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 Community Planning Council (RCPC)

Agenda: October Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, October 18, 7:30 p.m., Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue at Manila, Community Room

- **Oakland's zoning update: What does it mean for Rockridge?**
  - Eric Angstadt, Strategic Planning M'ger, City of Oakland
  - Jane Brunner, Oakland City Council Member, District 1
  - Stuart Flashman, RCPC Board Member
  - A Rockridge District Association representative
- **Also:** an update and discussion from the RCPC's Planning and Project Review Committee

October 7 Rockridge Kitchen Tour: Best Tour Ever; Spectacular Kitchens

by Jennifer Edmister

The 2007 Rockridge Kitchen Tour takes place Sunday, October 7, from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. It is the area's oldest and most popular kitchen tour, and this year's nine kitchens may be the most innovative we've seen yet. See how your Rockridge neighbors made the very most of their varying budgets and found interesting (and often "green") solutions to space and materials challenges, without compromising aesthetics or quality.

■ **Tickets:** $40. Sold at the registration desk, 5951 College Avenue, in front of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, starting at 11 a.m. on the day of the tour. (The tour begins at 12:30.)

■ **Parking:** Some parking in the Dreyer's lot or at BART.

Considering the Rockridge/Temescal Zoning Update

An interview with City Councilwoman Jane Brunner

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

In 1998, the city of Oakland updated its General Plan, the fundamental document defining the city's land use patterns. Almost 10 years later, the city has not yet revised all of its zoning ordinance to fit with what the General Plan says. *The Rockridge News* talked to Jane Brunner, city councilwoman for North Oakland, about this zoning update process and what it might mean for Rockridge. Councilwoman Brunner will be an invited speaker at the RCPC's October 18 General Meeting on the topic of the Rockridge/Temescal Zoning Update and the future of Rockridge.



Jane Brunner
PHOTO COURTESY OF JANE BRUNNER'S OFFICE

Rockridge News: Thanks for taking the time to speak with me about zoning in Rockridge and Temescal. Let's start with a simple question – what is zoning about?

Jane Brunner: Zoning really is taking a look at how many housing units, what the density is going to be in the area, how high the building needs to be in the area, what kind of design review, and different

Brunner/Zoning, page 12

College Avenue Owners May Form New District; Area Impact Unknown

In a move that may come as a surprise to many small business owners on College Avenue, the board of directors of the Rockridge District Association (RDA) – the entity that uses annual assessments paid by merchants for joint projects such as marketing and beautification – is seeking to transfer its functions to a new entity, labeled a "community benefit district," or CBD. The burden of assessments for the CBD would fall on a broad group of property owners and tenants, many of whom would have little or no say in the CBD's decisionmaking.

The term "community benefit district" is often used to refer to property-based improvement districts, which by law must serve the properties from which they draw their revenue, rather than the larger community.

In a June 26 letter to property owners within the proposed district, which encompasses College Avenue from Alcatraz to Broadway and Broadway to 51st Street, the RDA cited the need for improvements in such things as street lighting and tree trimming.

New District?, page 6

RDA Explores Big Change for Merchants

For decades, Rockridge had a voluntary College Avenue Merchants Association. In 2000 a Business Improvement District (BID) was enacted in conjunction with the new Rockridge District Associaton (RDA). The BID levies a fee on each business license to support activities like the Rockridge street fair, sidewalk cleaning, and supplemental safety patrols. If a community benefit district (CBD) is formed to replace the BID, funding may be greater, but small merchants would have little or no say in decisions affecting them.

Planning and Project Review Committee: A Wealth of Experience for RCPC

Residents invited to participate

by the RCPC Board of Directors

The new RCPC board was off to a fast start after the record-turnout election in April, with significant development projects spurring it to take immediate action on several fronts. In response to time-sensitive concerns, the board formed the Planning and Project Review Committee (PPRC), and appointed a technical review team consisting of five board members and three community volunteers.

For the technical review team, the PPRC welcomes Rockridge neighbors and architects Ray Craun, Bob Davidson and Glen Jarvis to serve alongside board members Richard W. Smith (PPRC chairman), RCPC Chairwoman Ronnie Spitzer, Danica Truchlikova, Stu Flashman and Peter St. John.

The chief architect and planner for Kaiser Permanente Oakland, Craun has over 30 years' experience in architecture and design, with emphasis on master planning and community planning. Jarvis, a former RCPC board member and former Oakland Planning Commission member, has almost 40 years' experience in architecture and residential design. Since 1969, Davidson has developed many commercial, educational, medical, religious and recreational facilities in the Bay Area and beyond, and has served as a guest lecturer at UC Berkeley.

The PPRC reviews development proposals, including materials filed with the Planning Commission, drawings, and environmental and other studies that may bear on proposed developments. It then makes recommendations to the RCPC board.

The collective experience of the technical review team has enabled the RCPC to participate in the review process of several significant neighborhood projects. Among them is an ongoing review of the proposed 33-unit "Kingfish" project on Telegraph at Claremont Avenue (see "Kingfish Update," page 3). Based on its recommendation, RCPC opposed the project with the Oakland Planning Commission and now has appealed the project's approval by the commission.

The committee also reviewed the proposed 100-plus-unit Hauser project on Telegraph Avenue at Claremont (see "Hauser Creekside," page 3), met with other concerned neighborhood groups including the FROG Park committee and Standing Together for Accountable Neighborhood Development (STAND), conducted an information-gathering meeting with Hauser Architects and filed an opposition to the project based on impacts to the surrounding housing, FROG Park and Temescal Creek.

In addition to these pending projects, the PPRC will monitor the proposed mixed-use project at 5175 Broadway, between Wendy's and Poppy Fabric; the anticipated redesign by Safeway of the Rockridge Shopping Center, on Pleasant Valley, and of the Safe-

PPRC, page 13

Grab Your Kids and Your Costume: Halloween Parade, Sunday October 28!

by Jennifer Edmister

Continuing our neighborhood's great, ghoulish tradition, the Rockridge District Association (RDA) and the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) invite you to celebrate Halloween on College Avenue! From noon to 2:00 pm on Sunday, October 28, participating merchants will host trick-or-treating along both sides of College Avenue, from Alcatraz to Broadway. To join the costumed procession, meet at Halloween Central, in front of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Ave, at 11:45 a.m. At precisely noon, we'll kick off trick-or-treating, leading the first group along the avenue. Then, at 1:00 p.m., return to Halloween Central for spooky storytelling and silly, scary sing-alongs. Don't miss this holiday fun for Kids of all ages!



