THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
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Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council • 5245 College Ave. PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94618 • 869-4200

Rockridge Kitchen Tour has Something for Everyone

Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC)
September Town Hall Meeting Agenda:
Green Kitchens and Home Renovation

Thursday, September 20, 7:30 p.m., Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue at Manila, Community Room

- **RCPC Rockridge Kitchen Tour Forum**
  Green Kitchens and Home Renovation
  Featuring slideshow and discussions by:
  - Certified "green" building professional Maurice Levitch of Levitch Design
  - Henry Guttman, founder/owner of EcoModern Design
  - Rockridge Remodelers

Is it Easy to be Green? Ask the Experts

by Jennifer Edmister

As the October 7 Rockridge Kitchen Tour approaches, home enthusiasts begin to ponder the range of remodeling possibilities. But, today's remodelers can be overwhelmed as they face a growing array of eco-friendly or "green" choices.

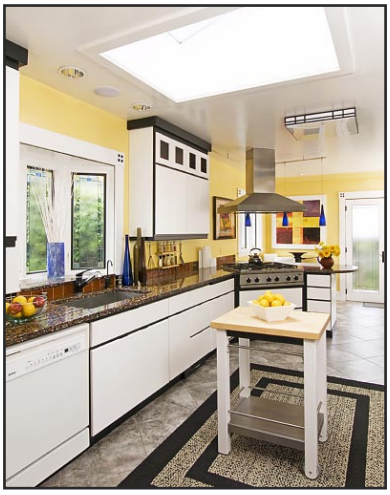
For the September Town Hall meeting, RCPC has assembled local professionals to guide you into the world of green. Whether or not green is your goal, you will be amazed by the variety of eco-friendly designs and materials available today. Bring your questions, your concerns and

Going Green, page 11

Rockridge Kitchen Tour Oct 7: Presale Tickets Available Now

by Jennifer Edmister

The Rockridge Kitchen Tour is upon us. After considering a record number of outstanding kitchens, our committee selected nine of the finest home kitchens in Rockridge for the seventh biennial kitchen tour. We are proud to showcase some of the most innovative uses of materials we've seen yet, including exciting new eco-friendly or "green" techniques.



A contemporary "green" kitchen on the October 7 tour.
PHOTO: KENNETH RICE PHOTOGRAPHY

With several homeowners having art and design backgrounds, this year's selection of kitchens includes stunning examples of both modernism and classic craftsmanship. Don't miss the unique Asian-influenced kitchen on Chabot, with its rich walnut finishes; or the ultra-modern kitchen on Lawton with unexpected red lacquered cabinetry; or the contemporary kitchen on Ayala, with fine Arts & Crafts detailing and recycled glass countertops.

As you stroll through the kitchens enjoying refreshments and the company of your neighbors and friends, know that your participation in the tour supports RCPC's work as a non-profit public benefit corporation, dedicated to serving

Kitchen Tour, page 11

Meeting: Safeway/Rockridge Center Redevelopment

A meeting open to the community will be held Tuesday, September 11 (see box page 12 for details) to discuss upcoming changes at the Rockridge Shopping Center at Broadway and Pleasant Valley. Safeway has asked RCPC to solicit community ideas and opinions about upgrading their store located within the retail center, along with modernizing and potentially rebuilding part of the center.

Safeway, although not the landowner of

RCPC is interested to hear neighbors' views on what future stores, goods, services and architecture they would like at this shopping center.

Rockridge Center, has an agreement with the owner to act as the master developer to renovate and/or rebuild much of the shopping center. Big changes are possible to site plan, architecture and retailers, though Safeway representatives state that they have no specific plan. The Longs Drugs lease runs out in 2011; Safeway has not yet discussed future plans with Longs. (The Washington Mutual Bank and former Hickory Pit sites have separate owners and will not be part of the renovation.)

A high-density advocacy group, ULTRA (Urbanists for a Livable Temescal and Rockridge Area), has begun advocating for

Rockridge Center, page 12

Caldecott Project Draft Environmental Report Inadequate, According to City

by Ellen Peterson, RCPC boardmember



Five years of construction would be needed to complete a fourth bore in the Caldecott Tunnel, as contemplated by Caltrans.

File Photo: D. Kinkead

For the last several years, Rockridge residents have been discussing the wisdom of constructing a fourth bore to the Caldecott Tunnel and the anticipated negative impacts of that construction, including increased traffic on surface streets, pollution, and noise.

The Caldecott currently has three two-lane tunnels, with the middle one changing direction during rush hours. After completion of the project, there would be four two-lane tunnels, two in each direction of traffic, whose directions would remain unchanged during rush hour. If all goes according to current Caltrans plans, construction would begin in 2009 and be completed by 2013 or 2014, at an estimated cost of $350 to $390 million.

Caltrans issued a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) in May of 2006, stating in essence that there would be no significant impacts on the environment resulting from this massive construction project. However, Caltrans limited its search for possible significant impacts to the area between Broadway and the region immediately west of the Caldecott Tunnel. It ignored possible impacts on residential areas farther west along Highway 24, the hills immediately above 24, and surface streets in Oakland and Berkeley, during the anticipated five years of construction. In fact, the City of Oakland's response to the DEIR stated that "(t)he current inadequate level of analysis makes it impossible to identify appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures."

No Improvement on Commute Side

Comments on the DEIR have raised questions about the potential effectiveness of the entire project. Caltrans set forth as goals of the project reduced traffic delays and improved mobility by providing another tunnel to handle travel in the reverse commute direction. Yet, because during rush hour the congested side of the tunnel would still consist of only two bores, the DEIR acknowledges that the project will not provide a meaningful reduction in delays or increase in mobility during peak hours.

Other comments suggested that a fourth bore would not eliminate traffic backups at the MacArthur Maze and the Bay Bridge toll plaza, but would instead merely move traffic from Contra Costa County to the highways running above North Oakland's neighborhoods. The DEIR fails to provide any traffic analysis of induced demand (in which the additional bore would encourage more drivers to use the tunnel), which could negate any reverse-commute benefits over time.

Caldecott Tunnel Project, page 7

Want to convey your interest in the Caldecott Tunnel project and its potential impact? Contact your local, state, and federal elected officials and let them know what you think:

North Oakland City Councilwoman Jane Brunner; 510/238-7001 e-mail jbrunner@oaklandnet.com

Mayor Ronald Dellums; 510/238-3141 e-mail officeofthemayor@oaklandnet.com

State Senator Don Perata; comments: http://dist09.casen.govoffice.com/

State Assemblywoman Loni Hancock; 510/559-1406 comments: http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a14/contact.htm

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger; 415/703/2218 comments: http://gov.ca.gov/interact

U.S.Senator Diane Feinstein; 415/393-0707 comments: http://feinstein.senate.gov/public

U.S.Senator Barbara Boxer; 415/403-0100 comments: http://boxer.senate.gov/contact/webform.cfm

U.S.House of Representatives Member Barbara Lee; 510/763-0370 comments: http://www.house.gov/formlee/IMA/const_comment_form.htm

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Sunday: **CLOSED**
Library program details: See Calendar, page 15.

