THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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Safeway Plans Major Rebuilding of Rockridge Stores

Community invited to June 21 meeting

by Elizabeth Jewel, project consultant

Safeway is beginning conversations with neighbors and planning officials about its plans to demolish and rebuild two stores in the Rockridge area, one at the intersection of College and Claremont avenues, the other in the Rockridge Shopping Center at Broadway and Pleasant Valley Avenue. They have not been updated in many years and don't reflect the wider aisles or much broader array of goods and services offered in the newer Safeway stores.



Safeway's venerable presence at Claremont and College avenues is in line for major changes according to the company. Community comments will help guide the outcome. PHOTO: D. KINKEAD

Safeway officials met recently with several RCPC board members to discuss the College and Claremont store rebuild, emphasizing their desire to seek extensive community input on the design of the store.

Todd Paradis, manager of Safeway's real estate, said that the new design would complement the style and pedestrian feel of College Avenue between Alcatraz and Claremont. The size of the new College and Claremont store will be increased significantly to house a bakery, pharmacy and a much larger produce section, as well as other services and products. Eager to

Safeway Plans, page 13

June Meeting Agenda: RCPC Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, June 21, 7-9 p.m., College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue

Note Changed Meeting Place

■ **SAFEWAY STORE TO BE REBUILT:** Rockridge residents are invited to discuss the rebuilding of the Safeway store at College Avenue and Claremont with Safeway representatives. Come share your ideas about the new store and provide important input during the project's early stage. See article above.

■ **OAKLAND BICYCLE MASTER PLAN:** Jason Patton, City of Oakland Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, presents an overview of the draft bicycle plan. Rockridge-specific provisions, including Upper Broadway and Colby Street, will be discussed. This is an opportunity for your comments to be heard. (See the entire master plan at www.oaklandpw.com/bicycling/bikeplan.htm. The bicycle network and Broadway feasibility study is at www.rockridge.org under Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Committee.)

Rockridge Crime Surge: NCPC Sets June 13 Emergency Meeting with Brunner, Cops, DA

by Susan Montauk, NCPC Chair

The Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) will hold an emergency Town Hall on **Wednesday, June 13, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Rockridge Library to address the increase in violent crime in Rockridge over the past four months. Guest panelists include Oakland Councilwoman Jane Brunner, who has initiated discussions with the mayor and Oakland Police Department (OPD) about the crime surge, OPD chief Wayne Tucker and Alameda County Deputy District Attorney John Creighton.

So far, this year through mid-May (the last date for which statistics were available), more than 20 armed robberies occurred on the streets and in the shops of Rockridge. Some resulted in injuries, as in the case of a woman who was beaten badly in broad daylight in a mugging at Miles and Cavour on May 15. At least two intended victims were saved from serious harm due to the quick action of neighbors: At 8 a.m. on May 21 at Miles and Forest, a woman was thrown to the



ground by a mugger who ran off when he heard people yelling and was chased by a neighbor; that evening passers-by and several residents prevented a mugging of a woman at 63rd and Colby. The mugger fled the scene.

Frightened citizens have expressed their fears in e-mail discussions on the Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network Yahoo Group. Some are considering moving out of Rockridge, but there are no obvious havens from crime. In March, more than a half dozen businesses along Lakeshore Drive were robbed. Three individuals in the Lake Merritt neighborhood were robbed by hooded bandits in just a few hours.

The invasion of criminals into our neighborhoods may be linked to increased police pressure in historically crime-oppressed

Crime Summit, page 10

Confessions of a Book Thief and Notes on the Rockridge Library Summer Reading Program

by Gay Ducey, children's librarian

I stole a book once, in a kind of crazy book romance. I didn't mean to steal it, I didn't know I had stolen it; I just hadn't returned it. Sometimes eight year olds can't part with a book. It just stays, first in a pile, then a corner, finally migrating to the permanent book place. So it was with my purloined booty. It took up residence. Adding insult to larcenous injury, I stole it from Lakeview Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, my home town. My whole family attended that church. One might think I would steal from the Baptists, but no, I had to soil my own nest. Thievery didn't come naturally to me. I just took it with the same kind of impulse that results in a case of lime Jell-O after shopping at Costco. Book love.

My mother discovered the theft quickly, as mothers do. She told me to return it, and I told her I would. But I didn't. I couldn't, I loved it so. So it sat for decades on my bookshelf until I returned to New Orleans. My mother had died and I was going to make good on that promise. I arrived and announced my bona fides, presented the book and asked that it be inscribed in honor of my mother. The secretary looked startled: "You might like to visit the church library before you leave," she said. I did, and discovered a copy of the book on the shelf. The inscription read: "In honor of MaryGay Boettcher, Librarian." It was not signed, but I'd know my mother's handwriting anywhere.

We are in the business of romance here at the public library. The kind of romance that is kindled between a child and a book. If it takes flame early enough, the romance lasts a lifetime, but it is never too late to start. That is the reason we have a Summer Reading Program. Unlike most libraries we don't count the number of books kids read, and we don't require any reports or other proof of reading. We ask families to keep track of the number of minutes and hours read, up to eight hours. We give away small enticements along the way. Our approach celebrates the act of reading, not the prowess of being able to knock off five titles a day. The bookkeeping is pleasing and involves coming into the library and recording the minutes and hours. Kids who complete the program get coupons for things like the Lawrence Hall of Science and also get to choose a new book to take home. We welcome all kids, even preschoolers, because whether you read yourself or are read to, it all counts toward your eight hours. We do ask that the books read be from the library. The program begins on June 9 and ends August 11. We hope you and your family will join up. And read… at night, in the car, on vacation, any time at all.

PS: It was *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations.*

Summer Reading Ideas From Your Local Children's Librarians Erica Siskind and Gay Ducey

The best part of Summer Reading is that kids get to choose whatever they want to read. Each summer, though, the Oakland Library chooses a theme, and for 2007, it's "Get a Clue at the Library"— with a list of great MYSTERIES for kids. When you come to the library, ask us for a booklist of Mysterious Picture Books, Readers, Chapter Books, and Non-Fiction. Here's a sample of books for readers 8 to 12 years old. Give one a try and see if it grabs you!