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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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Contacting *The Rockridge News*
- Are there community issues you'd like to see covered in ***The Rockridge News***?
- Do you have questions about newsletter distribution?
- Want to volunteer to be a ***Rockridge News*** block captain?
- Would you like to write a letter to the Editor?

Contact us at one of the following:
Editor: editor@rockridge.org
www.rockridge.org
The Rockridge News, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618
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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
- **November 3, 2007**
- **November deadline is October 18.**

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.)*

Updates: RCPC's Planning and Project Review Committee (PPRC)

by Richard Smith, PPRC chairman

■ **5248 Telegraph Avenue — Kingfish Co-Housing Project**

RCPC's appeal to the City Council of the Planning Commission's approval of this project is likely to be heard on October 16. See "Kingfish Appeal" at right for details.

■ **5175 Broadway — Mixed-Use Project**

A traffic study is now being reviewed by Public Works. Also, the toxic site mitigation program is underway and being reviewed. These will probably lead to a Mitigated Negative Declaration instead of an EIR (Environmental Impact Report), with a public hearing not likely until November.

■ **5132 Telegraph — Hauser Creekside (Global Video site)**

City planning staff is now preparing an Initial Study document that will lead to a Focused EIR that will likely address traffic and certain neighborhood impacts. 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. No date has been set yet. The traffic study may not be complete by the time of the scoping session, but the scoping process may add topics to the traffic study. Planning staff says its report on the applicant's request for a General Plan Determination is expected to be completed soon.

■ **Zoning Update — Lower Temescal Corridor**

City planning staff is still working on clarifying its recommendations after the Zoning Update Committee (ZUC) hearing. The ZUC voted to forward the issue to the full Planning Commission with some unresolved issues. RCPC is waiting for the staff report. A second hearing date has not yet been set.

■ **Safeway Reconstruction — College & Claremont**

There is not much to report since the presentation by Safeway at the Presbyterian Church on College Avenue on June 21. Safeway's representatives say their architect has yet to define development options. Conclusions from the traffic study, which is reportedly underway but will not be completed for a month, are necessary before any serious conceptual design work.

■ **Safeway — Rockridge Center**

Safeway gave a brief presentation and community attendees asked a number of questions. Special concern was expressed about Safeway taking over the existing Longs store, which most of the attendees strongly opposed. Safeway says their store needs to be rebuilt because of obsolete equipment and furnishings. Also, the store layout does not represent their current retail model. Their biggest problem is the lack of parking, the main reason for their interest in the Longs site, which includes a large amount of parking. (See "Safeway," page 4.)

■ **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 in a couple of months.

■ **Trader Joe's**

An RCPC board member met with the College Avenue Trader Joe's new store manager to discuss neighborhood concerns. In response, Trader Joe's hired a landscape contractor for new plantings, and confirmed truck delivery times after 6am and before 10pm. The Oakland Bicycle Safety Division, working with RCPC, developed and submitted a new bicycle parking plan to Trader Joe's, to accomodate over 20 bikes.

Construction work on the interior of the store replacing the old Albertsons is still underway. Occupancy is expected in October.

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City Council to Hear RCPC 'Kingfish' Project Appeal

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

The Oakland City Council is scheduled to hear RCPC's appeal of the Oakland Planning Commission's approval of the "Kingfish" mixed-use project on Claremont Avenue on Tuesday, October 16. The RCPC board is meanwhile negotiating with the developer looking for a compromise that would allow RCPC to withdraw its appeal.

The Planning Commission approved the project, to be located on the site of the Kingfish Café and Pub, 5248 Telegraph Avenue, at its July meeting. Because of the building's proposed five-story height, the Planning Commission ruled there was a conflict between the site's current zoning (C-28, four stories maximum) and its General Plan designation ("community commercial") and chose what it designated as a "best fit" zoning of C-45, which has no height limit and does not rule out even a high-rise residential tower.

➧ **Kingfish Appeal, page 10**

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**.

5615 Miles Avenue

Proposal: Replacement and small expansion of a garage.

Contact: Greff Architects (Curt) 510/653-4500

Owners: J. Adachi, J. Trendler

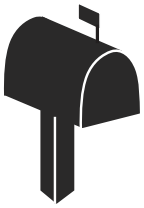
Planning Permits Required: Design Review and Variances to allow reconstruction and expansion of a residential garage to be located 16 feet from the front property line where where 20 feet is required and 0 feet from the side property line where 5 feet is required.

Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property (PDHP) Survey

Rating: CD2+

Case Planner: David Valeska, 510/238-2075 or dvaleska@oaklandnet.com

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.

Anti-development rhetoric obscures mutual goals

Editor:

I agree with Jane Powell (Smart Growth, Green Building, or Historic Preservation?, *Rockridge News*, September 8) that historic preservation is more culturally and environmentally sustainable than building a new "green" structure. Reusing existing resources — buildings, cars, or clothing — is less harmful to the planet than consuming new materials, however eco-friendly.

Unfortunately, this crucial point is obscured by Powell's anti-development rhetoric. Claiming that infill or new development is inherently bad does nothing to advance our community debate. When Powell insists that "historic buildings are about the only thing that gives cities a sense of place," she overlooks the fact that great cities have a variety of architectural forms that developed over decades, and by the creation of community in old and new settings.

Powell's characterization of "infill" is also one-sided. She argues that infill means tearing down a historic building to build a new and larger (and therefore, uglier and worse) one. Many infill buildings are constructed on vacant lots, which have been correlated with crime and low property values. Even when infill buildings replace older structures, they can be neighborhood assets – like Adeline Apartments in Berkeley, which blends in with its historic surroundings and provides affordable housing for people with disabilities

Powell's equating of "infill" with "urban renewal" is also dubious. "Urban renewal" is a term describing the government-sponsored razing of neighborhoods, construction of freeways, and massive rebuilding in many U.S. cities from the 1950s until the 1970s. The consequences included homelessness of thousands of people (usually poor and of color), deserted downtowns, middle-class flight and distrust of government. The construction of a few condominiums in an affluent neighborhood is not comparable to the publicly funded destruction of entire communities.

Powell is right that population growth is driving development. Increased intensity of land use is a reality for every urban and suburban community, especially if we want to preserve open space and farmland. Based on this realization, let us try to distribute the impacts equitably, reuse before we build new, work cooperatively with developers and keep our terms of debate clear and open.

— Gloria Bruce

Ed. Note: Bruce is a member of the RCPC board of directors. She has submitted this letter for publication as a statement of her own point of view, not necessarily that of the organization.



Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore Report Earns Ire, Possible Suit

by Ellen Peterson, RCPC boardmember

On August 29, Caltrans sent to Oakland its Response to Comments, a document meant to answer questions and comments by the city about the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) of the Caldecott Improvement Project (also known as the proposed fourth bore). Unfortunately, the document provided no additional analysis, nor did it answer requests for additional information. Consequently, the DEIR remains woefully inadequate. On September 12, Caltrans certified its Final EIR. The Final EIR is only slightly more responsive to the issues raised in the Response to Comments. As a result, Oakland and various neighborhood and environmental groups are considering filing a lawsuit.

The bore will have a long-term impact on Rockridge. To get involved, e-mail Ellen Peterson at fourthbore@rockridge.org.

Safeway to Build New Store on Longs Pleasant Valley Site

by Cy Gulassa, RCPC boardmember

At a packed community meeting held in September, Safeway real estate manager Todd Paradis told approximately 80 people that Safeway plans to build a new store "from the ground up" on the site now occupied by Longs Drugs at the Rockridge Shopping Center, Broadway and Pleasant Valley Avenue. Safeway, while not the shopping center landowner, is acting as the developer to rebuild most of it.

Paradis said the Longs site is essential because it provides adequate parking and will allow Safeway to build a bigger, more modern facility with an expanded product line. Underground parking is impractical, he said, because the site is a former rock quarry.

Paradis also said Safeway might build a discount gas station at the site, an idea many people at the meeting opposed. Attendees also expressed their desire that Longs remain a tenant because of its diverse and reasonably priced wares, which appeal to a wide audience, including lower income families living nearby. The future of Longs is not clear because its lease is ending in 2011, Paradis said.

Safeway is not currently planning to build housing above the new store – an idea that had been suggested by some neighborhood groups – due to height restrictions in its lease.



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Product of a Crime Wave, a Web Magazine Flowers in Cyberspace

Everything from security systems to ancient myths

by Janet Somers

During a crime wave here last spring, Rockridge resident Vivek Bhatia, an avid do-it-yourselfer, taught himself about home security devices, then installed an elaborate system in his house with nearly 70 sensors, five cameras and a host of other gizmos and features. After noticing an interest in alarm systems on the local crime-watch newsgroup, he began posting information there about his set-up.

"My system will page me every time someone arms or disarms the security system, I can log in to my server to see where there's motion in the house, [and] if something is remiss I can pull up the CCTV on my cellphone," Bhatia wrote in one of the ebullient, sometimes arcane messages for which he quickly became known.

Soon, people were asking him for advice on security equipment for their own homes. Bhatia, who by day manages large projects for Blue Shield, decided to hold a seminar. "I thought, I'll just whip together a PowerPoint," he says. More than 50 people answered an announcement for his second class, held at the Rockridge library. About 25 showed up, some from surrounding areas like Montclair and Lakeshore.

The resounding interest, combined with the difficulty of coordinating the meetings, prompted Bhatia to create a website devoted to signups for his (free) courses and publication of the training materials he'd put together. "E-mails, yahoo groups – the logistics were killing me," he recalls. He launched the site in August.

Now, two months later, Bhatia finds himself running an online community magazine with content ranging from ancient Indian myths to dumpling recipes. RockridgeResidents.org, as it is called, does contain a section on crime and home security. But Bhatia also scans in and posts local restaurants' take-out menus. Other people in the neighborhood are running sections on topics like green living and finances.



Webmaster Vivek Bhatia and his family relax between postings online. Photo courtesy of Vivek Bhatia.

"We have 30 columns, 40 recipes and 50 articles in 12 sections," Bhatia said last month on the site's one-month anniversary, with a mixture of pride and disbelief.

The eclectic site blossomed swiftly but organically. "As soon as I brought up the idea, I heard, 'Hey, what about a green section?' 'What about animals?'" Bhatia recalls. "'If you're building it, why couldn't you also do this other stuff?'"

Bhatia listened to the requests. He also accepted help from anyone who expressed interest. "Nine people volunteered to help me build this," he says. (Full disclosure: I helped out in the early stages.)

Within a month of its August 10 inauguration, the site was logging 75 hits per day and boasted over 100 registered users. (Any visitor can submit an article; registered users have access to some additional features, like entering reviews of businesses.)

Each section's "owner" can publish submitted articles without going through Bhatia. "The approach I've taken is a very democratic, decentralized one," he says. There's also a "Horse's Mouth" section, for writers who prefer bypassing section owners or whose content doesn't fit into any of the established categories; Bhatia himself vets such submissions.

Bhatia has spent about $500 so far for software to run the site (much of it was free) and pays $6 per month to a web hosting service. He refuses to accept contributions towards the expense, citing his aversion to being beholden to anyone. He has spent about 50 hours so far to set up the site, but expects that to decrease to a couple of hours per week as it stabilizes.

In homage to Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Bhatia dubbed RockridgeResidents.org with the motto "By the Residents, For the Residents."

"What's fun about it is seeing all of Rockridge getting engaged as a community, even though we're a highly diverse collection of individuals," he says.

For information or to contribute visit www.RockridgeResidents.org or e-mail webmaster@RockridgeResidents.org. RR.org's next "swarm" (which Bhatia defines as a gathering of Rockridge residents who fly around and get buzzed) is on October 19. Check the site for details as the date approaches.

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Chabot Elementary Plans Annual Fall Carnival and 80th Birthday Party

All community and alumni invited to the celebration

Games, Food, Music, Rides and More: The Chabot Elementary School PTA hosts the school's annual Fall Carnival on Sunday, October 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the school at 6686 Chabot Road (at Patton). Admission is free, with modest prices for delicious food and games for all ages.

Fall 2007 is also the 80th birthday of the school. This major anniversary will be marked at 1 p.m. with a birthday cake and special community celebration. The birthday party kicks off a year of events including an alumni reunion in 2008.

The Fall Carnival features activity booths sponsored by every class, from kindergarten through 5th grade, as well as prizes, arts and crafts, delicious homemade food and cold beverages. In addition to the birthday celebration, entertainment will include music by the band Professional Help, a visit from the fire department, and surprise guests.

More details about the Fall Carnival are available at www.chabotelementary.org.

New District?

from page 1

"The term 'community benefit district' is often used to refer to property-based improvement districts, which by law must serve the properties from which they draw their revenue, rather than the larger community."

It said the current $150,000 per year which the RDA receives through the existing Business Improvement District (BID), from set fees for each business license, is not enough to support needed projects. The letter went on to suggest that a CBD, financed through property assessments, would be a good way to produce the needed funding. The RDA's letter to property owners, signed by RDA President Sara Wilson and RDA consultant and Executive Director Marco Li Mandri, cited as a further reason for the CBD "the need for ongoing input into land use decisions that affect properties in the area." It did not specify what land use decisions these might be.