The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded in 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly in Oakland and is sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), 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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Contact us at one of the following:
Editor: editor@rockridge.org
www.rockridge.org
The Rockridge News, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618
RCPC Voicemail: 510/869-4200

Articles submitted for publication may be e-mailed to the above address. Submissions are limited to 600 words; must include the author's name, phone number, e-mail address, and city or neighborhood of residence; and are subject to editing. To reprint a *Rockridge News* article, please contact the editor.

Newsletter Advertising/Deadlines
Publication date of the next issue is
- **October 6, 2007**
- **October deadline is September 20.**

Advertising rates are $26/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or e-mail joellis1@hotmail.com. *RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate. (Classified ad contact, page 14.)*

Planning & Project Review Committee: Local Project Updates

by Richard W. Smith, RCPC Planning and Project Review Committee chairman

5244-48 Claremont Avenue– Kingfish Co-Housing Project

RCPC's Planning and Project Review Committee reviewed this 33-unit, five-story project, fronting Telegraph and Claremont Avenues. On the committee's recommendation, the RCPC board voted to oppose the project based on a concern that such a large and tall building may set a precedent for future projects along Claremont Avenue.

RCPC wrote to the Planning Commission stating its opposition and outlining major deviations from current C-28 zoning. Several board members spoke at the Planning Commission hearing on July 18. The Planning Commission approved the project, applying the "Best Fit" provision of the General Plan and the C-45 zone, which allows buildings of such size. A variance was granted to eliminate the rear yard setback requirement. This will affect available sun and air access to future development on the adjacent site. RCPC filed an appeal to the City Council on July 30. The hearing has not yet been scheduled.

5175 Broadway – Mixed-Use Project

The site for this planned development, consisting of 28 condos and two ground-floor retail spaces at 5175 Broadway, is the former gas station between Wendy's and Poppy Fabric. Project representative Lucy Armentrout provided RCPC with drawings for review. The four-story building will have 28 to 30 underground parking spaces. As presented, the building appears to conform to existing zoning. Currently underway are a toxic clean-up program and a limited traffic study. Upon completion of these, the project will be scheduled for the Planning Commission in October.

RCPC's Planning and Project Review Committee will monitor the project and will review it when its design is definite.

5132 Telegraph – Hauser Creekside (Global Video site)

The city will be preparing an initial study which will then lead to a focused Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that will likely address traffic and other neighborhood impacts for this project on the site including the Global Video building at Telegraph and Claremont avenues. The initial study and a scoping session for the EIR will be the subject of a public hearing to be held by the Planning Commission later this year.

As approved by the Planning Commission's Design Review Committee (DRC) on May 23, the project is comprised of a five-story building facing Claremont and a three-story building facing Clarke Street, both on top of a two-story parking structure (seven and five floors total, respectively) with a total of 105 residential units. In addition to parking, the two-story podium structure includes 6,500 square feet of retail space.

The developer may be looking for a "General Plan Determination" which would allow the 105 residential units. Otherwise, fewer units and a reduced building height would result. The main objections raised by RCPC in our letter to the DRC remain with this project. A hearing on the project at the full Planning Commission later this year will be scheduled after completion of the focused EIR.

Proposed Telegraph Corridor Zoning Regulations

The city's Zoning Update Committee agreed on August 18 to forward the city planning staff recommendations to the full Planning Commission. However, the committee could not agree on building height limitations to be included in the General Plan revision. They agreed with the planning staff recommendation to change C-28 zoning along Telegraph back to C-30. At RCPC's urging, they agreed to leave the existing C-28 in place on Claremont and possibly use the General Plan Neigborhood Center Mixed Use (NCMU) designation for this area of Claremont. These issues will again be addressed at the full commission hearing, for which a date has not yet been set.

Safeway Rebuild – College & Claremont avenues

Kirk Peterson, Safeway's architect selectd for this store redesign, says they are waiting for the traffic study to be completed and for basic store concepts from Safeway. Although the next meeting with Safeway, a community presentation on September 11, will focus on the Rockridge Shopping Center (Pleasant Valley) Safeway, we may also hear something about the College/Claremont store at that meeting.

Project Updates page 12

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.

5351 Lawton Avenue

Proposal: To demolish an existing single-family dwelling and construct a new 2,620 square foot single-family dwelling.

Contact Person/Phone Number: Dwane Kennedy, CITYshapers 510/836-9300

Owner: Susan Churcher

Planning Permits Required: Design Review to construct a new single-family dwelling.

Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property

Survey Rating: D2+

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

379-385 62nd Street

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

Owners: Brian and Robin McMahon

Contact Person/Phone Number: John Gutierrez 510/647-0600

Planning Permits Required: Tentative Parcel Map to convert an existing four-unit building into four residential condominium units.

Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property, secondary importance

Survey Rating: C2+

Case Planner: Ulla-Britt Jonsson at 510/238-3322 or ujonsson@oaklandnet.com

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Letters to the Editor

The Rockridge News welcomes letters to the editor. Your name, address, phone number and e-mail address and city/neighborhood must be included for verification. Only your name will appear with your letter. Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity.

Temescal is Temescal; Don't Call us Rockridge

Editor:

The board of the Temescal Telegraph Community Association of Oakland (also known as "the Temescal BID" [Business Improvement District]) has watched with some puzzlement as the RCPC has expressed intense concern for planning and zoning policies in the Temescal district. As a kid growing up in Rockridge, I believed that the boundaries of the Rockridge district were commonly agreed to end somewhere around College Avenue. A check of the RCPC website shows that, through some sort of local Manifest Destiny, Rockridge now extends down to Telegraph in a couple of spots. This is surely progress, at least for the real estate industry ("It's not really Oakland, it's Rockridge"). We would like to request that RCPC stop there, and not absorb Temescal. Temescal is currently represented by a healthy assortment of neighborhood groups, including the BID, Temescal Neighbors Together, STAND, ULTRA, the Temescal Merchants Association, and maybe others. We like being Temescal. Don't make us Rockridge.

Similarly, we take some umbrage at being referred to as the "gateway to Rockridge," grand though Rockridge may be. Temescal has its own history and concerns, and these are likely different than those of Rockridge.

While it may be true that the current proposals regarding zoning and development in Temescal may have an impact on some small areas which RCPC now claims, it is also true that only a tiny proportion of RCPC's membership is drawn from the area under discussion. There is a wide variety of viewpoints in the neighborhood and these views are being well articulated by our own neighborhood groups and individuals. Please don't pretend to represent the Temescal-Telegraph community.