📖 ***Mr. Chickee's Funny Money*** by Christopher Paul Curtis (151 pages):
Flint Future Detective Club members Steven Carter, his friend Russell and Russell's dog Zoopy must solve the mystery of a quadrillion-dollar bill with the image of James Brown on it before Agent Fondoo steals it!

📖 ***The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn*** by Dorothy Hoobler (214 pages):
Fourteen-year-old Seikei must prove he has the courage to become a samurai and gets his chance when a ghost steals a priceless gem intended for the shogun of Japan. The sequels are great, too.

📖 ***Public Enemy Number Two*** **OR** ***Stormbreaker*** by Anthony Horowitz (180 pages, approx.):
Horowitz has written two great series. One features the Diamond Brothers, two teens who investigate mysteries involving international spies, thugs and master criminals.

Summer Reading, page 10

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Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
CLOSED Sundays and Wednesday, July 4.
Library program details: See Calendar, page 15.

The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded in 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly in Oakland and is sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council, a non-profit public benefit organization founded to: preserve and enhance the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood; promote the health, safety and quality of life of its residents; furnish a forum for community involvement, and provide leadership and representation of neighborhood interests.

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RCPC Land Use Committee

Project Updates: ■ 5132 Telegraph/Hauser Architects/Global Video; ■ 5253 College/Peterson project



Hauser Architects' proposal for "Creekside," to be built at 5132 Telegraph Avenue, was approved by the city's Design Review Committee.

by Ronnie Spitzer, Chair, RCPC

5132 Telegraph/Hauser Architects/Global Video Site

Despite community outcry, the City's Design Review Committee decided on May 23 that the Hauser Architects proposal for the Global Video site sufficiently addresses the concerns raised by community organizations and members of the public, and that the proposal may proceed to a hearing before the full Planning Commission.

Many elements of the project do not comply with zoning regulations, both current and proposed, for the Temescal corridor. In its proposed location at the corner of Telegraph and Claremont, the 65-foot building exceeds existing height limits by 20-60%, and the stepped-back, 45-foot high Clarke Street building exceeds height limits by 50-100%. The new 3-foot front setback at the entrance of the proposed driveway does not meet code requirements, and does not allow sufficient space for landscaping/screening. Other issues with the 105-unit project include: excessive densities (142 units per acre); insufficient parking; and inadequate pedestrian safety. The project requires at least four variances, and the proponent has requested a General Plan Conformity Determination to implement the revised project.

The recent revisions to the project did include increased building articulation and upper floor setbacks, persuading commissioners on the Design Review Committee that the structure's overall height and mass have been sufficiently tempered. Hauser is also proposing several community benefits, including a pedestrian plaza located on 51st Street adjoining the approved CIVIQ Plaza, a 10-foot greenway (possibly extending the CIVIQ-approved Greenbelt), inclusion of affordable housing units (terms unknown), and office space for a non-profit organization facing the greenway.

While the committee decided that the project can proceed, in its current form, to the next stage of review, committee members urged the applicant to work with the community. The RCPC is actively soliciting community input on the project. Submit comments to rcpcchair@rockridge.org

5253 College/Peterson

On May 2, the Planning Commission denied the neighbors' appeal of a staff-level approval of the Peterson project, a commercial and residential development near the intersection of College and Broadway. The Commission did, however, make several modifications to the project, increasing the height of the ground-level fence for better screening and noise reduction, and relocating the rooftop usable open space farther to the east (toward College). The project's neighbors believe the bulk and scale of the project have not been adequately addressed and have filed an appeal with the City Council, challenging the project's claimed exemption from environmental review.

Bus Rapid Transit for Telegraph?

by Ronnie Spitzer, Chair, RCPC

AC Transit is working on the East Bay Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project to improve bus service on a key corridor that extends from downtown Berkeley through Oakland to San Leandro, using Telegraph Avenue, International Boulevard, and East 14th Street. BRT is patterned after European models that combine rail features with roadway-based transit.

BRT requires dedicated bus lanes, signal prioritization, more frequent service, and enhanced stations along the corridor. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report (DEIS/R) evaluates BRT for its effect

Telegraph Bus, page 10

Zoning Changes Proposed for Telegraph Avenue and Lower Claremont Area

by Ronnie Spitzer, Chair, RCPC

Councilmember Jane Brunner and the Oakland Planning Department initiated a community planning process to update zoning along the Telegraph corridor and bring it into compliance with the General Plan. The draft proposal goes before the Zoning Update Commission on June 20.

Components specific to Rockridge include: 1) adopt General Plan map amendments adjusting land use classifications (partially shown in the diagrams on page 13), by replacing the current lower Claremont Avenue General Plan classification to "Community Commercial," which allows a wide variety of commercial and institutional operation, and by changing the area bounded by Clarke Street/51st Street/Claremont Avenue/Telegraph to a single General Plan Neighborhood Center Mixed Use designation; 2) adjust the zone boundaries including: upzoning lower Claremont to a higher intensity C-30 District Thoroughfare Commercial Zone; 3) create a new Temescal corridor combining SD-TEM zones raising maximum density and building heights to 45-55 feet to the Berkeley border; 4) adopt modifications to Telegraph Avenue's zoning C-28; and 5) adopt a set of design guidelines specific to the Temescal corridor.