The process of forming the CBD, the letter explained, entails a survey (included with the letter), adoption of a plan specifying the services to be funded, a petition drive to win endorsement of the plan, and formal polling of property owners by mailed ballot. It said the process would be completed by July 2008. The creation of the CBD would require the support of at least half the property owners – not merchants – within the proposed district boundaries, with the votes to be weighted according to parcel size plus building square footage and street frontage. The largest landowners on College Avenue are BART/CalTrans, Safeway, ASR Tx Lease (the Trader Joe's site), the Wilson Associates (Market Hall, etc.) and Dreyer's. The California College of the Arts owns significant square footage, including property at College Point and the Poppy Fabrics building, but its total amount is unknown.

The RDA board allocated $15,000 of its budget this year — money collected from the businesses that make up the current BID — toward exploring replacement of the BID with a CBD. To date, the RDA's communications appear to be aimed at property owners who would be voting on the new district. Several small College Avenue merchants, when interviewed for this article, expressed shock at the news of the possible CBD, though none wished to be quoted. The June 26 letter regarding the proposed CBD was not sent to non-property owning merchants, who constitute the large majority of business owners in the district.

In a CBD, property ownership is the determining factor in both assessments and decision making. Currently, merchants vote for the board of directors of the RDA, which serves as the advisory board of the Business Improvement District. With a CBD in place, College Avenue merchants who do not own the properties where their businesses are located would bear much of the financial burden of the assessments, because of the standard "pass through" clause contained in most commercial leases; yet they would have no say or representation in decisions about which projects are undertaken, or the size of the annual assessments. All these matters would be decided by the advisory board of the CBD – e.g., a reorganized RDA – which in turn would be responsible to the property owners, who would be weighted in the manner described above. The non-property owning merchants would also be powerless to vote to dissolve the district.

The existing Business Improvement District, as the name implies, includes and assesses only businesses and professionals with business licenses. The proposed CBD, on the other hand, would include and assess by size all property within its boundaries, including residential properties and publicly owned properties like the Rockridge Branch Library. There are about 200 residential units on College Avenue that could face rent increases if landlords pass the cost of assessments on to their tenants.

Li Mandri's consulting firm, San-Diego based New City America, specializes in "the facilitation and growth of street-based urban business districts," according to its website, www.newcityamerica.com. New City America acts as consultant to many BID and CBD groups. An alliance of West Berkeley residents and small business people recently protested a proposal, developed by Li Mandri's firm, to form a West Berkeley CBD headed by developers and large property owners including Bayer. The proposed West Berkeley CBD would allocate $60,000 to lobby on land use issues like zoning. West Berkeley residents expect heavy lobbying paid for by CBD funds on behalf of development-minded property owners to challenge their current zoning. Because they do not want to see Emeryville-scale development occur, they have formed a coalition with the small businesses in their area to stop formation of a CBD.

The Rockridge News will continue to report to the community on the impacts of replacing the current Rockridge area BID with a property-based assessment district.

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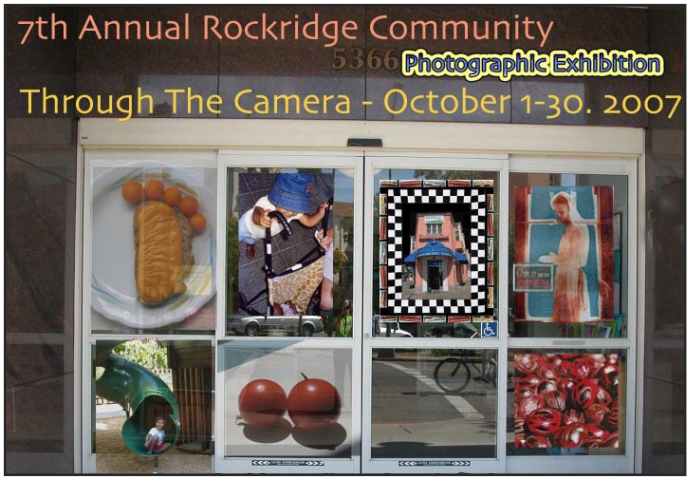
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The Rockridge Muse

by Ortrun Niesar

Rockridge Photographers on Display

The annual Rockridge Photography Show is underway, October 1-31 at the Rockridge library. Participants include Martha Snyder, Lydia Gans, Karena Doan, Robert Hofmann , Susan Olmsted and Irving Wiltshire. There will be a reception for the artists on Tuesday, October 9 6-8 p.m. at the library gallery, the hospitality to be continued across the street at Hudson Bay Café to satisfy those in a party mood.



House Concerts

Hang up your iPod and rediscover the joy of live acoustic music listened to among a circle of like-minded friends in real spaces. House concerts are a Rockridge tradition. You need to look for them, ask around, but eventually you will be amply rewarded for your efforts. Here are two venues for starters. KATastroPHE's Florio Street Concerts are back in action this year, beginning on October 14 with a presentation of the Peter Horvath Jazz Trio. Call Kathy Westine at 601-9631 for information and reservations.

Also, Wisteria Ways has been holding forth for the past year in a lovely home and garden setting at 383 61st Street. There will be a concert on Sunday, October 14 at 3 p.m., by Blame Sally (Americana/Pop) with Pam Delgado, Renee Harcourt, Jeri Jones and Monica Pasqual. Check it out at www.WisteriaWays.org. or call 510/655-2771. Reservations are recommended.

Rockridge as History

Perhaps you have already picked up a copy of "Rockridge," compiled and written by Robin and Tom Wolf for Arcadia's *Images of America* series. Look for the distinctive sepia-toned cover at Diesel or Pendragon and at Chimes Pharmacy, Bosco's, Village Market and even at the College Avenue Union 76 station. To celebrate, the Rockridge library will hold a History Fest on Saturday, October 27, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. with a talk and slide show by three local history authors. Robin Wolf, Annalee Allen and Don Hausler will present tales and images of historic Rockridge, Oakland and Emeryville. Their books will be available for purchase. If you are keen on local history, don't miss the "Second Thursdays" lecture series at the Chapel of the Chimes on Piedmont Avenue. Go to www.oaklandheritage.org for subject information. While there, check out this year's OHA (Oakland Heritage Alliance) House Tour program slated for Sunday October 28.

Call OHA at 510/763-9218 now to be a tour volunteer. It's a nice way to see the featured homes for free and meet fellow history buffs.

