THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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Changes in Police Command, Assignments

OPD Changes to New Shifts

by Karen Ivy, NCPC steering committee member

On January 12, 2008, the Oakland Police Department (OPD) will begin working under the 12-hour shift schedule approved in arbitration in November 2007. Controversy has swirled around the new shift schedule, primarily owing to pressure from police officers and their union. Administrators feel, however, that the new schedule will prove more efficient and will save the city millions of dollars in overtime.

At issue was the length of individual shifts and the timing of days off. In 2007 and before, officers worked 10-hour shifts four days in succession, followed by three days off. Beginning January 2008, they will work seven 12-hour shifts, with a rotating succession of days off over a two-week period: two days on, two days off, three days on, two days off, two days

▪ OPD Changes, page 13

OPD Assigns New Captain to North Oakland Area 1

by Susan Montauk, NCPC chair

Despite his youthful aspect, the new Oakland Police Department (OPD) captain of North Oakland's Area 1 is an 18-year veteran of the department with an impressive resume. Captain Anthony Toribio takes up his appointment as North and West Oakland Captain on January 12.



New Area 1 OPD Captain Anthony Toribio

PHOTO: SUSAN MONTAUK

Toribio's assignment reflects titanic changes for OPD as the department moves in 2008 to reorganize its organizational structure as well as its patrol

▪ OPD Captain, page 13

A Consultant Considers a Vision of Retail in Oakland, Sees Opportunity

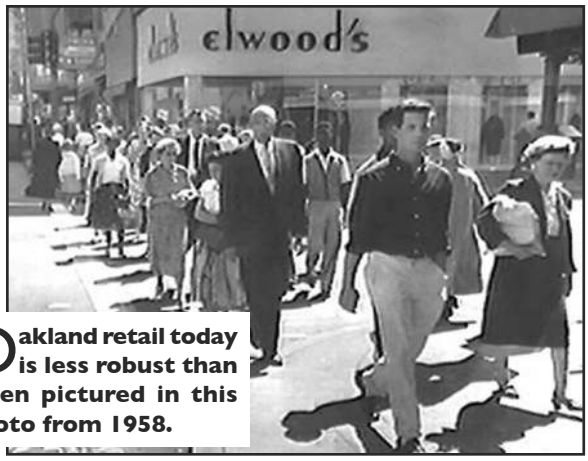
Jane Brunner hosts a look at the findings

by Anna L. Marks

How many of us have ventured to Emeryville in search of computer supplies and lighting fixtures, to Berkeley for makeup, to Walnut Creek for home furnishings, or to downtown San Francisco for clothing? Oaklanders apparently prefer shopping in the surrounding areas, despite the high cost of transportation.

According to Conley Consulting, whose recent study was requested by Oakland City Councilmember Pat Kernighan and the City Council and presented at Jane Brunner's Town Hall Meeting this past November, this "leakage" results in an annual loss of $10 million in sales tax revenues that could be used to provide more public services. And, even with the robust Piedmont Avenue, Rockridge, and International Boulevard merchant districts, it's getting worse, she says, pointing to the neighboring communities' growth rate of twice that of Oakland's since 2001.

Long-time Oakland resident Denise Conley, leading the team of consultants, sees



Oakland retail today is less robust than when pictured in this photo from 1958.

Elwood's, 17th and Telegraph, October 1958 /The Oakland Tribune Collection, the Oakland Museum of California. Gift of ANG Newspapers.

▪ Retail, page 12

Agenda: RCPC January Town Hall Meeting

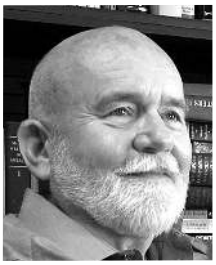
Thursday, January 17, 7:30 p.m., Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue at Manila, Community Room (Upstairs)

- **Special Election Forum: A non-partisan review of ballot issues by the League of Women Voters of Oakland:**
  - League representatives present a neutral pros-and-cons overview of measures on the February ballot
- **Open Forum by RCPC on current projects: UnderBART improvements; Fourth Bore report; the new RCPC Website; various commercial developments**
- **RCPC award presentation to Rockridge resident Patrick Daughton**

The Election Forum; League of Women Voters

WE BET YOU THOUGHT the presidential nominations were the only reason to vote in February! There are also 10 ballot measures to decide on. So come hear the League of Women Voters of Oakland (LWV) present a neutral pros-and-cons overview of each measure. This presentation by the LWV is completely non-partisan and a

▪ RCPC Meeting, page 9



After serving nearly 10 years as Editor of The Rockridge News, Cy Gulassa has stepped down to have more time to devote to his workload as President of the Board of Trustees for the Peralta Community Colleges (Alameda, Berkeley, Laney, Merritt). Don Kinkead, layout manager of the 21-year-old newsletter, will serve as interim editor beginning with this issue.

To mark Cy's departure as well as the beginning of this New Year, the newsletter presents the following Cyrilean classic from the January, 2006 issue. Best wishes, Cy.

HAPPY JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, INCLUSIVE

by Cy Gulassa

The war on Christmas, like the war on terrorism, is complex and exceedingly dangerous. You can banish the word Christmas with a keystroke, but semantic insurgents are deeply embedded in substitute words, ready to make a mockery of "mission accomplished."

To win the war, Christmas must be secularized, antiseptically cleansed of Christ, Christians and other religious clutter. But first, to be culturally fair, if Christmas must go, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa must also be stricken. We should not play cultural favorites.

The word Christmas, unfortunately, is problematic. Coined by Anglo-Saxons as shorthand for the feast of the birth of Christ, "Cristes mæsse" (Mass of Christ), it has burrowed so deep into our collective psyches that it's hard to find an alternative that doesn't suggest a baby in a manger and a flock of angels.

The politically correct (PC) suggest a neutral word like "holiday." That's a good choice, but it also poses problems. Holiday(s) include all 12 days of Christmas, making it difficult to single out a particular day: "Merry holiday!" "What did you get for holiday?" And how about, "Hurry, hurry, only 10 shopping days left 'til holiday." Clearly, holiday is much too generic to be useful.

Another way to test a Christmas substitute is to put it in a song or poem and listen: "On the first day of holiday my true love gave to me…." Or, "T'was the night before holiday and all through the house…." Nah!

But that's only the half of it. Holiday derives from the Old English word "haligdæg," which literally means holy day, a day parishioners knocked off work but were required to attend Mass and celebrate a saint or religious event. Even though many local folks are unaware of the etymology of "holiday," it's sufficiently steeped in religious myth to offend somebody out there. Sorry, holiday must go.

I examined an old, pre-PC neutering of Christmas to determine why it failed to take hold. Orthographers a half-century ago tried crossing out the "Christ" in Christmas. Although a good start, it didn't go far enough. Xmas stirs suspicion that religious meaning has subliminally survived in the suffix, -mas, the shortened version of Mass. Further, words like Xrated, Xtreme and Xtravaganza give an unwelcome cast to Xmas, associating it, so to speak, with bad companions. So any truncation of the word is out — Xtirpated, if you like.