The updates reflect the fact that Claremont Avenue is now considered by the city to be a busy thoroughfare, functioning as an automotive service corridor leading to freeway ramps, Telegraph, Rockridge and the Oakland Hills, and could support buildings of greater scale than envisioned by the current Claremont Avenue General Plan designation. The city

Telegraph Zoning, page 13

Keeping Up With BART

by Bob Franklin, BART director, District 3

Temporary BART Parking at Trader Joe's New Site

Immediately following the MacArthur Maze collapse, BART rider Mark Chekal-Bain sent an e-mail to me suggesting that BART should use Trader's Joe's vacant parking lot at the former Albertson's site (the future home of Trader Joe's) to accommodate additional parking during the freeway reconstruction. When asked, Trader Joe's unhesitatingly agreed to do so until it begins work on its new store in June. On behalf of the community, we want to thank Trader Joe's for its quick response to a regional emergency.

New Drop Off Zones for BART Commuters

The current Rockridge BART passenger drop-off location inside the east parking lot is so inconvenient that some people drop off passengers in the College Avenue bus stop zone, risking a $250 fine. BART has been working with the city of Oakland, Councilmember Brunner's office and AC Transit to reconfigure the bus loading zones to include clearly delineated passenger drop-off areas on both sides of College Avenue. The mailboxes near the bus zones were recently relocated because drivers were blocking traffic when they stopped to mail a letter.



Many BART commuters used parking space made available by Trader Joe's at the store's future location during reconstruction of the damaged section of I-880.

PHOTO/D. KINKEAD

Seismic Work and Ivy Replacement

Seismic work on the BART system is scheduled for Rockridge in 2009-2010 and will impact the Rockridge BART parking lots in phases. The foundations of the nine pillars supporting train tracks need to be reinforced, each requiring about a 15 foot work zone around its base. The work will provide an opportunity to replace the ivy at the western end of the parking lot at Forest and Locksley. Six alternatives to ivy are viewable on my website (see below) along with a map of the affected area. If you have any ideas or concerns about impacts, please let me know soon, as plans are being finalized.

Parking Lot Repaving

BART plans to repave the western and the attended parking lots in Rockridge this summer. The eastern permit lot will not be impacted. Work will occur in two phases, each lasting two weeks and displacing about 250 of the 909 parking spots at a time. Notices will be posted before work begins.

Rockridge Plaza Redesign

BART recently hired Level Four Studio to redesign the Rockridge Plaza at the base of the BART escalator; draft plans will be posted on my website by July. Most of the suggestions from the "UnderBART" committee sponsored by RCPC will be addressed: more seating, a direct pedestrian path to BART, better lighting and a more attractive landscape than ivy. I am also working with the Rockridge merchants association (RDA) and RCPC to install a community kiosk and business directory for this area. BART train departure information will soon be available on the internet, once internal firewalls are secure and the software is fully integrated. I am working with a few College Avenue merchants to display this real-time departure schedule on a computer monitor in their stores, so you will know when your BART train is arriving without having to wait on the platform.

Direct Service to SFO

Later this summer, BART will offer direct service on the Pittsburg-Bay Point line into SFO, so you will not have to transfer if you take BART to the airport from Rockridge. Long term parking will also be available in BART parking lots.

Bob Franklin is the BART Director for District 3, which includes Rockridge. E-mail: BobFranklin-BART@aol.com, visit WWW.BobforBART.com or phone 510/684-0026.

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FROG Park Corner

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



Park Faces Changes, Challenges

by Mike McDonald, FROG steering committee member

Global Video Site

FROG continues to be concerned about the proposed Global Video development site at Claremont and Telegraph Avenues. The project went before Oakland's Design Review Committee late in May. The developer reduced the size of the project from 115 to 105 units, but has done little to address problems like building over the Temescal Creek culvert, creating an extension of the greenbelt, and improving pedestrian safety. The site sits adjacent to the planned extension of the Greenbelt to Telegraph and 51st Street through the CIVIQ development.

Major issues include: adequate space for a publicly accessible greenbelt extension; pedestrian hazards caused by traffic in and out of the parking garage onto Clarke Street; excessive shading and shadow due to building heights; and a footprint that covers the Temescal Creek culvert, which affects future plans to daylight the creek. Direct comments on this development to FROG Chair Jennifer Cooper at jennifer@live-work.com.

Hardy Park Permanent Restroom:

Neighborhood Meeting Saturday, June 9, 10 a.m. at Hardy Park.

FROG will host a second neighborhood meeting for those interested in the Hardy Park permanent restroom project. Plans are progressing; dozens of signatures of support as well as comments and concerns have been received. Most support the restroom as an urgent need, but several neighbors and park users want the restroom secured at night so that it does not become a transient or homeless hangout. If you can't make the June 9 meeting but would like to add your input, e-mail us at: frogrestroom@rockridge.org

FROG Park Maintenance Day A Big Success

On Earth Day, April 21, a great crew of FROG Park community volunteers cleared debris, shoveled sand, trimmed brush and cleaned the Hardy and Redondo play areas. Oakland Fire Department volunteers made quick work of the sand pile for Redondo, and extra workers from the Friends of DMV cleared the creek bed areas. Thanks to all who pitched in, the park now looks great. To participate in future maintenance days or to become a FROG Park "steward," contact Volunteer Coordinator Howard Ferrier at hwferrier@sbcglobal.net.



At right, even tadpole Henry Dolan had to hop to it on FROG maintenance day, April 21. PHOTO: CY GULASSA

Tests of *E. Coli* and Coliform in Temescal Creek Meet Standards

Bacteriological (*E. coli*/coliform) tests done by Friends of Temescal Creek between 2003 and 2007 show that Temescal Creek (the creek running under and through FROG Park) almost always meets the State non-contact recreation standard. ("Non-contact" means it's okay to put hands in, but not to go swimming.) Testing has been carried out at least twice a year, usually winter and summer. Samples taken from four sites, including Hardy Park, have been collected according to standard protocol; tests are performed by the EPA at the Richmond Field Station.