— Rick Raffanti, President, Temescal Telegraph Community Association of Oakland (TTCAO)

RCPC Replies: "Residents of These Areas Will be Affected by Telegraph Development"

Dear Mr. Raffanti:

I respectfully disagree with your statements. The effects of the proposed zoning regulations for the "Telegraph corridor" are not limited to the Temescal area. If adopted, these regulations will significantly alter the height and intensity of development along lower Claremont Avenue, and along Telegraph as far north as the Berkeley border. These proposed changes would directly impact residents of areas that are inside the RCPC boundaries, including the Lower Rockridge area bounded by Claremont Avenue, Clarke Street, 51st Street, and Broadway. The Lower Rockridge name is not a recent invention of the real estate industry, nor have the above boundaries changed since their creation in the mid-1980s.

Neighbors know that projects and activities on surrounding streets always affect them, and no street or block is an island. Whether it's highway construction, new buildings and developments, farmer's markets, park extensions, or bicycle routes, a change on one street will affect others blocks away, and changes on major streets such as Claremont will have an impact for many blocks in all directions. Just as people are concerned about the impact of the proposed fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel, so development on the much-closer Claremont Avenue is definitely within the RCPC's purview and is a concern for the many residents who have contacted the RCPC about these proposals.

— Ronnie Spitzer, RCPC Chairwoman

Editor's note: A BID is a Business Improvement District, an organization representing the commercial interests of merchants, not necessarily the interests of area residents. BIDs deliver services such as sanitation and maintenance, public safety and visitor services, marketing and promotional programs, capital improvements, and beautification for the improvement district area, funded by an assessment paid by district property owners.

Whose Side Are You On, Anyway?

Editor:

So the top headline story of the June *Rockridge News* ("Safeway Plans Major Rebuilding of Rockridge Stores") is written by a consultant being paid by Safeway. So much for the fantasy that your paper is controlled by neighborhood interests. As for the news contained in this story, there's no way that a Wal-Mart style superstore can be reconciled with your paper's stated mission "to preserve and enhance the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood." Traffic in this section of College is already a joke. An expanded Safeway superstore and Trader Joe's a few blocks away is going to create nightmarish conditions for local residents. No amount of public input can or will change that.

— Spencer Selby

Editor's note: The *Rockridge News* erred in not more clearly identifying Elisabeth Jewel's association with Safeway consultants Aroner, Jewel and Ellis.

Dreyer's Ice Cream Parlor to Re-open

Editor:

The July *Rockridge News* included a reader's letter asking about the Dreyer's Ice Cream Parlor on College Avenue. We appreciate the community's interest in the parlor and have good news to share. We are currently in the midst of a major redesign and renovation. Notices have been posted in the windows explaining our plans. We plan to reopen the parlor this fall. Dreyer's is proud to be a part of the Rockridge community.

— Dori Sera Bailey, Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream



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OPINION: What's in Store for Rockridge and Temescal?

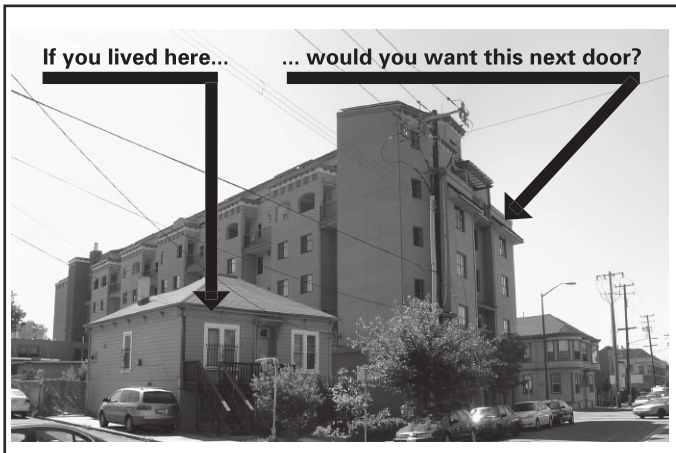
by Stuart Flashman, RCPC boardmember and RCPC Planning and Project Review Committee member

In 1998, Oakland radically rewrote the transportation and land use element of its general plan – the document that lays out the overall blueprint for the city's future development. Now, some nine years later, the Planning Commission is finally revising the city's zoning ordinance to match the general plan. The first part of this project that the Planning Commission has taken on, through a subcommittee called the Zoning Update Committee (or "ZUC" for short), involves zoning in a portion of Temescal and lower Rockridge (part of Claremont Avenue, east of Clarke Street). Unfortunately, the general plan is just that – general. That leaves lots of room for changes in their neighborhoods that residents of Rockridge and Temescal might not like.

For example, a major point of controversy is the height and density permitted for building projects proposed for a given area. The general plan includes a broadly worded policy designating the Telegraph Avenue corridor for growth and change. By contrast, the general plan's designation for Claremont Avenue (and the rest of Rockridge) is to preserve and enhance. Meanwhile, there's been a lot of discussion in the City Council and Planning Commission of "smart growth," meaning putting higher densities into already-developed areas like Rockridge and Temescal. The Planning Commission last month approved a five-story commercial/co-housing mixed-use project just above the intersection of Telegraph and Claremont. A much larger project with a building ranging from five to seven-stories has been proposed for the other side of Claremont. This raises the prospect of increased height and density all the way up and down both Claremont and Telegraph, potentially causing major traffic problems, and radically changed visual impacts. (See photos below for an idea of the general size and bulk being discussed.)

The Rockridge Community Planning Council is committed to working to keep Rockridge a human-scaled livable community. RCPC's position is that five stories is too much density for Claremont Avenue. We will need the Rockridge community's support to convince the Planning Commission and City Council that, as far as Rockridge is concerned, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

For additional information or to find out how you can help, e-mail info@rockridge.org, or call the RCPC voice mail line at 869-4200.



To alert Rockridge and Temescal neighbors to the potential outcome of zoning changes the city is considering and of the effect proposed projects could have on neighborhood density and appearance, RCPC distributed this flyer to residents in areas where new projects are proposed. Comparing the current zoned scale of a neighborhood with the proposed scale of some new projects shows the jarring impact a completed project could have.



▲This is the front of the building pictured in the flyer, at Telegraph Avenue and 48th Street.
▼The building below is at San Pablo Avenue and 65th Street.



PHOTOS: PETER ST. JOHN

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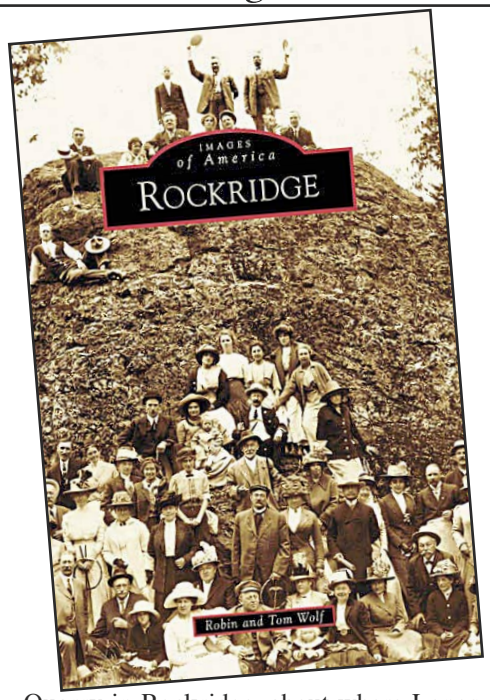
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Alameda County Historical Society Dinner Spotlights Rockridge Book

The history of Rockridge will be the subject of a presentation at the Alameda County Historical Society on October 24 (see box for information).