Poetry Readings

Last year I wrote an article about Murray Silverstein and his new collection of poetry entitled "Any Old Wolf," which had been chosen in 2005 for publication by Sixteen Rivers Press. 2007 has brought us two additional Rockridge poets selected by their peers at Sixteen Rivers: Helen Wickes and Nina Lindsay. Both poets have been published in numerous national quarterlies and journals, but these are their first books of poetry. They will be reading from their collections, positively deep hued and delicious, entitled "In Search of Landscape" and "Today's Special Dish," at Diesel Bookstore on Sunday, October 7, at 3 p.m. Sixteen Rivers Press is a cooperatively run press dedicated to publishing the work of Bay Area poets. It was founded by a group of seven writers in 1999. By now they have 15 excellent publications and much literary acclaim to their credit.

Learn more about them at www.sixteenrivers.org

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Elizabeth Opalenik Transformed the Art of 'Mordançage'



Elizabeth Opalenik in her Rockridge studio.

Photo: Rockridge News staff

by Rockridge News staff

Photographic artist Elizabeth Opalenik favors cowboy boots and jeans, speaks in an earthy voice and once worked as a handywoman and carpenter. But the 60-year-old Rockridge resident's photographic images, a sampling of which have just been released in her book, "Poetic Grace: Elizabeth Opalenik Photographs 1979 – 2007," exhibit a surprising delicacy.

Opalenik specializes in, and has transformed, a process called "mordançage," wherein the silver emulsion on a photosensitive page is removed — or, in her contribution to the art, moved around — to create a three-dimensional effect often resembling superimposed veils.

"It's slime, basically," she says of the goop, which is thinner than eggwhite and which she manipulates, drop by drop, with an eyedropper, sometimes spending dozens of hours to produce one image. "You rock the tray, move the water; rock the tray, move the water," she says. "It's like a meditation."

Opalenik believes all photography is self-portraiture. That makes the contrast between her tough persona and her tender artwork seem all the more incongruous. But she says it's the inner image she's after.

"It's a self-portrait about who you think you are and how you see yourself," she says. "All photographs are metaphors for your life experience. We don't see the world as it is; we see it as we are."

Opalenik's work has been shown in more than 60 international exhibitions and profiled in many major photographic publications. She teaches workshops all over the world, including yearly courses in Provençe and for National Geographic Expeditions. She also teaches privately, and paid for self-publishing the book – which she says devoted students urged her to put together – through pre-sales of 500 copies to them.



"I always ask my students, 'If you were going on a space ship and all you could take were four images, what would you choose?'" When asked the question herself by one of her teachers early in her career, she chose "love, kindness, my childhood and knowledge." Asked how one would photograph those concepts, she answers, with a smile, "That's why photography is a metaphor and a self-portrait."

Opalenik's book, which sells for $75, is available in local bookstores and through her website, www.opalenik.com.

Images by Elizabeth Opalenik from her recently published book "Poetic Grace: Elizabeth Opalenik Photographs 1979 – 2007." Left: "I'll fly away" (mordançage black-and-white photographic image); below: "Cala with heart" (black-and-white photo).





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FROG Park Corner

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



by Jennifer Cooper

Picnic and Cleanup Day Brings Community Together

More than 100 people gathered for the first Picnic in the Park on Sunday, September 9. With rakes and brooms donated by Rockridge Kids, children and adults tidied up the park before enjoying a picnic, fresh from the Temescal Farmer's Market. For children, it was a way to "give back" to the park that welcomes them all year. Apple bobbing, ice cream, spoon races and even children's yoga helped make it a spirited day. Look for the next Picnic in the Park in the spring.

Maintenance Day

Why does FROG park look so great? Because of volunteers! We had a very successful Fall Maintenance Day on September 15, with a large part of the work done by freshman and senior volunteers from College Preparatory High School. Many important tasks were completed, including cleaning and resealing the play structures, turning over all the wood chips and putting in new plants. Thanks also to Clinton Pugh of the City of Oakland, our favorite park maintenance employee, for his help in keeping our greenbelt looking great.

Why Isn't the Creek Flowing?

The creek was shut down last month due to maintenance and an electrical problem. The current arrangement with the city and Alameda County Flood Control has the creek running from April 15 to October 15. It does not run during the winter months due to flooding, mechanical problems and other issues. A committee from FROG is working to get the creek flowing year round.

The creek flowing through the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt is a faux creek. Water from Temescal Creek is pumped up to the surface at Hardy Park, where the pond is located. The water then travels below ground, under the greenbelt, to the other side of Clifton Street, where it surfaces. It travels along the surface in the greenbelt by the DMV, under Cavour Street, then above ground along Clarke Street all the way to Redondo Park, at the corner of Redondo and Clarke.

Temescal Creek used to flow along the area where the greenbelt currently is. Back in the '70s, Temescal Creek was put below ground in a large concrete culvert. Later, Alameda County and the city of Oakland agreed to create a faux creek for our area, which evolved into today's greenbelt.

The creek is an important part of the greenbelt. To keep the water flowing (literally), we have to prevent dams and clogging and flooding by keeping the culverts and grates clear. Removing dams can actually be nearly as fun as making them. If you see others putting things into the creek, remind them that what goes in our faux creek must come out. FROG has organized volunteers to keep the creek and the grates clear. Want to volunteer? Please contact FROG chairwoman Jennifer Cooper at 653-6581.

End of Volunteer Wisteria Pruning at Rockridge Library

by Pat Lichter,
Rockridge library branch manager

Falling down on the job? Not horticulturalist Peter Bowyer and his colleagues, all members of the Merritt College Aesthetic Pruning Club (www.aestheticpruning.org). For the past six years, these professionals and trainees have volunteered to prune and train the wisteria fronting Rockridge library – a TALL order!

However, the city's concern about liability for volunteers on ladders has ended this project. Our local city garden crew, committed to keeping up Peter's good work, will be taking over.

Peter, who trains horticultural students through volunteer projects throughout Northern California, specializes in aesthetic pruning and bonsai and Japanese gardening. A longtime volunteer in city of Oakland gardens, he will continue his oversight of volunteer projects at the Lake Merritt Japanese Garden.

Peter and friends put in years of TLC and expertise – and it shows. Rockridge library extends a huge thank you to Peter and friends for all that TLC for our wisteria. The community appreciates the beautiful results.

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Kingfish Appeal

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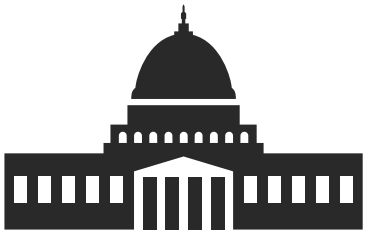
Commercial use is planned for the building's first floor, with the upper four stories devoted to 33 condominium units currently intended as "co-housing" (shared living space).