The results, similar to those of other East Bay Creeks, indicate that the level of *E. coli* in the creek should not be a barrier to pumping up the creek year-round. In fact the data show that the *E. coli* numbers are lower in the winter. "However," says Friends of Temescal Creek member Joan Marie Wood, "FROG Park users are advised to wash their hands after playing in the creek and before eating. Also, do not drink the water! Remember that this is a creek and that water-borne illnesses can be contracted even from wilderness streams." Woods added that as part of the project to keep the creek flowing year round, "We plan

FROG Report, page 13

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The Rockridge Kitchen Tour Kitchen Selection Process is Complete —

And the Winners Are…

by Jennifer Edmister

After hours poring over maps with pushpins and gorgeous photos, we are pleased to announce the selection of nine spectacular kitchens for the 2007 Rockridge Kitchen Tour. With a record number of kitchens to consider, the task of narrowing the list to just nine was exceptionally difficult. The final selections were based upon a combination of factors, including design appeal, variety of materials, price range and proximity to other selected kitchens. As has been the custom for six tours past, we tried to group the kitchens into three easy, mostly walkable clusters of three. Unfortunately, the tour limit of nine kitchens has caused us to forgo a number of spectacular kitchens. The Rockridge Community Planning Council and the Kitchen Tour selection committee extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who volunteered their kitchens and home space to this worthwhile fundraiser.

Volunteers Still Needed

Our docent committee is busy signing up volunteers to guide tour guests through our showpiece kitchens. Two to three docents are assigned to each home, and they rotate duties – greeting guests at the door, showing tour guests the kitchens' amenities and helping to serve refreshments on back patios. Docents are treated to a pre-tour of a cluster of three kitchens as part of their training. If you are interested in being a docent, please contact Nancy Sale at 510/655-4625.

To assist with pre-tour and event-day activities, including set-up, food preparation and/or ticketing, please contact Jennifer Edmister at 510/547-2841 or toejrb@earthlink.net.

Brochure Advertising

The kitchen tour brochure provides merchants, real estate brokers, builders, architects, designers, decorators, and other residential home professionals with an opportunity to reach an interested and enthusiastic audience. For more information about securing advertising space in the tour brochure, please contact Jo Ellis at joellis1@hotmail.com, or, after 12 noon, at 653-3210.



A sneak preview of one of the nine spectacular kitchens on the October 7 tour. Avoid the rush and save a few bucks: buy your advance purchase tickets now or on-line at (www.rockridge.org) by the end of June.

PHOTO: JENNIFER EDMISTER

Advance 2007 Rockridge Kitchen Tour Ticket Order Form

YES! Save me a spot for the 2007 Rockridge Kitchen Tour, Sunday, October 7, 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Please send me the following ticket order:

_____ Number of tickets @ $30 advance price = $_____ total enclosed

Name _____Phone _____/_____

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of Cynthia Karen Tilden
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Jessica Pitt: Let's Seek Common Ground

Former RCPC Chair Leaves Board after Four Years of Service

In April, I stepped down from the RCPC board of directors after two terms on the board. During my four years in office, I held several positions including Secretary, Vice-Chair, and for the past year Board Chair. After serving during one of the most tumultuous periods in RCPC's history, in which our community has experienced increasing development pressures, I come away with a mix of emotions.

On the one hand, I have tremendous appreciation for the extraordinary level of community engagement in Rockridge, from my fellow board members who invested uncountable hours in the RCPC to the more than 500 people who cared enough about their neighborhood to turn out to vote in the annual board election. On the other hand, I am deeply concerned about the rifts developing within our community, and especially what I see as growing intolerance for divergent views and a decline of civility.

When I decided to run for the RCPC board in 2003, I was a relative newcomer to Rockridge. I had been a renter in the neighborhood for three years and had just purchased my own home. As a graduate student in urban planning in the 1990s, my dissertation looked at community building initiatives around the country with a focus on community participation. At the time, I worked for a nonprofit where I facilitated resident-led community improvement projects in neighborhoods throughout Oakland and the United States. I felt that it was time to get involved in my own community.

In many of the communities I have studied and worked in over the years, it has been a tremendous challenge to get people involved in neighborhood issues. In Rockridge, however, people have an incredibly strong sense of attachment to their community and choose to contribute in many different ways, whether through the RCPC board and its committees, the NCPC, the schools, or as volunteers for Earth Day clean-ups and other community events. Some of Rockridge's greatest assets came about as a result of small groups of dedicated individuals who had a vision and undertook major projects such as the Rockridge Branch Library, FROG Park, or the benches along College Avenue. I was very pleased to see so many people turn out to vote in this year's board election. This was yet another demonstration of the degree to which Rockridge residents are invested in their community.

Along with this strong sense of attachment come very passionate feelings about what we think is best for Rockridge. Over the past two years, the intensity of those feelings has become evident as the neighborhood has seen a rash of new building in and around our neighborhood. I have attended numerous community meetings addressing this new development, and have become concerned about the tone of these discussions.

"Some of Rockridge's greatest assets came about as a result of small groups of dedicated individuals who had a vision."



Jessica Pitt

I understand that people feel strongly about these issues—whether they oppose higher-density development or support it—and much is at stake for our community. However, rather than a healthy dialogue in which people listen to one another and respectfully engage in debate, there seems to be a growing intolerance of divergent views. For example, on more than one occasion I have heard homeowners disparage renters as an unwanted element in our community, and speakers who express unpopular opinions have been booed and interrupted. These kinds of exchanges promote divisiveness, and keep us from seeing where there might be common ground.

In the coming years Rockridge will continue to grapple with development pressures. As RCPC responds to these important land use issues, as well as other community concerns, I hope we can create an atmosphere in which the expression of a wide range of views is acceptable and even encouraged. I believe that this can only strengthen RCPC and our community, and will lead to even more community engagement and participation.

I have greatly valued my time on the RCPC board and feel fortunate to have worked with so many dedicated people. I particularly want to acknowledge and thank my fellow board members for their contributions over the past four years. It is my hope that we can reaffirm the importance of civility so that the RCPC will remain an inclusive and welcoming organization.


