to 9pm. (Future dates: 3/13, 4/17 and 5/15). Starting in March, there will be a featured storyteller after the open mic. Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave. For more information: Annie at 655-1433 or kalamari@juno.com.

Diesel Book/Readings and Events

All events are FREE and open to the public

- Friday, 2/9, 7:30pm. Basketball great **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar:** *On the Shoulders of Giants*.
- Monday, 2/12, 7:30pm: **Amnesty International meeting**. All welcome.
- Thursday, 2/15, 7:30pm: **Jeremy Larner:** *Chicken on Church*, an epic poem.
- Friday, 2/16, 7:30pm: **Gary Snyder:** *Back on the Fire*, a new collection of essays.
- Thursday, 2/22, 7:30pm: **Pete Dexter** (National Book Award winner): *Paper Trails*.

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.

College Preparatory School

Livetalk@CPS– Evening lecture series open to all.

- Thursday, 2/15, 7:30pm to 9pm. Human rights advocate **Van Jones**: No Small Dreams: a Politics of Hope for Urban America,
- Thursday, 2/22, 7:30pm to 9pm. Academy Awards Preview Night with film historian **Harry Chotinar**. Free popcorn, sodas and door prizes.

Tickets: $15 ($5 for students). Proceeds support the school's endowment fund and financial aid program. CPS Buttner Auditorium, 6100 B'way. For more information: 420-2351 or www.college-prep.org/livetalk.

The Independent Institute Policy Forum

An evening with humorist **P.J. O'Rourke** discussing his new book, *On the Wealth of Nations: Books that Changed the World*. Friday, 2/9. Wine and cheese reception, 6:30pm; program 7 to 8:30pm. The Independent Institute Conference Center, 100 Swan Way. Disabled accommodations available. For tickets and information: 632-1366, or order on-line at www.independent.org/events/detail.asp?eventID=124.

Jazz at the Chimes

Concert, followed by "meet-and-greet" reception, featuring Brazilian duo with vocalist **Claudia Villela** and guitarist **Ricardo Peixoto**. Sunday, 2/18, 2pm (doors open 1:30pm). Monthly series sponsored by Lifemark Group Arts that feature Bay Area talent. Ticket sales ($20) begin at the door at 12:30pm. Cash or check only. Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. More information: 228-3218 or www.claudiavillela.com.

Wisteria Ways Concert Series

Solstice: a female a capella ensemble performs classical, pop and jazz. Sunday, 2/11 at 3pm. 383 61st Street, inside venue (not wheelchair accessible). $15 suggested donation for musicians. See **Solstice** website at www.solsticesings.com/home.html. For reservations, RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

League of Women Voters' Birthday

The public is invited to a **free showing** of the award-winning film *Iron Jawed Angels* to celebrate the 87th birthday of the League of Women Voters (LWV) and of voting rights for women. Sunday, 2/11. Theater opens at 1:15pm for refreshments and socializing. Pre-film introduction at 1:45; film begins 2pm. The Parkway Theater, 1834 Park Blvd. (near East 18th St.). For more information, call the LWV office: 834-7640, or Parkway Theater website: www.parkway-speakeasy.com/index.php and click on Sunday Salon.

Become a Master Composter

Grow a greener community. The Master Composter Program provides **free training** in composting, soil health and bay-friendly gardening techniques. Participants then train others through a compost community outreach program. Sign up now for classes to be given on Tuesday nights, February through mid-May, including two Saturday field trips. Contact StopWaste.Org at 510/444-SOIL or www.BayFriendly.org.

Go Green Neighborhood Network

Learn what it means to live more sustainably in large and small ways. **Energy 101: the basics**. Alice LaPierre of the City of Berkeley will discuss how energy is produced and delivered to the home, and how to use less through energy audits and more efficient lighting, appliances, windows and insulation. **Bring your PG&E bill to the meeting**. Saturday, 2/24, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave. For information on future meetings: Gina at 428-0349 or gina.blus@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed

- **Alameda County Community Food Bank**: Saturday food sorting: 9am to noon and 1 to 4pm. 2/24, 3/10 and 3/24. Screen, sort, box and shelve donated food products; label cans and repackage food. Groups and individuals welcome. Sign-ups: 635-3663, x 308 or www.accfb.org.
- **Storyreader Training:** Books for Wider Horizons needs volunteers to present weekly storytimes to Oakland pre-schoolers. Bilingual especially needed. Pre-registration required. More information: 238-7453 or www.oaklandlibrary.org.



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

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

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

Flush with Confidence

PIPE SPY

- **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

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



Kitchens

- Design
- Remodeling
- Showroom Sales

www.acornkitchensandbaths.com

Acorn KITCHENS & BATHS

510 547-6581

4640 TELEGRAPH AVE • OAKLAND

HOURS: T-F 10-5 • SAT. 10-4

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