THE Rockridge MOM 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

Agenda: RCPC May Town Hall Meeting (Special Location)

Thursday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue

■ **Candidates Night**

Are you ready for a break from the national-level political squabbling? Do you long to hear some down-to-earth local politicking? Join your friends and neighbors at the candidates night sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council and hear from candidates for Oakland City Council and the Oakland School Board.

The RCPC April Town Hall meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, and will be held at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue, a special location just for this meeting. Each candidate will make a brief presentation of his or her positions and qualifications. There will be a Q & A session after the presentations.

Candidates on the ballot for Oakland's District 1 (Rockridge) are:

■ **Councilmember, District 1**

Incumbent Councilwoman **Jane Brunner**, and challenger **Patrick McCullough**, attorney and electronics technician.

■ **Councilmember At Large**

Kerry Hamill, School Board member; **Rebecca Kaplan**, AC Transit director at-large; **Clinton Killian**, attorney; **Charles Pine**, retired information technology professional and neighborhood anti-crime activist; and **Frank Rose**, a member of the Oakland Advisory Commission on Aging.

■ **Oakland School Board, Dist. 1**

Jody London, businesswoman and parent; **Tennessee Reed**, writer and editor; and **Brian Rogers**, retired teacher and parent.

RCPC invites all Rockridge residents to meet these candidates for public office and learn their positions on important local issues. What we learn will help us make informed decisions on Election Day, June 3. Warm up for the meeting with information from the League of Woman Voters (LWV) Smart Voter web site at http://www.smartvoter.org/ca/alm/

Report: April RCPC Meeting

Board Candidates Speak; Residents Discuss Crime, Safeway, and Development

by Gloria Bruce

'If it ain't broke, don't fix it," was a common refrain heard at the April RCPC Town Hall meeting, whether the topic was Rockridge streets or a local supermarket. Six candidates for positions on the RCPC board of directors, each pledging to retain Rockridge's neighborhood character, introduced themselves to the community during the meeting held Thursday, April 17. The meeting also featured discussions on development and eminent domain and an added focus on two hot topics: crime and the redesign of the College Avenue Safeway. (In voting held at the meeting and at a subsequent voting session on Saturday, April 19, the six candidates, pictured at right, were elected.)

Resident voters also elected board members for Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) and heard about that group's work to restore the library's furniture, replace worn children's books, and perhaps one day create a teen center – needs that demonstrate how heavily used the branch is by community members.

At the candidates forum, Jonathan Gabel first uttered the "ain't broke" line, crediting RCPC with keeping the neighborhood great since he first moved here in 1975. Doug Patton picked up on the theme, saying that he had seen "amazing" changes since choosing to stay in Rockridge during the rough times of the 1960s, and that he wanted to keep what worked while addressing crime and schools. These were also issues of concern for incumbent board member Stuart Flashman, who said that development in Rockridge should be thoughtful and sensitive to context. Also seeking another term was Annette Floystrup, who proposed an environmental initiative and redesigned website as ways to "sustain and grow the organization." Newer residents Katy Taylor and Joan Martin promised to bring fresh perspective to the board, along with their expertise in landscape architecture and finances, respectively.

The Safeway issue surfaced as soon as the forum opened to audience questions, with Nancy McKay of Neighbors Concerned with Safeway/College asking where the candidates stood on the proposed store redesign. All six said they wanted to work more with the project managers and discuss whether such a large store is appropriate for the neighborhood, given the impact on traffic and the streetscape. The topic came up again during the Land Use Committee update, when committee chair Stuart Flashman discussed possible changes to the store plan

April Meeting, page 5



Stuart Flashman



Annette Floystrup



Jonathan Gabel



Joan Martin



Doug Patton



Katy Taylor

In Memoriam

Patrick Daughton

October 5, 1944 – April 2, 2008

A renaissance man,
a loving husband to Barbara,
devoted father to Colin and Brendan,
he will be remembered with love
and deep appreciation for his dedication
to the well-being of his community.

Op Ed Essays on matters of local interest are invited for consideration as Op-Ed pieces for *The Rockridge News*. Please limit length to 450 words and submit to editor@rockridge.org.

Trees? Yes, but the Right Tree In the Right Place

The Montclarion article of March 28, 1997, "Dealing with sidewalk problems means getting to the root of the matter," is still relevant 11 years later. Then, the large evergreen ash and liquidambar trees from 60th Street to Alcatraz above Colby Street had grown massive surface roots creating monstrous hazards threatening pedestrian safety and hindering wheelchair access.