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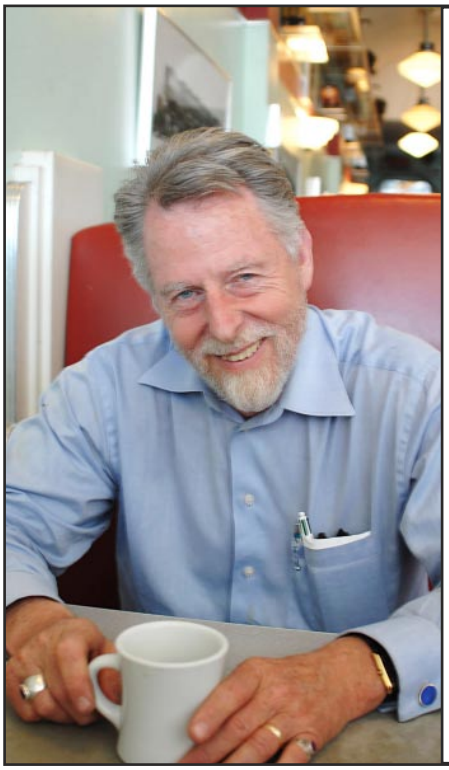
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Pastor Bill Beatty — A 'Man for All Seasons' Retires



After 34 years as a community leader and pastor of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church in Rockridge, Bill Beatty is retiring. Below, in an interview with Ortrun Niesar, he shares highlights of a ministry that spanned decades of cultural, spiritual and neighborhood change. A celebratory farewell was held at the church on Sunday, June 3.

PHOTO: ORTRUN NIESAR

by Ortrun Niesar

The Claremont Diner was the place where we had agreed to meet. As soon as I entered the café, Bill Beatty's joyful and still very youthful face emerged from a rear booth. There were enthusiastic handshakes and greetings. We ordered rhubarb pie *à la mode* and coffee and then we settled down to talk for the next two and a half hours.

Roll the film back and the same scene could have happened 34 years ago, perhaps at Dreyer's Coffee Shop. Bill, fresh out of seminary and not yet fully ordained, had accepted an interim pastoral appointment at College Avenue Presbyterian Church (CAPC). At the time it was not clear to him or his superiors what exactly it was he was called to do here. The church, housed in a building designed by Julia Morgan, had always been a bastion of middle-class respectability. But this was 1973, and it didn't take Bill long to realize that in this time of profound social change, the old formulas of presbytery ministry no longer worked. His church was not exactly moribund, but it was not full either. Undaunted, Bill took to the streets. He became a community/village pastor and urban missionary, caring for his church family and eventually building a large spiritual community outside of the church as well. Sundays, Pastor Bill would be in his sanctuary, leading the congregation in singing every verse of every hymn. But many more of us know him striding along College Avenue Monday through Saturday, joyfully greeting one and all, shaking hands, sharing a cup of coffee, being there for those in need.

In 1973 the Bay Area was reeling from civil and spiritual unrest spurred by the war in Vietnam, the draft, drugs, the Summer of Love – a volatile social cocktail spiked with numerous subcultural movements and rebellions. Locally there were the Black Panthers, the Moonies, the Rashnishi, and the Symbionese Liberation Army to deal with. Rockridge itself had been split in half by the Grove-Shafter Freeway and was newly straining under the coming of BART. People retreated in droves to Walnut Creek, Orinda, Lafayette. College Avenue storefronts between Claremont Avenue and Broadway were largely papered over, shut.

But new dwellers appeared, young people with energy and new ideas, to help create a new Rockridge. Bill was the perfect messenger for this new generation. As an enthusiastic young pastor with missionary zeal, he reached out to one and all, using the church assets to serve an urban community that now had very different needs. College Avenue Presbyterian became the venue for pre-school, youth and senior activities, RCPC meetings, Friday evening Agapé Meals, political activism and cultural events.

A new church family evolved as well: a congregation no longer local or urban, but global, diverse and wonderful. The world had reached our neighborhood, and Bill believes this paradigm is here to stay in

Pastor Bill, page 9

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Pastor Bill, from page 8

the 21st century.

Over the years Bill has served as chaplain for Kaiser Hospital and the Oakland Police Department; helped formulate the Oakland City Plan; championed the racial integration of the National Association of Evangelicals in Oakland, and provided leadership in many local organizations. The Beatty home on Ocean Avenue has been host not only to hundreds of Rockridge neighbors and church members but also a steady stream of visitors from around the world.

Bill and his wife Beth plan to stay on in Rockridge but take out time to explore new territory, perhaps carry farther the work they have started here. There is a sister church, St. Andrews, located in Uburu, Nigeria. Help is urgently needed there in the local hospital. There is a possibility of teaching, perhaps at Patton University. But then the bag pipes of Scotland are calling as well. Bill has always wanted to learn how to play them. In case you wonder, it was his twin brother who played the bagpipes in all those Easter processions. Bill is a tuba player and loves to sing as well.

Bill's love for his extended church community will continue to burn bright. No matter where he might hear his next call, he will always cherish the memories of his years here. His greatest hope for Rockridge and the church in the future is to see all of us who live here stay long enough in one place to allow us to deepen our relationships to each other and to the community, to move from mobility and excessive consumption to a place of responsibility for each other as well as deeper spiritual commitment.

Thank you, Bill, from the bottom of our hearts for the great service you have given not only to your congregation, but to the entire Rockridge community. We do not say good-bye, but thank you for your spirit, love and inspiration. We hope that you will stick around to see your dream for Rockridge come true.

CAPC said good-bye to Bill and Beth Beatty in a day full of celebration on June 3. The congregation has also decided to establish a Support Ministries Fund (the Pastor Bill & Beth Fund). Please call the church for more details at 510/658-3665. Pastor Bill's direct line is 510/547-3053.



"Thank you, Bill, from the bottom of our hearts for the great service you have given not only to your congregation, but to the entire Rockridge community."