"Streetcars, the 1906 Earthquake, and the Boom Years in Rockridge," a talk and slide show, will be given by Robin Wolf, co-author with her husband, Tom Wolf, of the newly published book "Rockridge, a Photo History," part of Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series.

The book chronicles the arrival in Rockridge of refugees from the 1906 earthquake, who slept in tents on the truck farms and open fields that spread out along Temescal Creek west of Broadway. The book project was a community effort; Rockridge residents opened up their photo albums to contribute to a photo history of their community. Photos in the book show Italian immigrants hired to mine rock at the Bilger



Quarry in Rockridge, about where Longs Drugstore is now in the Rockridge Center; the development of commerce along the streetcar line on College Avenue, including a rare photograph of two streetcars passing each other; and the housing boom that followed several years after the 1906 quake. Later photos, from the 1940s and 1950s, show soda fountains on College Avenue with classic lunch counters, milkshake blenders, and stools.

The authors are long-time Rockridge residents. Robin Wolf taught sociology at Diablo Valley College and Tom Wolf taught U.S. history at Laney College.

In addition to the presentation at the society's meeting, Robin Wolf will also be signing books at the Diesel Bookstore booth on College Avenue at the Rockridge fair, "Out and About in Rockridge," on Sunday afternoon, September 30. On Saturday, October 6, at 3 p.m., Robin will give a talk entitled, "Mining Tycoons, Artists, and the Theaters and Markets of College Avenue in Rockridge," with a photo presentation followed by a book signing, at the 75th anniversary celebration of Saint Albert's Priory, 5890 Birch Court in Rockridge. Admission to both events is free.

The Alameda County Historical Society Presents:

What: Dinner, talk and Rockridge history slideshow

When: Wednesday, October 24; 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. program and book signing

Where: Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Avenue

Tickets: Send check for $30 per person to the Alameda County Historical Society, 484 Lake Park Avenue, PMB 307, Oakland, CA 94610. Include name, address, and phone number.

The Alameda County Historical Society sponsors three dinners each year, in the fall, winter, and spring, each with a speaker on a local history topic. Members receive notification of events and a quarterly journal. A special offer allows new members to join the Alameda County Historical Society for only $8 for the first year of membership, by mailing a check with their name and address to the above address.

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Wheels for College Avenue Officer

Oakland Police Officer Doug Chimpky, who patrols College Avenue, no longer has to walk the beat. A new bicycle was purchased for him jointly by the RDA (Rockridge District Association), the Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), Councilwoman Jane Brunner and WhistleStop. Pictured above, left to right, as Officer Chimpky is presented with the bike, are Sara Wilson of the Rockridge District Association, Chimpky, Margaret Wahlberg and Christine Acker of WhistleStop. Photo: Susan Montauk



Brunner Names Community Heroes

At her annual summer picnic for her North Oakland District constituents, Councilwoman Jane Brunner presented Community Hero awards to Rockridge resident and NCPC Chair Susan Montauk (left above) and Chris Jackson, Rockridge representative on the PSA2 (Police Services Area 2, North Oakland) Community Policing Board. Photo: Courtesy of Jane Brunner's Office

Caldecott Tunnel Project

from page 2

Furthermore, comments from residents on the west side of the Caldecott are almost unanimous in their opinion that a thorough sound study is needed for the entire areas west of the tunnel along Highway 24 to beyond Oakland Children's Hospital, including hill areas immediately above Highway 24. Commenters also requested studies of possible increased air pollution and traffic, and raised the failure of the proposed project to encourage use of public transit and bicycles. Some argued that the proposed fourth bore will encourage the use of private cars, thus lowering ridership on public transit and indirectly causing an increase in its cost.

The San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club and others suggested that Caltrans thoroughly study alternatives to a fourth bore that might more effectively meet the stated objectives of the proposed project, and at a lower cost, both to governmental coffers and to the environment.

The final environmental document is scheduled for release in October of this year. RCPC hopes that it will include adequate studies of all significant potential negative impacts, as well as alternatives to the construction of the fourth bore. If Mayor Dellums opposes the project or conditions his support on sufficient studies of potential negative impacts, adequate mitigations may become available to Oakland and Berkeley.

The question remains whether the fourth bore should be constructed at all.

Ellen Peterson is co-chairwoman of the Fourth Bore Coalition, a group of concerned Oakland and Berkeley neighborhood organizations, including RCPC, that are monitoring the proposed fourth bore project.

Celebrate Creek to Bay Day Saturday, September 15; Temescal Creek Clean-up ☛ 9 a.m. 'til noon

Join neighbors at Temescal Creek for a volunteer creek clean-up. Meet at the Claremont DMV parking lot, corner of Cavour and Redondo, to work between Clifton and Clarke and cleanup the park along Redondo and the path through the DMV. Come at 9 a.m. for coffee and morning snacks; join the clean-up anytime between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Creek to Bay Day t-shirts for the first 50 volunteers.

City of Oakland Public Works Environmental Services Division provides garbage bags, loppers, rakes, hoes, litter pickup sticks, gloves, etc. Bring your own favorite tools, well-identified. (We can always use wheelbarrows.) The clean-up will mostly be litter removal, weed-pulling and ivy-clearing. Sponsored by the DMV Neighbors Association and the City of Oakland Environmental Services Department. Call Margaret if you have any questions, 510/655-1767.

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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Convenience Food

We've all been there: it's mid-week and you've invited friends over for dinner. You want to make a special meal, but you just don't have time to shop and prepare.

This recently happened to me. My nephew was visiting us for a few days. He likes Asian cuisine, particularly Vietnamese, and I wanted to make him a special dinner but didn't have time to shop for the ingredients to cook a multi-course Vietnamese meal.

To the rescue: a combination of my own creations with some pre-prepared, authentic Vietnamese dishes. Several months ago, I noticed that Yasai Market had started carrying homemade Vietnamese spring rolls with an excellent dipping sauce. While a student at the Culinary Academy, I learned to make Vietnamese spring rolls, and over the years I often made them. However, to make well-formed spring rolls takes time and patience. Don't get me wrong: it's fun to make spring rolls. But the ones sold at Yasai Market are so much better and more aesthetically pleasing than mine!