Both species were known for their invasive roots and large space requirements, and would not have been chosen in an objective and rational selection process. A tree is a benefit to the environment only if it is "the right tree in the right place."

In 1997, a City tree supervisor recommended removal of the offending trees on 62nd and 63rd streets, but relented after neighbors protested. The large trees, in their prime, formed a pleasant shady canopy over the street, and residents were not willing to let the City remove them. After demolition of almost the entire walkway and extensive cutting of roots up to 12 inches in diameter, new curbs and sidewalks were installed.

Today, the costly concrete replacements of 11 years ago are developing new hazards, and several minor pedestrian accidents have occurred. The City's director of tree services will eventually be charged with resolving the dilemma, which is not unique. Similar examples of large trees planted in narrow curb strips are encountered almost everywhere, and numerous trees have been removed. This costly waste can be prevented by somehow creating the space essential for the species selected.

New designs to accommodate appropriate tree species and new pervious materials to replace conventional concrete must be found. The production of cement is a high-cost, high-energy process with extremely large carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

A street tree policy task force should consider new plans to improve the management of our urban forest.

— John Wagers

John Wagers is an amateur arborist and a former member of the Street Tree Policy Task Force.

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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 nonprofit 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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FROG Park Corner

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



Earth Day at the Rockridge/Temescal Greenbelt

by Jennifer Cooper, chair, FROG Park

Thanks to lots of community volunteers (including all those under 10), the Earth Day clean-up at the Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt was a great success. Thanks especially to Howard, Ronnie, Mike, Patrick and Rodrigo, who all did excellent jobs coordinating and cleaning.

We had one of the best turnouts in several years, with activities organized by FROG and DNA (DMV Neighbors Association) focusing on playground clean-up, trash clean-up, gardening, and lots of clearing of the creek bed. It was a good thing, because the creek has sprung forth and is now flowing. On the actual Earth Day, April 22, the County of Alameda turned on the pumps so we can now enjoy our seasonal (April to October) creek. If you see any debris piling up in the creek, particularly if it is blocking a culvert, please be kind and try to remove it.

FROG is a great way to get involved in your local park. Plan to attend the next FROG meeting, Tuesday, May 6, 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the Rockridge Library, or call Jennifer Cooper at 653-6581.



▲ **Isadora, left, and Julia Clements.**

▼ **Jennifer Cooper and Mike McDonald.**



▶ **Chabot School Cub Scout Pack 274: Marco Martinez, left, Nicholas Zak-Lee, Jerry Feist, Evan Feist.**



▼ **Lois Dixon, left, Chris Staller, Buck King, Margie Cahalan, Leonora Sea, Barbara Morgan.**

PHOTOS: SUSAN MONTAUK



Letters to the Editor

The Rockridge News welcomes letters to the editor. Your name, address, phone number, 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.

Note: The following letters, edited for space, were either written as letters to the editor, or were forwarded to RCPC with the intent of reaching the wider community through publication in The Rockridge News. Claremont Middle School Principal David Chambliss' letter was written to respond to community concerns following altercations on College Avenue involving Claremont students. ***— Editor***

Student Makes Amends for Art Project Damage

Dear Rockridge Community Members:

I am Ryan Jones, Associate Dean of Students at California College of the Arts (CCA). My duties include judicial affairs and addressing student behavior on campus and in the community.

One of our students did a film project in December during which she trailed paint from a leaking paint can between the college and 51st Street. She was confronted by Rockridge resident Trevor Brown and the police were called. At the time, we were unable to identify this student. However, her film was recently included in a student review and I immediately recognized it from the incident that Trevor described.

I have met with this student to discuss her actions on that day and how they have negatively affected the Rockridge neighborhood. As part of the consequences for her actions, I asked her to write a reflective paper and a letter of apology to the Rockridge community. She will also be assigned community service hours in Rockridge to give back to the neighborhood which she willfully damaged.

It is rare that we have the opportunity to hold our students accountable for this type of vandalism and I am eager to make it a true and lasting lesson for this student on what it means to be a part of a community.

— Ryan Jones, Assoc. Dean of Students, California College of the Arts. E-mail rjones@cca.edu

Editor's Note: *Dean Jones reports the student has completed some school-related sanctions, participated in Rockridge Earth Day clean-up projects, and is preparing a formal letter of apology.*

So, Where Are the Trees?