The RCPC board does not object to a mixed-use project on the site and supports co-housing for the residential portion. However, the board opposes the five-story height (almost 60 feet) as too tall for Claremont Avenue. The building's five stories, as well as the C-45 zoning, set an unwise precedent for future development that could be extended up Claremont through the rest of Rockridge.

The board is also concerned about variances that have been approved for the project, reducing its setbacks from neighboring properties below the minimum allowed by current zoning. If neighboring properties are later redeveloped similarly, the closely-spaced buildings could end up looking and feeling like tenements rather than an attractive residential neighborhood.

Check the RCPC website (http://www.rockridge.org) for updates as the appeal date gets closer. Unless an acceptable compromise on the project can be reached, RCPC encourages Rockridge residents to attend the council meeting on October 16 and express their opinions about whether this project should go forward as approved, or should be modified to be more compatible with the surrounding neighborhood.

Council meetings are held at Oakland City Hall, One Frank Ogawa Plaza, 3rd Floor, 7 p.m. Call 510/444-CITY(2489) for additional information, or Councilwoman Jane Brunner's office at 238-7001.

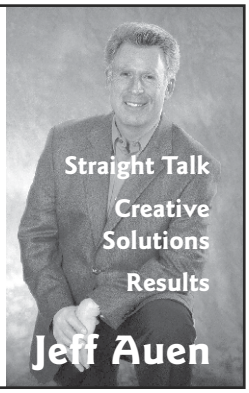


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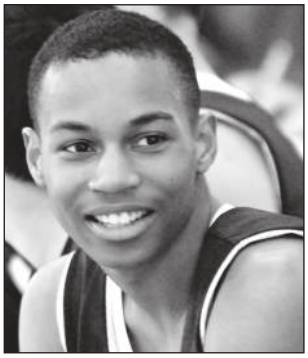
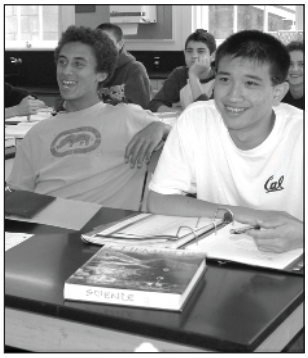
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Over-the-Top Satirical Musical Comedy Featuring Bush and Co. Opening at La Peña

by Rockridge News staff

"By George, It's War!," an antiwar satirical musical comedy by Bolinas composer Dale Polissar, opens in its second incarnation for four performances at La Peña in Berkeley starting October 14.

The over-the-top satire includes scenes of Bush and Cheney eavesdropping on lovers ("Listening to the People"), a magic wizard changing election results with a wave of his computer-mouse wand ("Hacker to the King"), and the "Republican Men's Chorus" in a dark number, menacingly waving their golf clubs.

Polissar says the piece is not just against the war but also expresses hope for saving the beauty of the world we live in. The show, originally written as one act covering the run-up to the Iraq war, received a standing ovation in Bolinas in 2004. Polissar has updated it with a second act covering Bush's re-election and the war itself.

Polissar has a master's in music composition from Stanford and is a jazz clarinetist and former reporter for the Lodi News Sentinel; he received a Marin Arts Foundation grant for the original show. Choreography is by Doree Clark, of Stag Door Dance Studio in Sausalito. The band includes Bolinas and former Rockridge resident Tom Williard.

"By George, It's War!" plays at La Peña three Sundays, October 14, 21, 28 and Thursday, October 25, at 7:30. Tickets are $14-$20. La Peña is at 3105 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. The show moves to 142 Throckmorton Theatre in Mill Valley for four performances in November, where all tickets are $20.



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09/27/07	5905 Claremont Ave	4/2	$1,200,000	$1,200,000	14
09/29/07	373 63rd Street	3/1	$749,000	$855,000	8

2007 3ND QTR STATS:
Avge days on market: 17 days compared to 24 days in 2006
Average List/Sell: 107% compared to 103% in 2006

15% of the sales were priced reduced 3rd quarter 2007 compared to 22% last year. Currently there is a 3 month supply of inventory in Rockridge for an average of 6 buyers who are purchasing per month. Median Sales Price increased by 1% from 895,000 last year to $901,000 this year. However, unlike most of the Bay Area, sales in Rockridge did increase from 27 last year to 33 this year – a 22% increase

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Brunner/Zoning

from page 1

things like that.

RN: So, essentially it's looking at what ought to be happening in the future for land use in the area.

JB: Right. Right now you have the General Plan. That has very broad statements, like we want building to occur along the major [transportation] corridors, and we want density along the major corridors. And then you have zoning which says, on Telegraph Avenue, for example, that there should only be a maximum of three or four stories. And they contradict each other. So what the Planning Commission has done is follow the General Plan and give variances to some new construction. So what we've been trying to do for the last year is have a dialogue about what exactly the General Plan is saying and what exactly is the zoning that the city is going to propose — the city being [Planning Director] Claudia Cappio and the Planning Division, having talked to developers and talked to neighbors.

RN: This is a bit of an aside, but why did it take ten years for the city to get around to doing the zoning update?

JB: The main reason is that the mayor at the time gave direction to the planning staff to work on major development projects and not to take time to do the rezoning. The City Council, and particularly [Councilman] Henry Chang, has been asking for eight years to do the rezoning. Since there wasn't that much development going on in North Oakland, it wasn't until the development really started about a year ago that it became clear, in North Oakland, how important it was to do the rezoning.

RN: So what does happen now in North Oakland, when a development project is proposed and the zoning says one thing, but the General Plan says something different?

JB: Well, that is what I was explaining before: what has been happening is the Planning Commission that we have, that was put in by Mayor Brown, has generally used the fact that the General Plan says to do major development along major corridors to say that the General Plan gives them the right to approve these various developments regardless of the zoning. That's why I asked, a year ago, to start the zoning update on Telegraph and Broadway – two areas where we're starting to see big development.

RN: So if the zoning isn't being followed, then there's no guidance about what should be approved.

JB: Right. There's ambiguity; so you're left with whoever happens to be at the Planning Commission and the City Council at the time. The Planning Commission has been clearly stating, "We want development along the major corridors," and that means height. They believe that is where it belongs.

RN: Do you think the zoning for Rockridge will change with this zoning update?

JB: I don't believe that the majority of Rockridge is going to change at all. Nobody has talked to me about changing the zoning for College Avenue.

RN: How about Claremont Avenue?

JB: Claremont, only going up a little from Telegraph, and that became part of the Temescal zoning discussion; and I know that you consider that part of Rockridge.