The same is true for making *pho*, the national soup of Vietnam. I would spend hours preparing the fragrant broth. But I recently found, at local Asian markets, canned *pho* broth that is the equal of any you might find in a Vietnamese restaurant. I just add thin rice noodles and chicken, beef or shrimp with lime and cilantro accompaniments to make a very acceptable Vietnamese *pho*. To complete the meal, I made my own Vietnamese pork kebabs wrapped in lettuce leaf, and sweet-and-sour cucumber salad.

Not too long ago, convenience food was synonymous with frozen or canned food. During the week my mother always made a homemade main dish, but the sides were either frozen or canned items. I don't think I ever tasted fresh green beans, corn or green peas until I was an adult. Growing up in my home during the '50s, it was Green Giant or Swansons all the way. By the early '60s, it was TV dinners; a collapsible snack table in front of the TV was the new family dinner table.

But these days, especially here in Rockridge, we are fortunate to have an extraordinary selection of prepared foods. Market Hall, Yasai Market, Ver Brugge Meats, Safeway and the coming-soon-to-Rockridge Trader Joe's all carry an abundance of high-quality prepared foods.

I'm familiar with the homily, "There is nothing like homemade!" And for purists, there is, indeed, no substitution for "from scratch" preparation. (My first assignment at the California Culinary Academy baking class was to make traditional Jewish-style bagels from scratch. I asked the chef instructor, "Why do I need to learn how to make bagels when I could order them from a local baker?" Her answer was: "It's not about the bagel, it's about baking.") And it is certainly true that with homemade dishes you can always adjust the recipe - add more cumin to the hummus, or a little more garlic to the tapenade. But prepared convenience foods do make for an excellent time-pinch alternative.

Not all prepared food items have that "homemade" quality or texture. The San Francisco *Chronicle*'s weekly "Taste Test" column is a good place to learn about locally distributed high-quality prepared foods sold in local farmer's markets and gourmet shops.

Here is my recipe for "doctored-up" Vietnamese shrimp *pho*.

Vietnamese Shrimp Pho

(6 servings)

Ingredients

- 2-28 oz cans of Pho Bac Nuoc (*pho* broth). (Available at Ranch 99 in El Cerrito or most other Oakland Chinatown groceries – look for it in the soup section)
- Package of dried vermicelli (thin) rice noodles (available at Yasai Market)
- 1 pound of shrimp, peeled and de-veined
- Bunch of cilantro sprigs
- 2 limes, cut into quarters

Directions

1. Soak rice noodles in hot water for about ½ hour.
2. Heat broth in a 3- or 4- quart sauce pan; bring to a boil.
3. Drain noodles and add to broth. Cook about 10 minutes.
4. Add shrimp; cook about 5 minutes.
5. Serve in bowls accompanied with cilantro and lime.

Barry Kaufman is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. Barry is available for cooking classes. His email address is kaufman42@earthlink.net.

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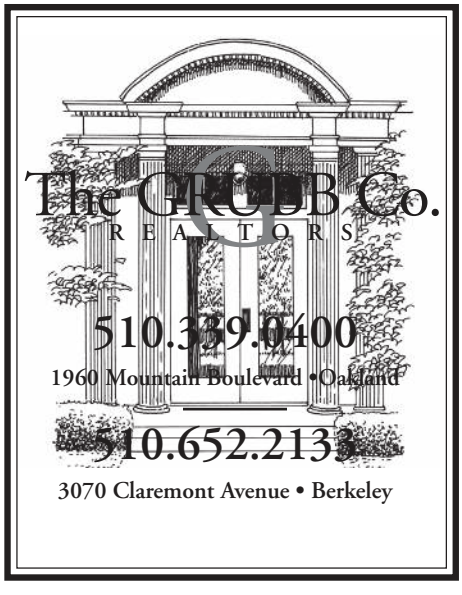


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Save the date: Annual Fall Maintenance Day at FROG Park, Saturday, September 15. Play structure clean-up and other maintenance tasks are planned. FROG Park is a special place and we need your help to keep it so.
Contact Howard Ferrier for more information:

And Remember:

Sunday, September 9, 11 – 2 p.m. Picnic in the Park: Family Fun Task Force Day at FROG Park. Bring a picnic lunch or something from the Temescal Farmer's Market and join other volunteers in kid-friendly weeding and other general care and maintenance activities. FROG Park is a special spot and needs your help to keep it so.


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St. Albert College Celebrates 75th Anniversary

by Rev. Christopher J. Renz, O.P.

As part of its year-long celebration for the 75th anniversary of the College of St. Albert the Great, the friars of St. Albert Priory located in Rockridge, are planning an open house at their seminary residence on the afternoon of Saturday, October 6.

The highlight of the afternoon will be lectures by local historians Robin and Tom Wolf, who are celebrating the publication of their book, "Rockridge," part of the Arcadia Press pictorial series on local neighborhoods. (See story on page 6 about a presentation on the book by the Alameda County Historical Society.) A back lawn reception will include a book signing by Robin Wolf and provide guests with splendid views of Temescal Creek.

Afterwards, everyone is invited to join the friars for evening prayer in the priory chapel. To cap off the day, the priory will host the Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble for a concert entitled, "Transitions: Early Music from Spain and Its New World Colonies."

The afternoon talks will be preceded by a brief historical walking tour of the neighborhood past areas where Rockridge villas once stood. The tour is free but space is limited to 20 people. Call Fr. Chris Renz for reservations or information at 510/596-1800.

The schedule of events is as follows (please come to the 5890 Birch Court entrance):

- 12:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Walking tour; reservations required
- 2:30 p.m. – Talk, "Brookhurst: The Perry Legacy of Hospitality," Chris Renz
- 3:00 p.m. – Talk, "Mining Tycoons, Artists, and the Theaters and Markets of College Avenue," Robin Wolf
- 3:30 p.m. – Garden reception and book signing with Robin Wolf, and tours of the priory
- 5:30 p.m. – Evening prayer, Priory Chapel, 6172 Chabot Road
- 8:00 p.m. – Concert by the Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble: *Transitions: Early Music from Spain and its New World Colonies.* Chapel, 6172 Chabot Road. Purchase tickets at the chapel entrance: $15 adults, $10 students/seniors. For more information visit http://www.wavewomen.org/.

Tale from the AIDS Lifecycle

by Jeff Small

Maybe it was the second glass of wine talking, but one Sunday evening in December, my fellow Rockridge neighbor Jay and I dared each other to do the 545 mile bicycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles called the AIDS/Lifecycle, benefiting Bay Area AIDS agencies. The logistics of the ride are as follows: Each rider must raise a minimum of $2,500 in donations and then spend seven days riding with 3,000 other cyclists and volunteer "roadies," camping in tents along the way, showering in tractor trailers, and eating in mess tents.

The physical preparation involved six months of cycling every weekend (plus some weeknights) and taking spin classes at the gym during the week. We trained our hearts out. We asked the veterans question after question about what to expect, what to pack, and what not to. By the time we rolled out early in the morning on Sunday, June 3, we were ready.