I thought maybe Yule might suffice. It has a nice ring: "Merry Yuletide." "Light the Yule log." "Presents all around the Yule tree." But the word is not as secular as it seems. Tracing it back to Middle English, Yule derives from "yole" which means "Christmastide." I could trace it to Old English and thence to Teutonic and beyond, but why be excessive? Yule is useless.

▪ **Happy Whatever, page 10**

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Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: **CLOSED**
See Calendar, page 15, for January hours.

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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- 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:
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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
☛ February 2, 2008
☛ February deadline is January 17.
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.)*

Project Meeting: Hauser Creekside
Rockridge Branch Library, 6–8 p.m., Jan 7

Project developer Hauser Architects has invited the community to a presentation at the Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue, on January 7 from 6 – 8 p.m. They will discuss the findings from the City planning staff's Initial Study – a review of the probable environmental impacts on the neighborhood that are significant enough to be included in the City's Focused Environmental Impact Report that will follow the Initial Study. According to Hauser, City planning staff will be present to answer questions.

More importantly, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the Initial Study two days later, January 9. This hearing is expected to begin at 6 p.m. in the Commission's regular meeting room in City Hall. Staff has said that other than traffic, they found no significant impacts on the immediate surrounding neighborhood.

At this hearing, residents can present persuasive arguments for the study of impacts that are deemed significant to them. Please attend this meeting. The Planning Commissioners are responsive to thoughtful and passionate statements of nearby and other affected residents.

A link to the City's Initial Study can be found on the RCPC web site (www.rockridge.org). A project description and review is in this edition of The Rockridge News in the Project Updates article below.

PROJECT UPDATES

RCPC's Planning and Project Review Committee (PPRC)

■ **Hauser Creekside (Global Video site) — 5132 Telegraph**
☛ Developer invites the community to a project presentation, January 7, at the Rockridge Branch Library (see box above)
☛ Planning Commission hearing, January 9 on Creekside environmental document scope and overall project (see box above)

Project Description: The existing Global Video building will be demolished and replaced by surface parking and construction of up to 120 residential units (115 market-rate units and five very low-income affordable housing units), with approximately 7,700 square feet of ground-floor commercial space, and 120 parking spaces.

The project includes three buildings above a ground-floor podium facing Telegraph Avenue, Claremont Avenue and Clarke Street with heights ranging up to around 65'.

As proposed, the project requires numerous exceptions to existing zoning laws. Requested are five variances, a Conditional Use Permit and a state affordable housing bonus density allowing more project units than permitted by the Oakland General Plan.

A required project traffic impact study found over 1,700 additional daily vehicle trips would be generated by the proposed project. Because the City's subsequent Initial Study found potential significant project-related and cumulative transportation impacts that could degrade the quality of the environment and adversely affect human beings, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) focussed only on traffic impacts must be prepared.

The January 9 Planning Commission hearing action covers overall project comments, the Initial Study, and the scope of the EIR. The scope could be expanded in response to the public hearing input and neighborhood comment: All are encouraged to attend or submit a comment letter. All public comment material must be submitted by January 21, 2008 to planner Darin Ranelletti, at dranelletti@oaklandnet.com.

■ **Safeway Rebuild — 6310 College Avenue (College & Claremont avenues)**

Project Description: Safeway plans to enlarge and modernize the 23,000 sq. ft. store site, creating a larger store and increased parking. Safeway met with the community in an RCPC Town Hall meeting on June 21, 2007. The current store was built prior to adoption of the current College Avenue small-retail oriented zoning. Building a new store under the current C-31 zoning could necessitate several variances, a Conditional Use Permit, and a major Design Review process. This is because a new store such as Safeway is proposing would have major conflicts with the purpose and provisions of the C-31 zone.

A project pre-application has recently been filed with the City. Safeway indicated they would return to the community in the near future and present the design.

Wanted: Planning and Project Review Committee Members

Rockridge residents interested in joining the RCPC Project and Planning Review Committee (PPRC) are invited to submit a letter describing their interests/background according to the following guidelines plus a professional resume by January 15, 2008 to rcpcchair@rockridge.org or RCPC, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618. A selection committee will interview candidates for the full board's consideration.

Any adult 18 or over residing within the RCPC boundaries may apply for a position on the PPRC. Selection guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Experience and/or education in architecture, urban planning, urban design, land use, and environmental review (or equivalent as determined by the selection committee);

2. Ability to read and interpret preliminary architectural drawings (or equivalent as determined by the selection committee);

3. Ability to read, interpret, and apply the zoning provisions of the Oakland Planning Code (or equivalent as determined by the selection committee);

4. Availability to devote the necessary time to the review of potential planning changes and proposed projects;

5. Availability to attend some daytime meetings and late afternoon-evening planning commission and city council hearings;

6. Familiarity with urban planning, development, and/or transportation issues in Rockridge; and

7. Supports the RCPC mission statement (see www.rockridge.org).

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.

Private Road Affects the 5175 Broadway Project

Editor:

I am writing as a resident of Desmond Street who is concerned about additional traffic that will be created by the 5175 Broadway Condominium Development Project.

Despite my letters to various stakeholders involved in this project, the "official" traffic study for this condominium project made no mention of the private road that connects Broadway, next to the former Poppy Fabrics business, and Desmond Street. This private road is totally unregulated and a danger to the neighborhood. On the Desmond Street end, this private road is the width of a private driveway. And yet, two-way traffic is allowed. There are no stop signs on either end of the road, no posted speed limits or speed bumps, and no one monitoring cars and trucks that use this road. Both cars and trucks use this private road as a "cut through" street. The addition of a condominium development will only increase the safety and pollution problems associated with this road. Vehicles using this private road often "zip" out of the Desmond Street end of the road without even slowing down. To make matters worse, large tractor-trailers use this road, and when these trailers exit on the Desmond Street end of the road, there is a sign posted indicating that trucks must make a right hand turn only, heading towards Coronado. This causes substantial truck traffic up Desmond Street from tractor trailers. Some of them make a right turn on Coronado to make their way back to Desmond Street, while others make a U-turn or K-turn at the intersection of Desmond and Coronado, and then go back down Desmond Street to 51st Street.

The traffic report for the 5175 Broadway development project did not take this private road and its traffic into consideration. At the recent neighborhood meeting with Ms. Lucy Armentrout, the developer's representative, Ms. Armentrout indicated that she was unaware of this private road.

I do not believe that this project can go forward in isolation of the traffic problems it will cause, and I also believe that it is time for all stakeholders to acknowledge the impact that this road will have on the safety of those of us who live near it.

— Deborah Curtis

[See article on this project, page 5]

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Daughter Attacked: We No Longer Feel Safe

Editor:

I am writing to you to tell you that our daughter, a third-year college student, was violently attacked in front of our Rockridge home the night of December 6, around 9 p.m. She was walking from her car parked on Thomas Avenue to our home on the 5300 block of Broadway. She heard the footsteps of a man following her, ran up the stairs of our house and, two steps from our door, the attacker grabbed her by her ankles. She screamed loudly and our son opened the door, scaring off the attacker. My son saw him get into a dark Mercedes. Within seven minutes after we called the police, six patrol cars and an ambulance arrived. Officers found a dark Mercedes parked around the corner with its lights on. Two weeks ago, one of our neighbors was also attacked walking home from College Avenue, at 2 p.m. in the afternoon. She was hit from behind by a man who was seen driving a dark Mercedes. We believe it was the same person. Anyway, we are all scared to leave our home. My son and daughter now carry pepper spray with them and we use a buddy system when they come home at night. This is no way to live! We have lived for over 25 years in Rockridge, but have never personally experienced any crime. We are thinking of moving out of Oakland to a safer community.