RN: Right now, the General Plan shows all of Claremont being residential, and I understand that the current zoning update proposal would change that.

JB: When we started the Telegraph zoning project, we did not really discuss Claremont very much, and then [when] we got the proposal from staff, they had added Claremont.

RN: Was there a rationale for adding that in?

JB: You really ought to ask staff about that, but what I recall is that it had to do with the connection to Telegraph Avenue, the width of the street, the types of businesses

Brunner/Zoning, next page

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Brunner/Zoning

from previous page

there now, those kind of things.

RN: What about the upper segment of Broadway, above College Avenue?

JB: Upper Broadway is currently residential and consistent with the General Plan, so there's no need to make changes.

RN: There has been a lot of talk about "smart growth," and there are a fair number of people in the Rockridge/Temescal area who believe that we should be pushing for higher density in the area.

JB: Yes, there are, and it's split, actually. It's interesting, because I hear from both sides. There are a lot of young people in the Temescal area, and their argument is that they can't afford houses; they're going to have to live in condos, and they believe that in order to live in our neighborhood we need to have more building, and they don't mind the height. And then there are other people who've lived there much longer, who live in single-family homes and are concerned about how high the buildings on Telegraph are going to be. I think the debate is between people who want to see four stories max and those who want to see heights up to five stories with a setback, or maybe even six stories, and that's the discussion.

RN: I think that in the back of many people's mind, when they think about all this extra density, is the traffic issue: whether the streets can handle all the traffic if you build up all this density. Is the city thinking about this at all?

JB: The city is, and I haven't heard yet what the proposal will be from the city about dealing with the cumulative effect of all these projects; and that could be good or bad. The good thing is they'll do a traffic study and take whatever actions need to be done to address traffic problems. But that may also mean that we don't redo our zoning until the study is done, which could mean another year or two in the meantime with no rules.

RN: I take it from all this that you feel the zoning update is pretty important.

JB: I basically think that what's needed from all of us is that we really need to finish doing the zoning because I think this deciding it project by project is very contentious and is not helping to bring the neighborhood together. So I am concerned that we get the zoning done as fast as possible, so that we can have rules and guidelines and so the Planning Commission knows, "These are the rules and guidelines."

RN: Any final thoughts about the future of land use in Rockridge?

JB: You know, every once in awhile, developers come and say, "You know, the Rockridge BART Station – we really should develop that." Basically, my answer is, "People are pretty happy with the Rockridge BART Station." It is the model that is used nationally; whenever there is one of these big conferences about transit villages, they point to Rockridge as an example. Rockridge happened naturally, so you have to be very careful if you're going to change it. On the other hand, in Temescal, the MacArthur BART could really use a transit village, and I'm really excited that that's what we're doing there. We have a private developer, it's going to be a major development, and it's very exciting.

PPRC

from page 2

way on College Avenue; and the incoming Trader Joe's, at the former Albertsons site, on College Avenue. PPRC volunteers will also monitor planning commission activity for zoning changes that could affect building height and other regulations.

Faced with these and other development projects, RCPC urges interested neighbors to attend the Town Hall meeting on Thursday, October 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge library. The meeting will include a discussion about the PPRC and pending projects, and seek community input. The PPRC will also discuss recent activity on the city's Zoning Update Committee (ZUC).

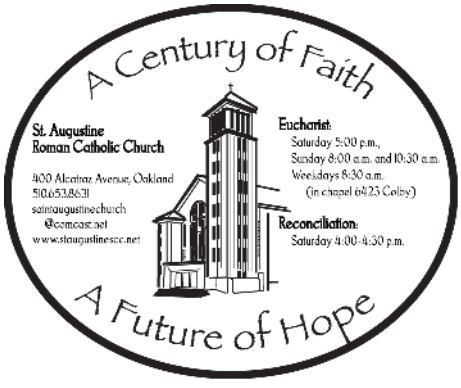
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Shawn Usha provides assessment, intervention, and tutoring to set the challenged learner on the path to learning success by developing the necessary tools, self-knowledge, attitude, and skills. www.iknowhowtolearn.com 510/450-0646.

Pop Singing Classes for Girls

New eight-week session – "A Pop Xmas". Girls, 9-13. Popular holiday tunes, vocal technique, group dynamics. Thursdays, 6:45-7:45, Oct 18-Dec 6. Performance Friday, Dec 7. Classes held at Harmony Road Music School, Oakland. 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 – 4:00-4:30 pm; Saturday Vigil, 5:00 pm; Sunday Eucharist—8:00 am. and 10:30 am.

Decorative Painting

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

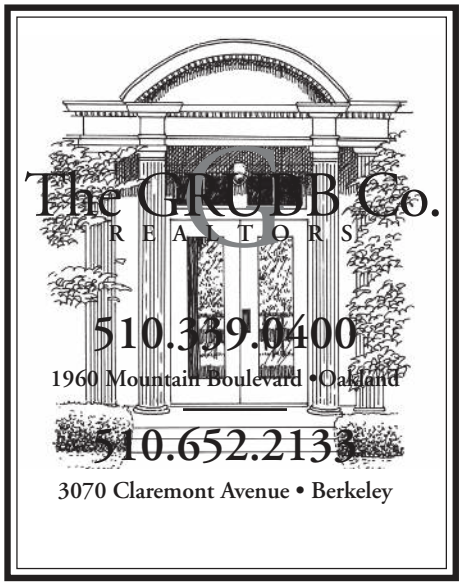
Seniors in Transition

Moving On provides personalized service designed to assist and support seniors who are ready to sort their lifetime possessions in preparation for moving. Ten-hour minimum. Call Lynn, 510/527.7732.

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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

Saturday, **Oct 13**, 10am to noon. **Topic: North Oakland Town Hall** with guest speaker **Mayor Ron Dellums**. Peralta Elementary School, 460 63rd St. (parking on Alcatraz, east of Telegraph or AC Transit #1). For more info, (and info 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

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: 10/6, 10/13, 11/3
- **Pre-School Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am: 10/17, 11/7.
- **Pajama Story Time:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm: 10/9, 10/23.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES:

- **Mask-Making Workshop:** materials provided to make a skull mask to celebrate Day of the Dead. Thurs., 10/18, 4pm. All ages welcome.
- **Halloween Story Time:** Tuesday, 10/23, 7pm. Come in costume.
- **Truly Scary Stories:** Tues., 10/30, 7pm.

FOR TEENS:

- **Anime Club: Teens 13 and up,** watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation) with other teens. 2nd Tuesday of each month, from 5 to 6:30pm, upstairs meeting room. Meet 10/9 to watch *Trinity Blood*. More info: Susy, Teen Specialist Librarian, 597-5017.