But what I actually experienced on the journey had little to do with the cycling.

I began to realize the magic of the ride about 10 miles into the first day. We had just ridden out of the Cow Palace toward Highway 35, not far from the San Francisco airport, when the first few people got flat tires. I stopped to drink some water when I spotted a woman with a flat tire, clearly frustrated. Within 10 seconds, a fellow rider stopped, introduced himself and, before showing her how to change the flat tire, gave her a hug. Minutes later, they were laughing together like old friends.



Author Jeff Small feels the burn on a climb during the AIDS Ride.
Photo: Courtesy of Jeff Small.

The next day, I was at a rest stop and leaned against a table next to a woman drinking what was probably her millionth Gatorade. The night before at dinner, we had been encouraged to ask fellow cyclists why they were riding, and I asked her why she chose to participate. Her story had nothing to do with the fight against HIV, but rather involved a time in her life 25 years ago. She had, she told me, been in an abusive marriage in which she was expected by family and friends to stay. She was so badly and regularly beaten that her doctors thought she would have permanent brain damage. She was completely alone and had to depend on church charity for survival. "I vowed that one day, when I could, I would do something to help people the way I never was helped," she told me. "So here I am, feeling so lucky that I can give to people what I never got 25 years ago."

Then there were the tandem bike participants, the son piloting the bike with his blind father in the back; the woman who completed the ride for her boyfriend, who had drowned months ago during an epileptic seizure while surfing; and the hundreds of HIV-positive participants, who just kept pedaling and smiling.

Combine that with outrageously decorated pit stops, complete with themes and often times scantily clad food servers, and you get one thing – magic. I was reminded that we are all incredible. We all have within us strengths that we do not tap into, stories that go untold, and the ability to work together with others to do good.

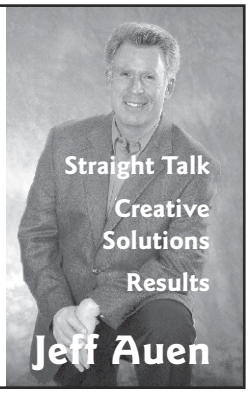
Jeff Small is an RCPC boardmember.

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Kitchen Tour

from page 1

the Rockridge community in the areas of land use and design review, public safety, traffic, schools and parks.

Get Your Tickets Now!

Save $10 each by buying tickets in advance in one of the following ways:

- Visit www.rockridge.org. Pick up your tickets, brochure and map in the express line at the registration desk, 5951 College Avenue (in front of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church), on the day of the tour.
- Purchase tickets at our "Building Green" forum September 20, 7:30 pm at the Rockridge Library.
- Walk in to purchase presale tickets during business hours at Maison d'Etre, 5640 College Avenue.





If you have already ordered tickets and enclosed a self-addressed envelope, look for them in the mail one to two weeks before the tour.

For those who wait, $40 tickets will be sold at the registration desk on the day of the tour.

The 2007 Rockridge Kitchen Tour begins at 12:30 p.m. and ends at 5:30 on Sunday, October 7. For additional information, visit www.rockridge.org or call 510/869-4200.

Going Green

from page 1

your discerning eye on Thursday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. for the Green Kitchen and Home Renovation forum.

Among our featured guests at the forum will be Maurice Levitch of Levitch Design/Build Architects. With over two decades in the business, Mr. Levitch took a special interest in green building several years ago, becoming a Certified Green Building Professional. He has completed several award-winning green projects. An active member of BuildItGreen, Mr. Levitch comes to us with fresh ideas for building functional and attractive green kitchens.

Also joining us is Rockridge's own Henry Guttman, founder and owner of EcoModern Design, the award-winning architecture and furniture design firm he started in 1985. Mr. Guttman creates uplifting spaces and furnishings by using non-toxic, sustainable materials. He will offer some attractive solutions for home additions, decking and furnishings.

Our forum will also include Rockridge remodelers who researched their options and have happily gone green.

Come see how going green in your own home can improve the quality of your life by promoting continued health, financial savings, and social responsibility.

This year's Rockridge Kitchen Tour is also pleased to feature a green kitchen. Presale tickets at the discounted price of $30 will be on sale at the forum.

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08/10/07	6693 Chabot Rd	5/2	$1,195,000	$1,120,000	48
08/16/07	5276 Redondo Ave	2/1	$729,000	$640,000	66
08/17/07	5455 Lawton Ave	4/3	$1,149,000	$1,325,000	10
08/17/07	5340 Broadway Ter	2/2	$530,000	$580,000	10
08/22/07	2636 Alcatraz Ave	3/1	$828,500	$828,500	13
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8/30/07	5312 Lawton Ave	2/1	$775,000	$885,000	26
8/31/07	6000 Lawton Ave	3/2	$1,195,000	$1,125,000	31

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Project Updates

from page 3

Under-Bart – Rockridge Escalator Plaza

Preliminary design work for this plaza, at the northeast corner of College and Shafter, has begun and should be available for public review soon. RCPC is working with the College Avenue merchant's group (the Rockridge District Association) and BART District staff on revisions to this area. Redesign may include landscaping, paving designs, benches, bicycle parking, lighting, and signage. Also being discussed is a possible business directory kiosk/bulletin board.

Trader Joe's

Construction work on the interior of the old Albertsons store on College Avenue is underway for the new Trader Joe's store. In addition, a partition wall is in place for a separate tenant, which will be one of a Colorado drugstore chain's new stores.

Work is expected to be completed for a store opening in October.

Development project information can be viewed at RCPC's website: www.rockridge.org. Join the RCPC e-mail list or send us your opinion: info@rockridge.org. To contact RCPC directly, phone 510/849-6200.

Rockridge Center

from page 1

the addition of housing at the site.

RCPC is interested in hearing neighbors' views on what future stores, goods, services and architecture they would like at this shopping center, in addition to their thoughts about having an updated Safeway store converted to the company's "Lifestyle" format. A new Rockridge Center "Lifestyle" Safeway would include expanded organic produce sections, full-service meats, extensive bakery selections and other departments not now available in the current store. At this point, no other firm plans have been made for the remainder of the site. Bring your ideas to the September 11 meeting.

The meeting is co-sponsored by RCPC and PANIL (Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League). Safeway representatives will discuss shopping center possibilities and listen to resident input. Berkeley-based lobbying and consulting firm Aroner, Jewel & Ellis Partners will handle the community outreach for the project.

In addition to attending the meeting, neighbors can share their opinions by contacting RCPC at info@rockridge.org and AJE through a website located at www.safewayonbroadway.com.

Community Meeting

- **What**: Rockridge Shopping Center redevelopment meeting on the future of the Rockridge Shopping Center at Broadway and Pleasant Valley.
- **When:** Tuesday, September 11, 7:30 to 9 p.m.
- **Where:** Claremont House, 4500 Gilbert Street (at Pleasant Valley). Parking available at the Safeway lot.