After 36 years of serving the elderly of the Rockridge community, the Senior Center of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue, closed its doors May 9 with an elegant farewell lunch hosted by Pastor Bill Beatty, who is retiring, and adult education teacher Cathy Connelly. Above, top left, Pastor Beatty reads citations awarded to some of the 30 regulars who for years enjoyed afternoons swapping stories, playing games and singing around the piano. At right above, Cathy Connelly serves up a delicious lunch as senior guests, dressed in Sunday best for the occasion, share food and farewells. They are all invited to join the senior center at St. Leo's Catholic Church on Piedmont Avenue in Oakland.

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Summer Reading

from page 2

The other series features Alex Rider, the 14-year-old nephew of a secret agent who goes undercover for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6, in an exciting series of books with a James Bond feel and plenty of spy gadgets.

📖 ***The Lightning Thief*** by Rick Riordan, (377 pages):

ADD/ADHD, or DEMIGOD? After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, 12-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods. Sea of Monsters, and Titan's Curse follow.

📖 ***The Case of the Missing Marquess*** by Nancy Springer. An Enola Holmes Mystery, (216 pages):

Enola Holmes, the much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother.

📖 ***Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief*** by Wendelin Van Draanen, (168 pages)

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Telegraph Bus?

from page 3

on traffic and parking, and examines environmental impacts and cost-effectiveness. A key Rockridge concern is that the Telegraph and Alcatraz intersection may, in the future, require substantial reconfiguration.

AC Transit is hosting hearings to provide information and receive comment: Open house 5:30 p.m; public hearing 7 p.m.

- **Thursday June 7**, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Auditorium, 101-8th Street (at Oak);
- **Wednesday, June 13**, Fruitvale/San Antonio Senior Center, Fruitvale Transit Village, 3301 East 12th Street, Suite 201 (opposite Fruitvale Public Market),

The DEIS/R is available at www.actransit.org/brtdraft_eis.wu. The Rockridge community is encouraged to submit comments via mail: East Bay BRT Project Office, AC Transit, 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94612; or at the web site http://www.actransit.org/brtcomment.wu. Comments are due no later than 5 p.m., July 3.

Crime Summit

from page 1

neighborhoods like East Oakland. Criminals looking for greener pastures can be expected to look for them in other neighborhoods. As Assistant District Attorney Tom Rogers puts it: "When one fishing hole is fished out they go to another."

Rogers also believes that a pattern of lenient sentencing has created repeat criminals. He urges communities and NCPCs to unite behind an effort to strengthen sentencing for crimes like auto burglary and auto theft, which are often classified as misdemeanors with no time served.

Rogers says that community pressure to bring stricter sentencing to the criminal justice system is one important way to get criminals off the streets and teach them that there are penalties for breaking the law.

Find information about NCPC meetings and crime rates at www.rockridgencpc.com.

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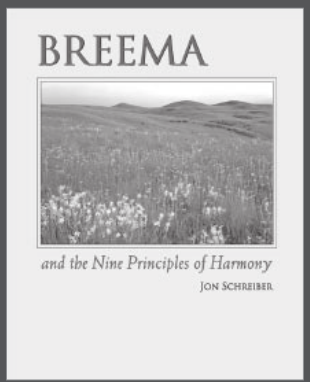
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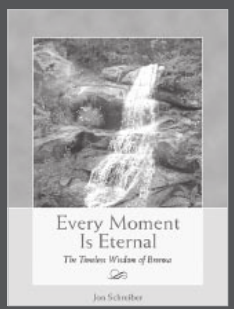
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STAND Says Temescal Condos Require Environmental Review

by Bob Brokl

Standing Together for Accountable Neighborhood Development (STAND), a Temescal-based organization, is challenging plans for a 5-story, 44-unit, market rate condo project for 4801 Shattuck, which was approved by the city planning commission April 4. A hearing before the city council on the appeal has not yet been scheduled.

The developers are Roy Alper, Ron Kriss, and Patrick Zimski. Their other projects include Temescal Place at 4801 Telegraph, Civiq at 51st and Telegraph, Contrada at 4700 Telegraph, and the "Kingfish" at 52nd and Telegraph/5200 Claremont.

The 4801 Shattuck building would stretch from the corner of Shattuck and 48th to another project of theirs, Gate 48. All existing buildings on this block (excepting Gate 48) would be demolished, including the developers' headquarters and three rental housing buildings.

City planning staff recommends a major conditional use permit and four "minor" variances (waivers of existing zoning requirements) for height and setbacks for this building. All in all, the 6-story project at 4801 Telegraph Temescal Place, Gate 48 and 4801 Shattuck, if approved as proposed, will require 13 variances.

STAND argues that these developments require a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review and has retained environmental/land use attorney Jeff Hoffman to help with the appeal. His letter to the city asks that environmental review be conducted, beginning with an "initial study." He points out that the CEQA categorical exemption for infill development used to avoid environmental review cannot be invoked if these projects require variances in order to conform to existing zoning/general plan designations. STAND further takes the position that state law forbids granting of so many variances to projects in such close proximity, without rezoning. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan requires as a mitigation measure for ground floor commercial on the Shattuck street frontage, but the planning commission overruled even this limited adjustment, instead allowing ground floor residential.

Analysis of cumulative impacts could affect the decisionmaking on all the proposed condo projects on the Temescal-Rockridge border, especially the largest to date, the 105-unit, 6-story Hauser "Creekside" building proposed for Telegraph Avenue at Claremont.

For more information: Robert Brokl (of the STAND steering committee), broklcrofts@earthlink.net. Contributions to STAND's legal fund can be sent to STAND, P.O. Box 20486, Oakland, CA, 94620.