FOR ADULTS:

- **Writers' Support /Critique Group:** ALL writers welcome. Third Saturday of each month (10/20) from 1 to 5pm. Bring up to 5 pages of your prose for on-site reading/discussion. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch (www.berkeleywritersclub.org/). For more info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Knitting Classes for Seniors (50+):** with instructor **Teri Barr**. All levels welcome. Beginners bring light color yarn and a pair of size 8 needles. If experienced, bring projects to work on. Tuesdays, 12:30-2:30pm, upstairs meeting room.
- **Alexander Technique Free Introductory Workshop:** exercise and hands-on guidance with professional teachers. Saturday, 10/13, noon to 2pm.
- **Travel With Children:** *Lonely Planet* author **Jay Cooke:** discussion and book signing. Monday, 10/15, 7 to 8pm.
- **Local Authors: Robin** and **Tom Wolf, Annalee Allen** and **Don Hausler** will discuss their books on the history of Rockridge, Emeryville and Oakland. Saturday, 10/27, 2:30 to 4:30pm.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice.** First Tuesday of each month, 6-8pm. Advance sign-up starts 5pm.

NOTE: no meetings on Nov. 6: the meeting room will be a polling place.

ART EXHIBITS

Gallery October: **Rockridge Community Photo Club.**
November: **M.E. Foster** and **Chris Rockwell:** etchings and paintings.

Lobby Display Case:
October: **Ann Daniels** and **Naomi Zuger-man-Daniels**: "Dolls for Darfur."
November: **Robert Draheim:** children's books.

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, 10/7, 3pm: Oakland poets **Nina Lindsay:** *Today's Special Dish*, and **Helen Wickes:** *In Search of Landscape*.
- Monday, 10/8, 7:30pm: **Amnesty International Meeting:** exchange information and ideas on action. All welcome.
- Sunday, 10/14, 3pm: **Michael Krasny** (host of NPR's Forum): *Off Mike: A Memoir of Talk Radio and Literary Life*.
- Tuesday, 10/16, 7:30pm: **Dr. Jerry Rule:** *Living Your Unlived Life: Coping with Unrealized Dreams and Fulfilling Your Purpose in the Second Half of Life* (co-authored with **Robert A. Johnson**).
- Wednesday, 10/17, 12:30pm: **Frank Warren:** *A Lifetime of Secrets*.
- Tuesday, 10/30, 7:30pm: **Rebecca Curtis:** *Twenty Grand* and **Jonathan Selwood***: The Pinball Theory of the Apocalypse*.

5433 College Ave. 510/653-9965 or www.diesel-bookstore.com.

LiveTalk@CPS

College Preparatory School Lecture Series: open to all. • **Thursday, 10/18, 7:30 to 9pm. Dr. Arlene Blum**, environmental scientist and mountaineer leader of the 1st all-woman ascent of Denali. Lecture and slide slow presentation of her latest book, *Breaking Trail: Mountains, Molecules and Motherhood*. • **Thursday, 11/8, 7:30 to 9pm. Performing storyteller Joel ben Izzy** discusses The Stories of Our Lives: how we can share and preserve our own stories. Tickets: $15 ($5 students). Proceeds support the endowment fund and financial aid program. CPS Buttner Auditorium, 6100 B'way (at Brookside). Wheelchair accessible; free parking. More info: 420-2351 or www.college-prep.org/livetalk

College Avenue Halloween Parade

Kids of all ages, put on your costumes and join the Trick-or-Treat procession which starts at noon from "Halloween Central" in front of the College Ave, Presb. Church, 5951 College Ave. Participating merchants will give out treats along both sides of College Ave. from Alcatraz to B'way. Return to "Halloween Central" by 1pm for spooky storytelling and silly, scary sing-alongs. Sunday, October 28, noon to 2pm. Sponsored by the Rockridge District Association (RDA) and RCPC.

Garden Reception/Benefit

STAND (Standing Together for Accountable Neighborhood Development) fundraiser for legal and operating expenses. Hosted bar and buffet. Sunday, Oct 14, 4 to 6pm at 449 49th Street (corner of 49th and Clarke). $25 or $40/couple. Send other donations to STAND, P.O. Box 20486, Oakland, CA 94620. Info: Bob at 655-3841 or Virginia at 654-8925.

Chabot School Annual Fall Carnival

Fun for everyone: games, arts and crafts, entertainment. Food and drink available. Includes a special community celebration of Chabot's 80th birthday at 1pm. Fundraiser and community building event by the PTA supports music, art, garden, school library and other school improvements. Sunday, Oct 28 from 11am to 3pm on the lower yard of Chabot School, 6686 Chabot Road. (at Patton St.). For more info: Polly Ikonen; 658-2085 or pollywiko@yahoo.com.

Jazz at The Chimes

Featuring **The Mo'Rockin Project:** exotic mix of North African melodies, jazz and more. Sunday, 10/21, 2pm. Ticket sales at the door begin at 12:30pm: $10 (cash only) for concert and artist's reception and refreshments. Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. Wheelchair accessible. Info/Reservations: 228-3218. www.lifemarkgroup.com/oakland/special_events.asp. **NOTE: Celebrate Dios de los Muertos and Halloween** with a variety of **free events**, including arts and crafts, processions, music, stories and refreshments from Oct. 17 through Nov. 6. For a schedule of events and more info: 228-3207 or arodman@lifemarkgroup.com.

Wisteria Ways Concert Series

- **Blame Sally:** Americana/Pop quartet. Sunday, 10/14, 3pm, (yard gate opens at 2;30pm). Outside venue (wheelchair accessible). Bring blanket or lawn chair and a picnic.
- **Ellis Island:** Old World Klezmer band. Sunday, 11/4, 3pm. Inside venue (not wheelchair accessible).

383 61st Street. $15 suggested donation for musicians. For more info or 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. Tuesday, 10/23, 6-7:30pm. Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave. Contact Nick Bosustow, 452-8444, nbosustow@peacecorps.gov, or www.peacecorps.gov.

Purr-casso Art Sale and Gala

Benefit for East Bay Humane Society. Cat-themed art sale featuring decorative, wearable and functional art pieces celebrating our feline friends. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages served. **Free parking and admission**. Sunday, Nov 4, 12 noon to 4pm at the Hollis Street Project, Grand Hallway, 5900 Hollis Street, Emeryville. For more information call 845-7735 or www@berkeleyhumane.org.

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. "North Oakland Senior Times" provides a class schedule and a monthly lunch menu ($2.25 to $4.). For details about events, membership, and opportunities to become a volunteer, call 597-5085.

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