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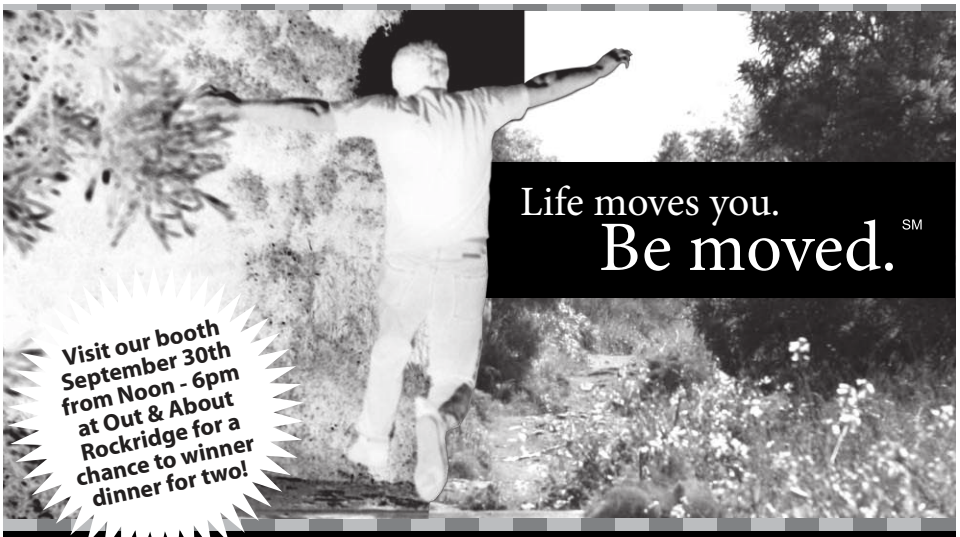
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Smart Growth, Green Building, or Historic Preservation?

The following is an excerpt of a talk given by Jane Powell at the STAND (Standing Together for Accountable Development) Community Meeting on July 21, 2007.

As an author, I've had a chance to travel to many other cities, and I've noticed that historic buildings are about the only thing that gives cities a sense of place.

Place is not a synonym for "location." Every place has to have a location but not every location is a place. America has become "Generica."

Many people believe density in the cities will prevent the paving of farmland elsewhere. They use jargon: "smart growth, transit-oriented development, sustainable, infill, density, sprawl, downtown revitalization, new urbanism, green building," etc. I believe "Smart Growth" is nothing more than Urban Renewal in sheep's clothing.

One would think "infill" meant building on already vacant lots, or maybe a cottage behind a house or a rental unit over a garage, in scale with the neighborhood.

In practice, infill means tearing down an existing small building in order to throw up (I use that term deliberately) a much larger building. Usually the threatened building is historic, so the argument is made that it would cost too much to fix the historic building and/or the building is not worth saving and should be sacrificed to the greater good of "Smart Growth," because otherwise the project will not "pencil out." Which means: the developers will not make the obscene profit to which they feel entitled.

So buildings will be scrapped, and some large condo building will be constructed; the developer will boast that the building is green and has LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] certification, and the kitchen floors are real linoleum, the paints low-VOC [Volatile Organic Compounds], and there are solar panels on the roof, etc.

If a 5,000-square-foot building is bulldozed, it wipes out the environmental benefit from the last 1,344,000 aluminum cans that were recycled. It is criminal to send that wood, which took thousands of years to grow, splintered and useless to a landfill in order to put up a "green" building.

The densest metropolitan area in California, surprisingly, is Los Angeles, usually the poster child for sprawl. With density at 6,720 persons per square mile, it beats San Francisco/Oakland (5,298 persons per square mile) by quite a bit. In spite of LA's increasing density, in the last twenty years it has gobbled up 394 square miles of formerly rural land. Why? 3.1 million new residents. If current trends continue, by 2025 California will be as densely populated as China is today. No amount of inner-city density will prevent sprawl if population growth is not stabilized.

If a 5,000-square-foot building is bulldozed, it wipes out the environmental benefit from the last 1,344,000 aluminum cans that were recycled.

And I wonder why cities feel they have to bear the brunt of the region's population growth – it's not as though the suburbs have no infrastructure. They have BART and transit. Let's see some high-rises in Walnut Creek, or San Pablo lined with six-story buildings in El Cerrito.

The most sustainable thing to do is continue the life of an existing building. Historic buildings represent embodied energy.

Don't drink the "Smart Growth" Kool-Aid. We need to strengthen a value system in which historic structures and cultural resources have meaning and traditional neighborhoods are regarded with respect.

Jane Powell is an author and restoration consultant. She can be reached at janepowell@sbcglobal.net. More information is available at http://www.artisticlicense.org/members/powell/index.html

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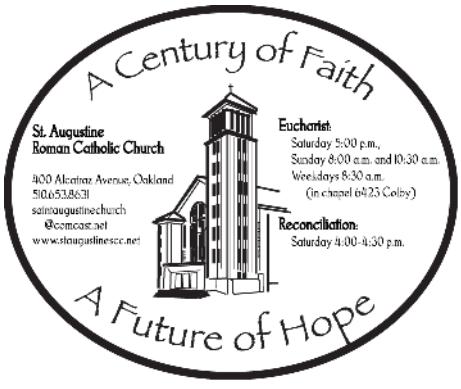
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Highly experienced piano/voice teacher now has openings for fall in Rockridge music studio. Classical, jazz, pop, rock styles. All ages, levels. Lisa. 510/653-0107.

St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church

Fr. Mark Wiesner, Pastor, 400 Alcatraz Avenue, Oakland, CA 94609, Parish Office: 510/653-8631, Saintaugustinechurch@comcast.net. Saturday Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4-4:30 pm; Saturday Vigil, 5 pm; Sunday Eucharist: 8 am and 10:30 am.

Sign Up for a FREE MONART Drawing Lesson

at our newly opened art studio. Saturday, September 22 at MONART School of the Arts. 5427 Telegraph Ave. 654-DRAW (3729). Call or register online at http://oakland.monart.com/freeclasses.

Decorative Painting

Faux finish, murals, wood graining, color consultation, fireplaces and cabinetry. Beautiful creative interior finishes in Rockridge since 1990. Painting workshop September 23. Ceco-art, 652-0683. Carolinestern.com.

Transformational Writing Workshop

How to use writing for spiritual growth and transformation. Sunday, September 16, 10:30 am-5 pm, College Avenue. Ongoing groups are also available. Susanne West, MA 415/721-0766, www.susannewest.com.

Weeding and Yard Cleanups

Areas below Broadway served. 3-4 hour jobs welcome. $13/hour. Fred: 510/234-2902.



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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Compiled by Jo Ellis

Councilmember Brunner's Community Advisory Meeting

First Saturday every other month, 10am to noon. Peralta Elementary School: 460 63rd St. (parking on Alcatraz Ave., just east of Telegraph).