— Peggy E. Ludwig

[Copies sent by the author to Mayor Dellums and Councilmember Jane Brunner.]

Editor's Comment: The letter above and another, sent anonymously, describe acts of violent physical assault in Rockridge residential areas. The Rockridge News will withhold letter writers' names upon request, but does not print anonymous letters. However, equally violent or disturbing crimes are frequently reported in on-line forums. The recent letters and postings clearly show that the citizenry of Oakland — and Rockridge — feel under siege. Some writers feel the police are understaffed and therefore overwhelmed by the onslaught of crime. Citing the difficulty of recruiting applicants who can successfully complete the training and be hired on to the force, Police Chief Tucker and Mayor Dellums have designed a redeployment of working officers to begin to meet the crime challenge. Two reports on that process appear on page 1.

Find Rockridge-related on-line forums at Yahoo! Groups (http://groups.yahoo.com/). Type "Rockridge" in the "Find a Yahoo! Group" search box.

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Mixed-Use Housing Proposed for 5175 Broadway, Former Gas Station Site

by Rockridge News staff

Have you been an annual shopper at the Delancey Street Christmas Tree lot at Broadway and Coronado? You may need to find a new source come Christmas Future.

A proposal to develop the lot — the long-neglected site of a closed gas station and, subsequently for many years a Christmas tree sales center — has been filed with the City, according to Lucy Armentrout, AICP, consultant to the developer.

Armentrout said the complexity and cost of cleaning up the benzene and other contaminants left when the station closed and that may also have leaked from underground fuel tanks until their removal in 1999 have deterred developers since the 1970s. However, Oakland real estate values now make clean-up and redevelopment of the property affordable, she said.

Rockridge Heights, LLC purchased the lot in mid-2006, and completed the building design in June 2007. The mixed-use condominium project of 28 residential units of approximately 1,000 square feet each along with two commercial units would cover a total of 2,995 square feet.

According to Armentrout, the residential units are designed for buyers wanting to live within a small "footprint" and seek an active urban lifestyle. Only three of the residential units have two bedrooms. The remaining 25 are one bedroom units. Rockridge Heights hopes to find neighborhood-serving buyers or tenants for the commercial spaces, none of which has been designed for restaurant use, said Armentrout.

Armentrout said project proponents have valued public participation in shaping the project. The project manager has met with abutting property owners and RCPC boardmembers. The project was presented to neighbors at a meeting sponsored by Councilwoman Brunner in January 2007, and at a neighborhood meeting at Red Oak Realty's office in December 2007.

RCPC boardmember Peter St. John reports that 20 neighbors of the proposed project and two representatives from RCPC's Planning and Project Review Committee (PPRC) met with Armentrout in mid-December to review and comment on the project. The main concern of the neighbors was the proposed garage entrance/exit on Coronado Avenue, currently a one-way street into Broadway, St. John said. Neighbors want Coronado to be a two way street from Broadway to the Coronado Avenue driveway of the project site and Wendy's Hamburgers driveway and want traffic barriers to prevent right turns out of Wendy's onto Coronado.

Other concerns of neighbors were the negative parking impacts on Coronado and Desmond, the need to control balcony storage, and rental restrictions on the condo units. Also mentioned, said St. John, were the need for a shadow study, alteration of the roof angle to decrease shadowing and the height of the building.

St. John said the comment period on these documents is still open. The project's initial hearing before the Planning Commission is slated for January 16, 2008.

View project information on the Major Projects section of the Planning and Zoning page: http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/ceda/revised/planningzoning/MajorProjectsSection/5175BroadwayIS_FINAL_clean120707.pdf

Children's Hospital Seeks New Parcel Tax to Fund Retrofit

by Susan Parker, for Livable Oakland

In a bid to finance seismic improvements that must be made by 2013, Children's Hospital Oakland (CHO) has collected 66,000 signatures for a ballot measure that, if approved by Alameda County voters, would establish a parcel tax of $24 per year for residential property and up to $250 for commercial property. Measure A, expected to be on the February 5 ballot, would raise $300 million to help meet the costs of seismic upgrades. Other construction contemplated in the measure includes a 12-story high-rise tower and new helicopter-landing pad.

Concerned CHO neighbors to the west of Shattuck Avenue, between 52nd and 55th streets, calling themselves Livable Oakland, have filed an argument and rebuttal against Measure A. Livable Oakland supports CHO's mission to serve patients in a seismically safe facility, but opposes building a tax-payer subsidized 180-foot tall building that threatens to destroy a vibrant, family-oriented Oakland neighborhood.

For years, CHO has expanded in a seemingly unplanned fashion, buying and maintaining buildings along Claremont, Telegraph, Dover, Martin Luther King, and 52nd and 53rd streets. It has taken the same haphazard approach to the State's seismic safety law. According to Livable Oakland members, CHO has no master facilities plan and no contingency plan in the event it cannot raise the $700 million. The group feels the hospital can afford to earthquake-retrofit its current inpatient facility, but is

▪ Children's, page 7

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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Rockridge Culinary Roundup

With nearly 80 restaurants, specialty food markets and cafés within its boundaries, Rockridge continues to be one of the primary culinary destinations for the Bay Area. I believe there isn't another community in the Bay Area with the range of top-end restaurants and gourmet markets as Rockridge. As we enter into the New Year, it's a good time to review some of the culinary treasures found along College Avenue.

New Kids on the Blocks

Three new wonderful restaurants opened this year to excellent reviews: Wood Tavern, Somerset, and Noodle Theory. Wood Tavern is perhaps one of the best restaurants to open on College Avenue since Olivetos. Rich and Rebekeh Wood have brought a level of elegance and an outstanding and ever changing menu to the former Grasshopper space. The restaurant has been a hit since it opened in February, not just for the food but because of the warm service orchestrated by the Woods. I just love the pork belly appetizer.

As with the Woods, the proprietors of Sumerset (as in Sumerset Maughan) owned the very successful Miss Millies in San Francisco. Sunday brunch is the absolute best time to dine. Somerset features all your American breakfast favorites with a made-from-scratch, organic twist on everything from waffles to bacon and eggs and pancakes. The menu features an innovative fusion of Mexican, American, and even English flavors.

Noodle Theory is a small Asian-inspired noodle soup restaurant in the former space of Double Rainbow Ice Cream. Noodle soup slurping is all the rage in New York. The soups at Noodle Theory meld flavors from all over Asia: thick Japanese noodles, Thai flavors of coconut milk and satay paste, a pungent yellow curry from China, and slices of pork belly from Korea. As with all the soups served at this small gem, ingredients are good and fresh.

Kid Friendly

In addition to the many fine dining restaurants, College Avenue has several child-friendly options. My 4-year-old granddaughter particularly loves Tachibana Sushi Bar and Cactus Taqueria. Tachibana has princess and Nemo plates and cups and child training chopsticks. The wait-staff are attentive to children's tastes, i.e. no wasabi on the tuna sushi. Cactus Taqueria has become the Rockridge destination restaurant for families with children of all ages. With a varied menu, Cactus is an ideal restaurant for even the most finicky eater.