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Address	Bed/Ba.	List Price	Selling Price	Close Date
6040 Ocean View Drive	3/1	$ 1,095,000	$ 1,350,000	5/1/2007
5343 Broadway Avenue	2/2	$495,000	$ 485,000	5/2/2007
5732 Clover Drive	3/1	$ 875,000	$ 891,000	5/2/2007
5724 Broadway	2/1	$ 629,000	$ 741,000	5/4/2007
5224 Boyd	4/2	$659,000	$620,000	5/11/2007

If you listed your home and it sold in May of this year, the average time on the market was only 15 days! Last year at this time houses sat on the market a little longer. However if size matters, this time last year the avg. sq ft for a house sold was almost 1900, as compared with this year, the avg. was 1571 sq ft according to public records.

Visit my website at www.eastbayhouse.com!

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

Free Food, Songs, Rockridge News Booze; Wow!

As a thank you to some of the 144 neighbors who faithfully deliver T*he Rockridge News* to your doorstep each month, RCPC and the news staff hosted a dinner party last month in the hall of the Berkeley Korean United Methodist Church on Hudson Avenue at Manila. Forty of the valiant feasted on hors d'oeuvres from Garibaldi's, lasagna from Market Hall, and strawberries and cookies from local markets. Bottles of coveted Rockridge News Booze (Sip Booze with the News) Chardonay were awarded to those who scored highest on a quiz of events covered in the 235 issues of *The Rockridge News* published since its founding in 1986, as well as to those who created and belted out the cleverest lyrics to "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall." Sample: "*I deliver the Rockridge News / Every month for free / Up the stairs and down the stairs / My feet are killing me.*"

"I got food, fun and a challenge," commented guest Henrietta Radcliff after the party. "Who could ask for anything more?"





A few of the 144-member Rockridge News home delivery team at a dinner party last month. Above right, a young deliverer-in-training helps Mom with *The Rockridge News* quiz. PHOTOS: CY GULASSA

Join the Rockridge News Team

If you've got about 15 minutes of free time each month you can support your community by delivering *The Rockridge News* to your neighbors. Please let us know if you would like to pick up one of the open routes listed below. Call Susan at 547-3855 or email her at smontauk@gmail.com to volunteer.

Route	Delivery Area Description
24B	North side of Alcatraz from Hillegass to Benvenue, 6400 block of Hillegass and Woolsey from Hillegass to Benvenue.
21G	Along the odd numbers of 6000 Claremont.





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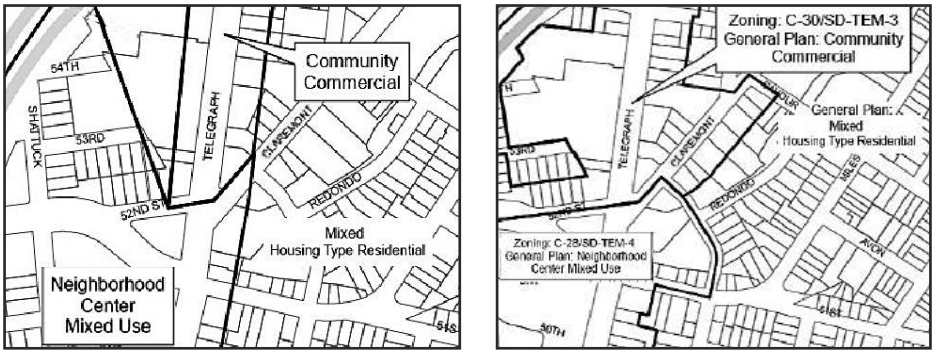
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Telegraph Zoning

from page 3

claims these changes would permit higher building densities consistent with General Plan, State and regional policies for major transit corridors, and allow for more uniform development, albeit at a higher density, in the Clarke/51st/Claremont area.

Impacts to Lower Rockridge from this proposal are being evaluated by the RCPC Land Use Committee. To become involved, contact rcpcchair@rockridge.org



Present **Telegraph Zoning** Proposed

FROG Report

from page 5

to continue bacteriological testing twice a year and need trained volunteers to help." To get involved and/or volunteer, contact Joan Marie Wood at: joanmariew@earthlink.net. *E. coli* data will soon be available at www.temescalcreek.org.

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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.

318 & 320 Hudson Street

Proposal: To replace an existing accessory structure limited to 12 feet in height within rear and side yard setback which covers more than 50% of rear yard setback. This project also includes replacement of the deck and stairs located at the rear of the existing duplex.

Contact: Stan Wu 510/421-0200

Owner: Stan Wu

Planning Permits Required: Variance to replace a 361 square ft accessory building covering 62% of the rear yard setback where 50% is allowed.

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

Safeway Plans

from page 1

get the project underway, Safeway expects to spend the summer getting community input and making preliminary drawings.

The company has retained a Berkeley-based consulting firm, Aroner, Jewel & Ellis Partners, to coordinate outreach to the community, elected officials and planning staff. As part of that effort Safeway will create a special website devoted to the College and Claremont store rebuild that will post architectural drawings, list community meetings and allow users to share thoughts and concerns as the project moves forward.

Neighbors are invited to the RCPC Town Hall Meeting on June 21 [see agenda box, page 1] to learn more about the project and share ideas and concerns. This is your chance to let Safeway managers know your views in the early stages of development; they hope many Rockridge residents will take advantage of this opportunity.

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Pop Singing Classes for Girls

New summer session for Girls ages 9-13. Sing songs from the Wiz and the Wizard of Oz! Vocal technique, group dynamics. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 7-8 pm. 3 weeks, 6 classes. June 26th-July 12th. Lisa 510/653-0107.



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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Compiled by Jo Ellis

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN:

- **Toddler Story Time:** 1st and 2nd Saturdays, 10:30am: 6/2, 6/9, 7/7.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am: 6/6, 6/20 (Zoomobile).
- **Pajama Story Time:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm: 6/12, 6/26 (puppet show).