NOTE: October 6 meeting changed to October 13: Guest speaker will be **Mayor Ron Dellums**. For more info, (and information on all District One issues): 238-7001 or www.oaklandnet.com (the site for all City-related information).

The Greater Rockridge N'hood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

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). 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: 9/8, 10/6.
- Pre-School Story Time: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, (will resume on 9/19), 10/3.
- **Pajama Story Time**: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm: 9/11, 9/25, 10/9.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES:

- **Papel Picado Craft Workshop**: Tuesday, 9/19, 7pm. All ages welcome.

FOR TEENS:

- **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. Meet 9/11 to watch Death Note.
- **Teen Advisory Board:** If interested in joining, call Susy, Teen Specialist Librarian, at 597-5017.

FOR ADULTS:

- **Writing for Creative Expression and Spiritual Growth:** Free workshop with **Suzanne West**, professor at JFK University, Saturday, 9/15, 2 to 4:30pm. Call 597-5017 to sign up.
- **Writers' Support /Critique Group:** ALL writers welcome. Third Saturday of each month (9/15) from 1 to 5pm. 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/). For more information: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Falls Prevention for Older Adults:** Monday, 9/17, 1-3pm.
- **Drive Well Program:** Friday, 9/21, 2-4pm.
- **Social Security and How Not to Outlive Your Retirement Income:** Discussion with **Charles Blair** and **Timothy Yee** of Cathedral Financial Group. Saturday, 9/29, 2:30-4:30pm.
- **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, 12:30-2:30pm in the upstairs meeting room.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice.** First Tuesday of each month, 6- 8pm. Advance sign-up starts 5pm.

ART EXHIBITS

Gallery: September:

- **Melissa West:** "Paso a Paso: Prints from the Camino de Santiago." Linoleum block prints. **Artist's reception**, Tuesday, 9/18, 5;30-7:30pm.
- **Lori Fischer:** Handmade dolls.

Gallery: October:

- **Rockridge Community Photo Club**.

Lobby Display Case: September: **Oakland Art Association:** watercolors.

October: **Ann Daniels:** "Paper Dolls for Darfur."

LIBRARY HOURS:

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

Diesel Readings and Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Sunday, 9/9, 3pm: **George Saunders:** . *The Braindead Megaphone*, collection of essays.
- Monday, 79/10, 7:30pm: **Amnesty International Meeting:** exchange information and ideas on action. All welcome.
- Thursday, 9/13, 7:30pm: **Zara Houshmond:** *A Mirror Garden*.
- Wednesday, 9/26, 7:30pm: **Junot Diaz**: *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.
- Sunday, 9/30, 1:30-3:30pm: Join us at the Diesel booth at the Out and About Rockridge Street Fair where **Robin Wolf**, author of a photo history, *Rockridge*, and **Jerry Thompson** and **Duane Deterville**, authors of *Black Artists in Oakland* will be signing their books.
- Sunday, 10/7, 3pm: Oakland poets **Nina Lindsay:** *Today's Special Dish*, and **Helen Wickes:** *In Search of Landscape*.

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.

"Out and About Rockridge" Street Fair

Sunday, 9/30, 12 to 6pm. Walk down College Avenue from Broadway to Alcatraz Avenue. College Ave. will be closed to traffic from Claremont to Lawton. Events include 3 stages with live music, food and drink courts featuring Rockridge restaurants, crafts and local business/community booths and activities for children. Parking at the Rockridge BART station and valet bike parking by East Bay Bike Coalition. Sponsored by the Rockridge District Association. For more information and schedule: 604-3125 or www.rockridgedistrict.com.

St. Albert College 75th Anniversary Celebration

Open house of the seminary residence and Priory, and back lawn reception. Saturday, October 6, starting at12:45 (for walking tour). Go to the 5890 Birch Court entrance (except for the last two events at the Priory Chapel). **See details in article on page 9**. For more info: 596-1800 or cjrenzop@yahoo.com.

Jazz at the Chimes

Featuring **The Snake Trio**: explores the connection between Venezuelan music and No. American Jazz. Sunday, 9/15, 2pm. Ticket sales at the door begin at 12:30pm: $10 (cash only) for concert and reception. Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. Info/Reservations: 228-3218. www.lifemarkgroup.com/oakland/special_events.asp.

Wisteria Ways Concert Series

- Two bands from Chile. **Quijerema!**: music of South America played on over 30 instruments, (info at www.quijerema.com) and **Latin American Saxophone Quartet**: fusion of classical jazz and traditional (info at www.cuartetosax.scd.cl/index2.html). Saturday, 9/15, 3pm, (yard gate opens at 2;30pm). Outside venue (wheelchair accessible). Bring blanket or lawn chair and picnic lunch/dinner.
- **The Harmony Sisters Reunion:** traditional singing, fiddle banjo, mandolin. Saturday, 9/22, 8pm. Inside venue (not wheelchair accessible).

383 61st Street. $15 suggested donation for musicians. For reservations, RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

Peace Corps Information Session

No upper age limit. Volunteers work in 73 countries in education, health, business, computers and more. Monday, 9/24, 6-7:30pm. Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave. Contact Nick Bosustow, 452-8444, nbosustow@peacecorps.gov, or www.peacecorps.gov.

North Oakland Senior Center

Program Highlights: Computer classes; Health Insurance counseling and advocacy program; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group; AARP driver Safety classes; **Farmers Market every Wednesday** from 10:30am to 2:30pm.

Center Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:45am to 4:45pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. The Newsletter, "North Oakland Senior Times," provides a full schedule of classes as well as a monthly lunch menu ($2.25 to $4.00). Call 597-5085 for details about membership, newsletter, classes/events and opportunities to become a volunteer.

Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society

Free seminar by estate planning attorney Janet Dobrovolny on how to provide long-term care for your pets. Wednesday, 9/19, 7-9pm. BEBHS, 2700 Ninth Street, Berkeley. RSVP to Anne Barron, 845-7735 x19 or abarron@berkeleyhumane.org.

Volunteers Needed

- **Clean Up Temescal Creek:** in celebration of "Creek to Bay Day," meet at the DMV parking lot (corner of Cavour and Redondo). Saturday, 9/15, 9am to noon. Coffee/morning snacks provided. Free Creek to Bay Day T-shirts to 1st 50 volunteers. See article on page 7 or call Margaret: 655-1767.
- **Frog Park Clean-up Days: (1) Family Fun Task Force Day** and Picnic in the Park: Sunday, 9/9, 11am to 2pm. Bring kids to do weeding/general maintenance, then picnic with other families. **(2) Annual Fall Maintenance Day:** Saturday, 9/15. For information on projects and tools, contact Howard Ferrier at hwferriew@sbcglobal.net.
- **Chabot Space and Science Center** needs volunteers to assist visitors and share their wonder of the Universe with others. **No science or astronomy background needed** – extensive training opportunities available. Call the volunteer department at 336-7414 or visit www.chabotspace.org.

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