Elegant Dining

For special occasion fine dining, College Avenue offers many of The San Francisco Chronicle's top 100 and Zagat-listed restaurants. These include Citron, Garibaldi's on College, Oleveto Restaurant, Wood Tavern, and my personal favorite, À Côté.

Bookstore

I need to include our two neighborhood bookstores in the culinary roundup. Diesel Books and Pendragon offer some of the best selections of cookbooks in the Bay Area. These are hard times for independent book sellers and both stores deserve our full support. Here are three books on cooking I highly recommend. Our own Alice Waters' new cookbook, "The Art of Simple Food," is her best yet. San Francisco Restaurateur Cecila Chiang's amazing memoir "The Seventh Daughter" is an absolute must for any lover of Chinese cuisine. Judith Jones' memoir, "The Tenth Muse," is a joy to read. Judith Jones, now in her 80s, is the queen of cookbooks at Knopf. Jones was responsible for bringing Julia Child, Marcella Hazen, Edna Lewis and Claudia Roden to American home cooks.

Special Shoutouts

- The two Mikes and Jeff at À Côté – you are the best.
- Rick, Tad, Mario, Carl and especially Jerry at Ver Brugge Meats – you are truly a community treasure.
- Trader Joe's manager George Yamashita – welcome to our community.

Poached Pears

(adapted from "The Art of Simple Food," by Alice Waters)

4 cups water
1-¼ cups sugar
Zest and juice of 1 lemon
4 medium pears, peeled, stem on

Bring to boil water and sugar in pot big enough for the pears. Turn down to a simmer, add zest and lemon juice. Place pears in the simmering water. Cook until tender but not soft. Remove from the heat and let cool. Serve warm or chilled.

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

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Children's

from page 5

using the seismic safety requirement to justify a major expansion.

Livable Oakland is not against CHO's expansion, but prefers it be done in a way that will not destroy the 100-year old neighborhood. Members believe CHO should continue to consider sites along the I-580 corridor, Mandela Parkway, or Pill Hill, or build a lower, more neighborhood-friendly structure on its existing campus.

CHO's expansion will affect adjoining neighborhoods as well, the group believes, pointing out that traffic patterns and helicopter flight patterns will change. Livable Oakland says residential "for sale" signs are sprouting in the CHO neighborhood. As residents who shop in nearby neighborhoods move away, those neighborhoods' merchants stand to lose business.

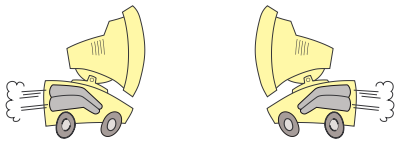
■ For more information, visit www.livableoakland.org or email sqparker@pacbell.com.

Other information is available on-line at:

■ East Bay Business Times: http://www.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2007/10/29/story1.html?page=1

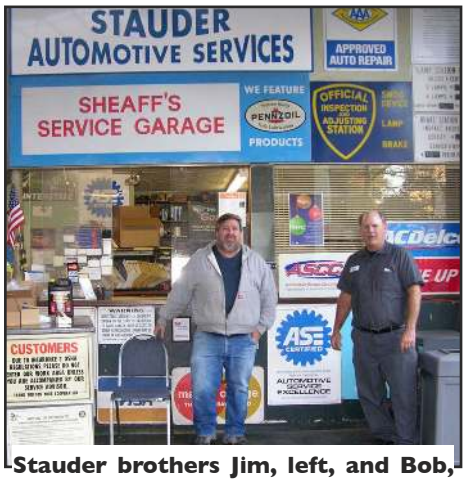
■ bNet Research Center: http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qn4176/is_20070919/ai_n20506348

■ SFGate.com (SF Chronicle): http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/12/23/BAS8U31U9.DTL



Stauder Automotive — Local Car Doctors Keep Rockridge Rolling

by Lydia Gans



Stauder brothers Jim, left, and Bob, ready for the next job. Photo: Lydia Gans

There's nothing like having a doctor handy in the neighborhood, a family doc who remembers your conditions and idiosyncrasies, listens with a sympathetic ear and usually can find time to take care of you without making you wait around forever. And that's true not just for a doctor to look after your body, but for a doctor to look after your car as well. We're lucky here in Rockridge to have the Stauder brothers who do just that.

Now named Stauder Automotive Services, the brothers' auto repair shop has been at 5930 College Avenue since the '50s. It was Sheaff's Service Garage until Bob Stauder bought it 10 years ago. A skilled mechanic who grew up in the neighborhood, he says, "I've worked on cars in this area basically my whole life." His brothers Jim and Mike are with him in the shop along with John Accacian, another mechanic with years of experience, who has been working there for about 20 years. John's father-in-law was the former owner.

The Stauders have been around Rockridge a long time. Bob recalls, "I grew up on Oak Grove, went to Rockridge elementary, Claremont Middle, Oakland Tech High and Cal State Hayward." It's pretty much the same for his brothers. Of the business he says, "I have customers I've known since I was 10-years-old, friends and parents of friends."

The Stauders work on most cars, domestic and imported. They see a lot of Toyotas, Hondas and Subarus. Bob notes that the people in the neighborhood "actually want to take care of their cars. We do lots of smog work because people are concerned about the environment." Except for major jobs like engine and transmission rebuilding, the Stauders fix just about everything and take care of periodic checkups and basic maintenance. They do a lot of brake work, because of the hilly terrain. Bob says people living up in the hills are "constantly coming down the hill and need brakes."

We're fortunate to have the services of skilled, reliable car doctors located right in our neighborhood. It's another perk, along with the shops selling classy clothes and pretty things and the restaurants offering a world of gourmet foods, that makes Rockridge such a great place to live.

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Why RCPC Joined in the Suit Against the Caldecott Fourth Bore

by Ellen Peterson, RCPC representative to the Fourth Bore Coalition

Background: The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has proposed building an additional tube, or bore, in the Caldecott Tunnel, presently three separate bores. Caltrans prepared environmental reports to analyze project impacts and to determine mitigations for the impacts. RCPC and other community planning groups pointed out evident deficiencies in the report. RCPC subsequently joined with the Fourth Bore Coalition (FBC), an organization of neighborhood groups and residents on the west side of Caldecott Tunnel, in a suit to invalidate the environmental reports. Below, Ellen Peterson writes of the concerns leading to the suit.

RCPC and the Fourth Bore Coalition do not want to stop construction of the Fourth Bore project. Both RCPC and the FBC do want to ensure that serious negative impacts from the project are adequately mitigated. But, Caltrans did not include any part of Rockridge within the study area and therefore did not address project impacts on the neighborhood, its schools, or its public resources such as FROG Park. Among those impacts are:

4½ years of construction effects on Rockridge street traffic:

Under Caltrans' current construction staging plan, all westbound trucks hauling tunneling debris will exit from Highway 24 at Broadway Avenue. That means over 100,000 heavy truck trips on Rockridge streets generated by this project will pass through intersections already heavily used by pedestrians – including Rockridge children – and automobiles. In addition, the construction will cause massive east bound backups during the 4.5 years of the project. These backups will result in ever more cars cutting through Rockridge neighborhoods to avoid the mess. Yet no Rockridge neighborhood traffic management or mitigation measures are included anywhere in the environmental study.