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES:

- **The Summer Reading Program** begins on Saturday, 6/9. Children of all ages, get ready to sign up and get prizes for reading.
- **Magic Show: Jean-Paul Valjean** performs magic and clowning for all ages, 6/9, 7pm.
- **Zoomobile:** Meet live animals. 6/20, 10:30am. Best for pre-schoolers.
- **Puppet Show:** The Puppet Art Theater performs "Tommy's Train Trouble." 6/26, 7pm. All ages welcome.
- **Family Reading Workshop:** Reading fun for parents and children (ages 2 to 6). 6/30, 10:30am. For more info and to register call Erica: 597-5017.

FOR TEENS:

- **Summer Volunteers, ages 11 to 16, needed to help run the Summer Reading Program.** Each volunteer must attend an orientation with a parent or guardian. To get details and sign up, call Erica Siskind or Gay Ducey at 597-5017.
- **Anime Club:** Teens ages 13 and up, 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 6/15 is Naruto (episode 100+). For more info, call Susy, the Teen Specialist Librarian, at 597-5017.
- **Teen Advisory Board:** Talk about what YOU want at the library. First meeting on Wed., 6/20, 3:30 to 4:30pm.
- **Teen Summer Program, June 9 through Aug. 11.** Assist beginning computer users, help younger kids with the Summer Reading Game. Earn points for Teen Summer Prizes. Teens with at least 10 hours of combined library activity time will be invited to a celebration with raffles and snacks. Call for more info and to sign up.

FOR ADULTS:

- **Beginning Computer Skills:** get help from teen volunteers on Thursdays, 4 to 5:30pm and Fridays, 4:30 to 5:30pm. Make an appointment with the adult reference desk: 597-5017.
- **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 from 1 to 5pm. For more information: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Knitting Classes for Seniors (50+):** 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. Cancelled for July.**

ART EXHIBITS:

Gallery: June: **Dana Davis**, photographs.
July: Oakland Art Association exhibit.

Lobby Display Case:
June: Puppets and book illustrations by **Katherine Tillotson**.
July: Oakland Art Association.

LIBRARY HOURS:
Mon. and Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed., Thurs. and Sat. 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri., 12 to 5:30pm. Closed
Sundays and Wed. July 4.

Diesel Book & Poetry Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Monday, 6/11, 7:30pm: **Amnesty International** meeting. All welcome.
- Wednesday. 6/13, 7:30pm: **Drew Curtis**, founder of FARK.com: *It's not News, It's FARK; How Mass Media Passes Off Crap as News*.
- Thursday, 6/14, 7:30pm: Local author **Anita Amirrezvani:** *The Blood of Flowers.*
- Wednesday, 6/20, 7:30pm: **Michele Simon:** *Appetite for Profit.* How to counter-attack groups that undermine nutrition policy in schools and elsewhere.
- Sunday, 6/24, 3pm: Local writing group, **Wednesday Writers**, will read from their new collection, *Something That Matters*.

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.

Temescal Street Fair

Entertainment on 2 stages, arts and crafts, fashion show, children's activities including a climbing wall and great food and drink from local restaurants. Saturday, June 9, from noon to 6pm along Telegraph Ave. between 48th and 51st streets. Valet bike parking by East Bay Bike Coalition. Info: Karen Hester, 654-6346 or Karen@hesternet.net.

"Significant Others"

Third annual art show featuring the works of 14 local artists from the LGBT community. Show runs through June 28 (June is LGBT Pride Month). Regular gallery hours: M – F, 9am to 5pm. Women's Cancer Resource Center (WCRC) Gallery, 5741 Telegraph Ave. Wheelchair accessible. Show co-sponsored by the American Cancer Society. 601-4040 x111 or wcrc@wcrc.org.

Rockridge Area Artists

Will participate in **ProArts Open Studios** June 9-10. Maps and info available at the Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave. More info: Liz at 654-5741.

Benefit Concert at Hudson Bay Café

Flamenco concert, Saturday, June 16, 7-10pm. Proceeds to benefit the Rockridge Library. All donations welcome. 5401 College Ave., (corner of Hudson). Info: Sadri at 658-0214.

Wisteria Ways Concert Series

Moira Smiley and VOCO, joined by members of **Kitka:** Vocal and instrumental Balkan, Appalachian and African-American music. Saturday, 6/30 at 8:30pm (a 6pm show will be added if the later show sells out). 383 61st Street, inside venue (not wheelchair accessible). $18 suggested donation for musicians. Reservations recommended (limited seating). RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

Concerts at the Chimes

- **Soul at the Chimes:** "Songs to Freedom." Gospel concert and reception. Fundraiser for Bay Area Repertory Theater (BayART). Sunday, June 10, 2 to 4pm followed by reception (door open 1:30pm). Tickets in advance ($20/$15 Sr. or student) through www.brownpapertickets.com or at the door $25/$20. Info: 464-3086 or info@bayarearep.org.
- **Father's Day Jazz Jam and Brunch: Free.** All dads and musical kids, bring your instruments and jam with some of the Bay Area's finest jazz sidemen. All instruments and vocalists welcome. Light brunch provided. Sunday, June 17, 11am to 1pm. Info/sign-ups: 228-3218. Followed by:
- **Jazz at the Chimes with the Hal Stein Quartet.** Sunday, June 17, 2pm. Ticket sales at the door begin at 12:30pm: $10 (cash only) for concert and reception.

Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. For more info about the Jazz Jam or concerts: 228-3218, www.lifemarkgroup.com/oakland/special-events.asp or mdorazi@lifemarkgroup.com.

North Oakland Senior Center Flea Market

Saturday, June 9, 8am to 4pm. Vendor spaces available for $10 (cash). Purchase in advance at reception desk. Donations also accepted for the Sr. Center booth (no clothing). 5714 MLK, Jr. Way; Flea Market in parking lot on 58th Street. More info at 597-5085.

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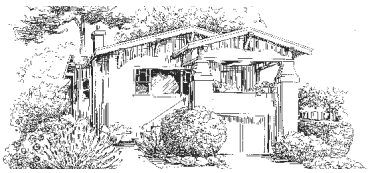
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