Noise in Rockridge is high and will get worse:

The noise in many places along Highway 24 is already above the federal maximum standard of 67 decibels (dB)* requiring noise abatement. FROG Park, Claremont Middle School and the Chabot Recreation Center have sound readings of 70dB to 72dB. Caltrans admits there will be an increase of 2dB to 3dB during the project and, after construction, from more freely flowing traffic. The school and the park would each then have noise levels around 75dB, well over the federal maximum. However, Caltrans has never offered Rockridge a comprehensive noise abatement program; Rockridge isn't included in the study area. (For dB comparison, birdcalls have a sound level of 44dB; conversation is 60dB; running a vacuum cleaner creates 70dB; and a garbage disposal generates 80dB.)

Traffic impacts and air pollution could increase long-term:

Air pollution has particularly devastating effects on children, many of whom attend the schools and play at parks located along Highway 24. Long-term air pollution is expected to increase all along Highway 24 after construction of the fourth bore, as more vehicles use the highway. While fewer traffic jams are expected for vehicles traveling opposite to rush hour commute traffic, it is quite likely that within a few years those traffic jams will again occur due to "induced demand", when new capacity generates even more use, recreating the prior problem. More importantly, the newest Caldecott Tunnel bores accommodate more cars traveling into the Rockridge area during the morning than leaving in the afternoon, potentially forcing cars into Rockridge. Pollution will be ever-increasing. Traffic impacts on Rockridge streets and intersections were not evaluated in the Caltrans study, and no mitigations offered.

Current status:

At this time, the Fourth Bore Coalition, including the RCPC, is entering negotiations with Caltrans to settle the suit. It is hoped a better Caldecott Improvement Project and Fourth Bore for the entire Bay Area results.

* What is a Decibel (dB)?

A decibel (dB) is one-tenth of a bel (B). The dB is a ratio between elements of sound such as pressure and intensity as a measure of sound level. It is commonly used in acoustics to compare different sound levels.

— http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/decibel

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The Rockridge News Needs You!

We have an opening for a Block Captain to deliver the newsletter to route #17F (both sides of the 5200 block of Locksley, between Clifton and Cavour). It's a once-a-month job that takes about 10-15 minutes: Easy, but so important to our community. To volunteer, please contact us at 547-3855 or smontauk@gmail.com.

RCPC Meeting

from page 1

terrific opportunity to educate yourself on the candidates and issues. Sponsored by RCPC, it takes place Thursday, January 17, at 7:30 at the Rockridge Library. Following the presentation by the LWV, the RCPC will continue the Town Hall Meeting with updates and discussion of current projects.

The RCPC will also be honoring Rockridge resident Patrick Daughton for his service to his community and his city with a Rockridge Champion award. Friends and colleagues of Patrick are invited to attend.

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No More Veggies? Farmer's Market Found Closed

Many regular DMV Farmer's Market shoppers were distressed to find it unexpectedly closed when they made their regular shopping trip on Sunday, December 16. With no evident advance warning of the closing, many feared the end of the market could be at hand.

Responding to numerous postings on neighborhood forums, Councilmember Jane Brunner clarified the closing:

"After working on [establishing the market] with the DMV, the State and the Colombo Club, the State and the City agreed to allow a farmer's market at the DMV, but requested that we let the Colombo club use the lot two Sundays a year, one close to Christmas and the other around Easter.

"Ron Pardini, the farmer's market provider, agreed to have his market close two Sundays a year when he was chosen to be the provider of the farmers market."

So: no cause for alarm: December 16 was one of the Sundays.

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Rockridge Still Shows a Strong Real Estate Market at 2007 Year End

Close Date	Bed	Bath	Address	Orig Price	LP	SP
12/21/2007	2	2	5335 Broadway Ter.	$489,000	$489,000	$470,000
12/21/2007	2	2	5343 Broadway Ter.	$487,000	$487,000	$495,000
12/28/2007	2	1	324 Hemphill Pl.	$575,000	$575,000	$600,000

Avg Pr: $517,000 Avg SP: $521,666 December Average Days on Market = 12
December Average price per square foot = $536 December Average List to Sell = 101%
Current Supply of Inventory = 2 months combined (2.6 mo. SFR, 1 mo.Condos)
2006 Yearly # Sales 117 vs 2007 # Sales 118 = less than 1% increase in sales
2006 Median Sales Price $850,000 vs 2007 Median $820,000 = 3.5% decrease in value

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Residents Appeal Five+ Story Telegraph Condo Proposal

5666 Telegraph plans draw ire

by Dahn Van Laarz, upper Telegraph Avenue resident

Concerned about excessive height, major shading of nearby residences, improper rezoning procedure, and a possible precedent for significantly taller buildings north of Highway 24 on Telegraph, neighborhood residents are appealing the Administrative Approval of a condominium project at 5666 Telegraph Avenue. Residents have learned their appeal (CDV07-225) will be heard in January, though a firm date is not set.

Kahn Design of Berkeley and developer Tom Anthony propose to build two towers containing 15 market-rate condominiums above a ground-floor parking structure. The front tower would rise to more than 58 feet, the rear to 48 feet. Adjacent homes and apartments are mostly one-story, with heights ranging from 12-19 feet. Mixed-use and commercial buildings in the immediate area range from 20 feet to the 39 foot Hollywood Books building at 57th Street. Zoning for Telegraph from 55th Street to Berkeley allows up to 40 feet in height.

The project has been controversial since plans were made public in July. The planning department and Jane Brunner's office received so much feedback that the original public comment period was extended, culminating in a raucous neighborhood forum held August 20 at Bushrod Park Recreation Center. Overwhelmingly, neighbors asked that the proposal comply with existing zoning, especially regarding height. Idora Park residents worried about visual blight and reduced property values. Neighbors on Vicente, 57th Street, and Ayala were also concerned about height, afternoon shading, and precedent for higher buildings along upper Telegraph. Telegraph neighbors, including the owner of Clar's Auction Gallery were also strongly against the project for similar reasons. Negative comments regarding the faux tower, the buildings' scale and proposed open-air stairs that would be visible up and down Telegraph and from Highway 24 were also heard.

The lone exception was the owner of one of the 1940s 4-plexes on the west side of Telegraph, who said he intended to redevelop with a significantly taller building if the 5666 project were approved.

In mid-October, planners approved the plans as submitted, asking only for a change to the balcony railings on the upper floors. They also approved a previously undisclosed application for on-site cell phone transponders.

Neighbors appealed, sending the project to the Planning Commission. Due to size thresholds, this project goes only before the commission, not the City Council. The project has been reassigned to Case Planner Dave Valeska, as the previous planner is out on extended medical leave.

For current information, contact the planner at 510/238-2075, log on to the "colbyparkwatch" or "temescalfamiles" yahoo groups, or go to www.standoakland.org/condoWatch.shtml.

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Happy Whatever

from page 2

Will time quiet cultural misgivings? Consider the fact that many daily words are loaded to the steeple with bulky religious trash, yet we protest not. Take just one of dozens of examples: The fifth day of the week, Thursday, named after Thor, the god of thunder. Despite its explicit homage to a pagan deity, no one has implored *The Rockridge News* or any other publication I'm aware of to strike "Thor" out of Thursday. The same for the rest of the days of the week. Have you ever met anyone carrying a sign demanding, "Free Friday of Freia?" In fact, few know who the pagan goddess Freia is. I'm not sure myself.

I suspect, however, that opponents of the word "Christmas" are much too impatient to wait a few thousand years for time to quench long-term associations.

So, after lengthy consideration, the most timely and politically neutral name I can think of as a substitute for Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa is December 25, as in "Happy December 25." When applied to all the 12 days of the Christmas season, this solution provides uncanny precision. Witness, "What are you doing December 25 eve?" Or "Have a great December 25 through January 1, inclusive." No confusion here.

True, it is difficult to adapt to traditional song:

I wish you a merry December 25,
I wish you a merry December 25,
I wish you a merry December 25,
And a happy January 1."

In spite of the infelicity of this rendition, I'm convinced the new system will do just fine. "Merry December 25" improves with repetition and is culturally neutral, an idyllic repose in the heavy seas of religious controversy.

I urge its adoption. In a generation or two, most everyone will regard the change as immutable tradition and bask forevermore in cultural quietude. The war on Christmas would be won definitively, and Christ and Christians banished forever. The victory could be celebrated on Armistice Day, oops, sorry: Veterans' Day, which could be renamed National November 11 Day.

I hope you all had a Merry December 25, and to everyone, Happy January 1 through December 31, inclusive.

Chabot Elementary Building Project Approaches '08 Groundbreaking

by Shelly Fierston and Polly Winograd Ikonen, Chabot parents and members of the Chabot Long Range Planning Committee

Chabot Elementary is on track to break ground in June 2008 on construction of two new buildings and rehabilitation of all its exterior spaces. These new buildings will replace 12 outdated portables with permanent classrooms, provide a new multi-purpose room for lunches, physical education and assemblies, and create a new library and media center. The $17.5 million in bond funding from Measure B, passed by voters in 2006 also funds other facility upgrades.

In design for the last year, final building plans await state approval. Groundbreaking for the project is set for June 2008, just after the school year ends. The project is expected to take 16 months to complete, with work continuing throughout the 2008-2009 school year. While construction and education coexisting on a tiny campus is not ideal, it is another way the school community has worked to ensure a cost-effective and timely building project.

While the Measure B funds enable Chabot to reconfigure and modernize its buildings, the funding does not fulfill the campus master plan. To fill that gap, the Chabot PTA launched capital campaign Chabot: Way To Grow! in fall 2007 to raise $500,000 for landscaping, playground improvements, rehabilitation of Chabot's award-winning garden (which will be demolished during construction), and classroom furnishings. For more information on the campaign, visit www.ChabotElementary.org/WayToGrow.

Chabot's construction schedule will be conducted in three phases:

- **Summer 2008** – Demolition of old portable classroom buildings; regrading and resurfacing of the lower play yard; relocation of new and existing portables to the upper play yard for use during the 2008-09 school year.
- **September 2008 - June 2009** – With the student body secure in the original classroom building and temporary portables on the upper and lower yards, construction of the two new buildings at the south end of campus will take place. About half of the lower play yard will be available to students and the community outside of school hours.
- **Summer 2009** – Temporary portables will be removed from the play yards (6-7 will remain for permanent use), and the upper yard will be regraded and resurfaced.

By the start of the 2009-2010 school year, the campus should be ready for full use by school and community.


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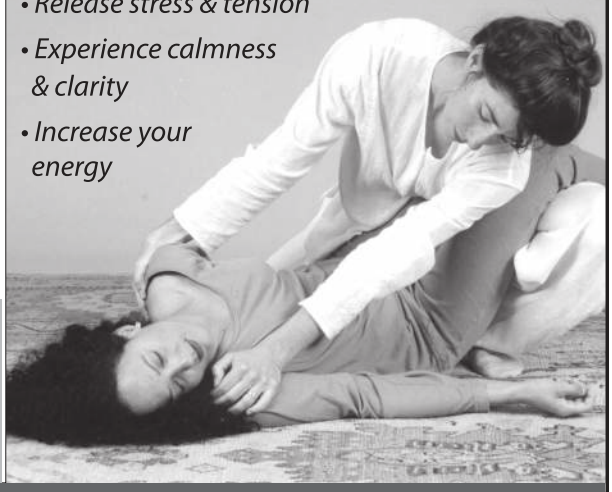
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Retail

from page 1

Oakland's potential as an enlivened city with more pedestrian-oriented, retail activity in its urban centers. To achieve this, Conley's group suggests a four-tiered "Retail Enhancement Strategy" which includes increasing retail in neighborhood centers beginning with upper Broadway (Piedmont Avenue to 27th Street), new and better retail citywide, recruiting new stores, and improving existing retail districts.

Upper Broadway was selected due to the fact that large lots — encompassing a rare 10-acre parcel equaling 450,000 sq. ft of retail space — could soon be available if Broadway's Auto Row relocates to the former Oakland Army Base. With higher building heights, ground floor retail with office and residential units on top, adequate access and parking, and the right tenant mix, upper Broadway would be an ideal, walkable, retail corridor, attracting shoppers from adjoining neighborhoods, and even from outside the city.

Conley's study (which included a survey of approximately 2,300 residents) found that grocery stores, drug stores, bakeries, and neighborhood shops which offer convenience are often lacking in many localities, but the bigger problem is with the "companion goods" like apparel, department stores, gifts, home furnishings, jewelry, and other types of merchandise which are rarely within walking distance for many city residents. The vision is a diverse selection of products, with a price mix that reflects Oakland's diverse population. Phase II would then look at the rest of the city. The group has identified 52 neighborhood "nodes," since, Conley says, one project isn't enough to reverse this trend.

The study determined that a retail-only plan would not work due to high land values; only mixed-use can support current land values. To be successful, a mixed-use plan must have local government policy support. Councilmember Brunner recalled a conversation she had with the mayor of Walnut Creek, who revealed that 40 years ago their city council made a plan for retail development, and never changed its course.

Conley pointed out that Oakland is larger than any of the adjoining cities and yet is underperforming in "sales captured." She says that Oakland should be the East Bay's central marketplace town square. While Oakland does import sales in some areas, the city, she says, should be getting approximately $817 million in annual sales, not the current $600 million — and is losing as much as $10 million in tax revenues and as many as 10,000 jobs.

Speaking on behalf of concerned retailers was Scott Silvera, owner of Scout Hardware, who opened his store about five years ago in an empty storefront on College Avenue, and moved to Temescal this past year. He likes the fact that in Oakland, small businesses can open without direct competition from big box stores and are able to maintain loyal customers, yet is concerned about the high level of crime — vandalism, burglary, shoplifting, and even armed robbery. He says that these factors can put a small business out of business, and notes that the police department doesn't respond quickly to non-violent crime.

Crime is a top priority for Councilmember Brunner, who, in response to Silvera and other resident's comments, confirmed that the District Attorney does not prosecute shoplifters, auto break-ins, and other misdemeanors because of lack of courtroom space. Brunner wants to continue working to find a solution, as well as to adjust Oakland's gross receipts tax to help small businesses thrive.

This initial study is a first step; Phase II of the study will be completed in March 2008.

To see Conley's report, visit http://clerkwebsvr1.oaklandnet.com/detailreport/matter.aspx?key=14310 (download second attachment "view report").

Anna Marks has been a Rockridge resident since 1989, and enjoys living in the Bay Area because of its beauty and diversity.

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Wanted: Candidates For NCPC Election

The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council will hold elections for executive officers at its February 21 Town Hall Meeting at the Rockridge Library. Anyone 18 and older and a resident or business member of beats 12Y/13X (see www.rockridgencpc.com for boundaries and election details) is eligible to run. Contact info@rockridgencpc.com for more information.

OPD Changes

from page 1

on, three days off. Officers will have a minimum of 8 hours off if required to work consecutive 12-hour shifts.

Each officer will have a three-day weekend every second week; also, every alternate second week, each officer will work a three-day weekend. The rotations begin on Monday; the three-day periods run from Wednesday through Friday.

Police Management in Favor

Chief of Police Wayne Tucker fought for this new shift schedule and Mayor Dellums backs it. They cite a number of advantages over the former 10-hour shift duty schedule:

- The 4-10 schedule requires more people than the 12-hour shift schedule, to cover a given 24-hour period. The arbitration decision, available at http://www.oaklandpolice.com/geninfo/OaklandOPOAshiftschedule.pdf, quotes a study which says that a 4-10 schedule requires 25% more officers to cover a beat over a seven day week than the traditional 5-8 schedule; it didn't make comparisons with a 12 hour schedule.
- The 4-10 schedule requires more mandatory overtime than the 12-hour schedule; one goal of the 12-hour schedule is to eliminate mandatory overtime.
- The 12 hour shift schedule better supports the proposed geographical policing model which also goes into effect in January.

Under this model, a team of officers is assigned to one of three areas: Area 1 is North and West Oakland; Area 2 is Central Oakland from the Lake Merritt to High Street; Area 3 is from High Street to the San Leandro border.

Police Union Opposed

The police union, which has been firmly opposed to the new shift plan, presents these arguments:

- They're already overworked and understaffed; 12 hour shifts would be too much
- The police department really needs more officers, not longer shifts
- The geographic policing model was tried before under Chief Richard Word, and was not successful.

The shift changes and a new area command structure will be tested and debated in the coming months. Many officers believe overtired and overstressed officers will resign, leaving OPD with an even greater staffing problem. Authorized staffing is 803 officers; at 729 (last available number of officers), OPD is sorely understaffed. Oakland should have double that number, compared to other cities of the same size. Recruiting for the training academies has been challenging and standards have been lowered to attract candidates; new recruits have barely kept ahead of the attrition rate of about five officers each month.

All eyes will be on the "new OPD" and critics will not be in short supply.

OPD Captain

from page 1

scheduling [see "OPD Changes to New Shifts," page 1]. A new construct of three geographical command areas replaces the system of six Police Service Areas (PSAs), each led by a Lieutenant—North Oakland's PSA 2 was led by Lieutenant Jim Meeks—whose authority extended only to the Crime Reduction Teams (CRTs), Problem Solving Officers (PSOs) and walking officers, not to the patrol officers. Now, patrol officers will be assigned on a seniority basis to a year's term in one district, under the command of one captain and his lieutenants. "It will make us more efficient," says Toribio. "The problem of disconnect will vanish."

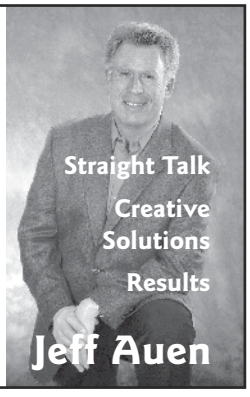
Toribio has a special interest in community policing. He thinks each beat officer should be a community policing officer, one who does more than the cursory on-the-fly type of policing. He gives the example of an officer called to deal with an abandoned house where on-going drug dealing was only halted periodically by officers who chased the dealers away. This officer made arrests, called EBMUD and PG&E to get the water and gas turned off, and advised the lender that he would be cited if the property were not cleaned up and secured. Problem solved.

Toribio expects his beat officers to do this kind of policing, which he calls project-based. He says that each call should be treated as if it is "the only one standing. You need to provide citizens with the service they deserve," he continues. He also thinks doing the job properly improves officer morale. "Most people become officers because they want to make a difference. When they do the job right they get satisfaction, a sense of accomplishment and pride."

Anthony Toribio will be the guest speaker at a special Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meeting at the Rockridge Library, 7 p.m. on January 24. Block Captains and NCPC Block Contacts are invited to attend. Contact your NCPC at info@rockridgencpc.com for more information.

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Your 36-word message is $20. (Phone number counts as one word). Mail to: **RN Classifieds**, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618. *February deadline is January 17. For information: e-mail* smontauk@gmail.com

Home Repair Expert

Carpentry, remodeling. Doors and windows, glass and locks, small electrical, plumbing jobs, drywall, painting, fences, decks and other odd jobs. Good rates. Rick 510/761-7168.

Housecleaning Cooperative

We clean homes, apartments, offices, and help you clean up for moves, in and out. Careful professional attention to detail and reasonable rates. Ask for our excellent references. Please call: 510/499-5836.

Unexpected Guests?

Short-term rental, lovely room 2 blocks from Rockridge BART in owner's flat. Wi-fi, cable, t.v. Suitable for one person. Photos available. Barbird@aol.com 510/652-7044.

Manicure & Pedicure

We use Zoya polish which does not contain formaldehyde or toluene or DBT. Call Halina @ Milagro Salon, 5269 Broadway @ College. 510/593-5080. Mention this ad and receive a 10% discount.

Quality Gardening

Skilled maintenance and fine gardening. Planting and design, pruning, irrigation, outdoor lighting, clean-ups. Ecological practices. 14 years in Berkeley/Oakland. Local references. Green's Gardens. 510/593-3490.

Rockridge Reflexology

Advanced hand and foot techniques. Winter special: book 2 sessions, 3rd free! Gift Certificates available. Close to BART. Unique and cozy setting. 510/601-0614. rockreflex@bigfeetbuddha.com. Relax, Restore, Rebound.

Handyman

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

Pacific Boychoir Auditions

The Boychoir is auditioning boys ages 5-10. No experience necessary for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for boys, concerts with orchestras, at sporting events, and around the world. Convenient rehearsals at Alcatraz/Colby. 510/652-4722.

Homeopathy – "Green" Family Medicine

Homeopathy is effective medicine. It is also one of the "greenest". I treat many issues: migraines, menopause, fertility, skin, digestion etc. All ages. All natural. Shana Sturm: 510/367-4161.

Aesthetic Pruning

I specialize in pruning trees and shrubs under 20 feet tall. I work with trees to enhance their natural beauty. Specialties: maples, camellias, conifers, fruit trees, focal points, hands-on pruning instruction. Bruce Thompson 510/428-4964.

Pet Services

I'm a college student with free time on the afternoons and weekends. I'll love to walk your dog(s) to the neighborhood park. Call me at 510/207-0231. References upon request.

Start the New Year with TAI CHI and QIGONG

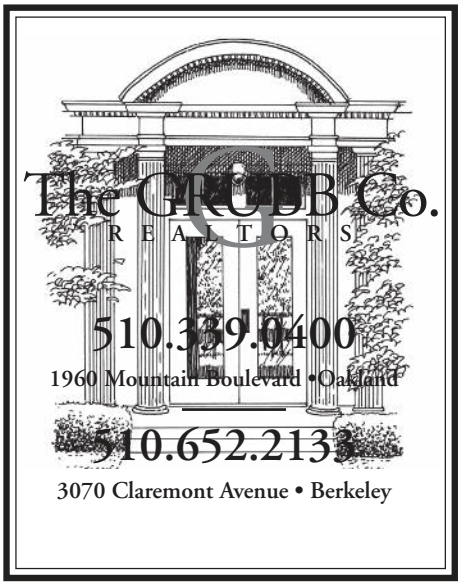
Thursday, 10 am & Saturday, 9 am. Rockridge Methodist Church social hall. 303 Hudson at College. Visit our website www.harmonytaiji.com or call Gail 415/786-2469.

Electromagnetic Fields and Environmental Health

Childhood leukemia? Environmental illness: Learn more about the invisible pollutant we live surrounded by. Visit emf.danmattson.net or call Dan at 510/658-2819 for a free brochure.

John Love Massage Therapy

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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

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

NCPC Town Hall for Block Captains. Thursday, January 24, 7 pm , Rockridge Libary. Guest Speaker: Area 1 OPD Captain Anthony Toribio. Contact info@rockridgencpc.com to RSVP.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

- **SPECIAL NOTICE**: The Oakland Library's **Second Start Adult Literacy Program** begins an 18-hour training program on January 12, from 9am to 12pm for volunteers who will offer free tutoring to adults (16 and older) in reading and writing. A 9 month commitment and advance registration are required of tutors. For info about becoming a Second Start tutor or student, call 238-3432.

FOR CHILDREN:

- **Toddler Story Time:** 1st and 2nd Saturdays, 10:30am:1/5, 1/12, 2/2.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am: 1/2, 1/16, 2/6.
- **Pajama Story Time:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm: 1/8, 1/22.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR KIDS & FAMILIES:

- Drop by any time starting 1/8 through 1/31 to make paper snowflakes or experiment with Kirigami. Get supplies, patterns and instructions at the Children's Reference Desk.

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 1/8 to watch *Naruto 3: the Movie*. More info: Susy Moorhead, 597-5017.

FOR ADULTS:

- **Writers' Support /Critique Group**: ALL writers welcome. Third Saturday of each month (1/19) 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.berkeley-writersclub.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. **NOTE**: no class 2/5 (an Election Day).
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice. NOTE:** Cancelled January and February.

Art Exhibits

Gallery: January: **John Baldwin**: mixed media figurative and abstract works.

Lobby Display Case: January and February: **Paul Robeson Centennial Committee** display.

LIBRARY HOURS:
Mon. and Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed., Thurs. and Sat. 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri., 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed Sundays and Mon., 1/21 for MLK Jr. Day.

Diesel Readings and Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Sunday, 1/13, 3pm: Local author **Cornelia Read:** *The Crazy School*.

5433 College Ave. For more information about other events, Book Discussion Groups and *El Grupito,* the Spanish discussion group: 653-9965 or www.dieselbookstore.com.

Peralta Elementary School Kindergarten Open House

Wednesday, January 16 at 6:45pm. 460 63rd Street. Meet the principal and kindergarten teachers and learn about our instructional programs. To RSVP for childcare during Open House, call 879-1450. School tours for Peralta Elementary are now available on alternating Mondays and Thursdays. Call 879-1450 to schedule a tour date. More info at www.peraltaschool.org. To get info on Oakland Unified School District's Open Enrollment procedures, contact OUSD's student assignment office at 879-8111.

Peace Corps Information Session

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers will share stories. Volunteers work in 74 countries in education, health, business, environment and more. No upper age limit to join. Learn more Tuesday, 1/22, 6 to 7:30pm, Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave. More info: Nick Bosustow, 452-8444, nbosustow@peacecorps.gov, or www.peacecorps.gov.

LiveTalk@CPS

College Preparatory School Lecture Series: open to all. **Chocolate: A Cultural Taste and History:** presented by **John Scharffenberger**, local chocolate maker, who will share his extensive knowledge and some chocolate. Thursday, 1/17, 7:30 to 9pm. Doors open at 7pm for complimentary refreshments. 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.

Space-Time Considerations: CCA Math & Science Fair

Showcasing the creativity of California College of the Arts (CCA) students in incorporating science and math into the arts, and the arts into math and science. January 24 through February 3; opening reception Friday, 1/25 8-10pm. Gallery hrs: Mon., Tues., Thurs. and Fri., 8:30am to noon and 1-4:30pm. CCA Oliver Art Center, 5212 B'way. More info at www.cca.edu/calendar.

Jazz at the Chimes

Concert and Artist Reception featuring jazz guitarist **Bruce Forman**. Sunday, 1/20, 2pm. Ticket sales at the door begin at 12:30pm: $10-15 (cash only) for concert, reception and refreshments. Kids under 12 free. Sponsored by the Lifemark Group Arts program that features Bay Area talent. Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. Wheelchair accessible. Info/Reservations: 228-3218. www.lifemarkgroup.com/oakland/special_events.asp.

"Sunday Salon" at the Parkway

The League of Women Voters (LWV) of Oakland presents a **free** showing of *Who Killed the Electric Car?*, Sunday, 1/13. Doors open at 1:15pm for refreshments and socializing: 1:45 pre-film welcome and intro: film at 2pm followed by discussion. More info at 834-7640, www.lwvoakland.org or www.whokilledtheelectriccar.com.

Old Man River: Mark Twain and the Mississippi

A unique combination of dramatic portrayal (**Daniel Halford** as Mark Twain) and slide show will bring to life the golden age of river steamboats. Saturday, 1/12, 5pm. $10 donation. College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Ave (in the church sanctuary). For more info: 658-3665.

Luna Kids Dance

FREE open house and dance class. Family and kids welcome for dance, play, improvisation and refreshments. Saturday, 1/12, 1 to 2:30pm. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts (Studio C), 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. More info: Tricia Ong, 644-3629 or kids@lunakidsdance.org.

Sing-Along and Concert

Puttin' On the Ritz: Songs of Irving Berlin. An evening of more than 30 Berlin tunes. Lyrics projected on a screen so everyone can sing along with the piano. Saturday, 1/12, 7:30pm. Temple Sinai's Harpham Chapel, 2808 Summit St. (bet. B'way and Telegraph at 28th). $12.50 at the door. More info: Phillip Rubin, 547-8080.

Master Composter Training Program

Currently accepting applications through January 11 from Alameda Co. residents for the 2008 class. Participants learn the art and science of composting and then train others through a community outreach project. All receive several books and a compost bin. Teachers who complete the program are eligible for a $200 stipend to use toward school garden and/or classroom compost activities. Weekly Tues. night classes from early Feb., through mid May. More information at 891-6508, 444-SOIL or StopWaste.Org at www.BayFriendly.org.





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