Editor:

In a piece regarding the proposed Landscape and Lighting District (LLAD) assessment, Susan Montauk mentioned that Oakland had planted 10,000 trees. As a member of the Hills Conservation Network, I was wondering where these trees were planted.

— Bob Sand

Susan Montauk replies:

Dear Mr. Sand:

The trees are all over. Check out the Pleasant Valley median for a bunch! Check out the 5200 block of Lawton – almost all those are City trees planted in the last 15 years! Or contact Dan Gallagher at www.Oaklandnet.com for specifics. He's the City's tree man.

— Susan Montauk

An Open Letter to the Claremont Middle School Community and our Rockridge Neighbors:

Wednesday, April 16, was a sad day for our Claremont Middle School community and our Rockridge neighbors. Following our early dismissal, two student fights occurred on College Avenue, a few blocks from our campus.

I am writing this letter for three reasons. One, I want to share with our community and neighbors what we know about the fights and what we have done and intend to do about them. Two, I want to provide a broader picture of Claremont students and our school's current violence prevention strategies, to help our families and community see that the awful behavior of a small percent of our students does not reflect the values, priorities, and behavior of our entire student body. Three, I want to share the many ways we are building positive communication and relationships with our families and community and to ask for people's help with these efforts.

Here is what we know about the incidents on College Avenue: One fight was between two girls who had repeatedly refused the conflict mediation offered them earlier in the day. They chose instead to fight out their problems in a public spectacle attended willingly by dozens of Claremont students and unwillingly by shocked Rockridge neighbors.

The second fight was a group assault on a Claremont student, started by a high school girl, who was then joined by several other students. Four of these "joiners" attend Claremont, and three others are students who have been expelled from Claremont.

The students involved in the fights are being severely disciplined including extended suspensions and referrals for expulsion. We will not tolerate this kind of violence that imperils the safety and well-being of so many people. As to the students who created the general chaos on the street, we are working to identify the students who were most disruptive and defiant, and they are being disciplined as well.

We have a parent-led Positive School Climate Task Force that is meeting regularly to develop strategies [to prevent this type of violence]. We have partnerships with the Rockridge District Association, the Rockridge Crime Prevention Council, the Rockridge Library, and local businesses like Zachary's, Las Palmas, and Trader Joe's, all of which are developing strategies and programs. I invite you to join us in these efforts.

— David Chambliss, Principal, Claremont Middle School

P.S. For our neighbors and community, it might be easier to contact us via e-mail: David.Chambliss@ousd.k12.ca.us.



April Meeting

from page 1

yet to be disclosed (see next column for a recent bulletin), and gave the latest news on condominium projects planned for Broadway and Telegraph Avenue.

Crime was another focus of the evening, as the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council's (NCPC) new officers – elected in April – introduced themselves and fielded questions. Co-chairs Chris Jackson and Denise Boisvert – who is also treasurer – joined with Secretary Karen Ivy to describe the group's mission of collecting neighborhood input and working with everyone from the principal of Claremont Middle School to the Oakland Police Department to solve problems through proactive collaboration.

Broadening the discussion beyond local matters, League of Women Voters (LWV) representative Marion Taylor described Propositions 98 and 99, two competing measures on the June statewide ballot. Many attendees were surprised to hear that Prop 98 could prohibit rent control, and, according to some analyses, environmental regulations. The League has taken a position opposing Proposition 98 and urges voters to vote yes on Proposition 99, which restricts the seizure of private property under certain conditions, but would supersede Prop. 98.

While a purpose of the meeting was to introduce the candidates for the RCPC board of directors and to begin the voting, the gathering gave long-time and newer neighbors a sense of the varied work of RCPC, FORL, and NCPC. As new board member Joan Martin put it, "it's not an accident that so many people consider Rockridge a great place to live." All candidates agreed that the full participation of residents and the RCPC organization has been crucial in shaping the neighborhood.

RCPC Land Use Committee

Project Status Reviews

Land Use Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 28, 7 p.m., Rockridge Branch Library

Land Use Committee Meetings

The RCPC Land Use Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m., at the Rockridge Branch Library. Contact Stu Flashman at 652-5373 or stuflash@aol.com for copies of the agenda.

by Stuart Flashman, committee chair

■ **College Avenue Safeway rebuild (6310 College at Claremont Avenue)**

A neighborhood group, Neighbors Concerned with Safeway/College, has formed to "bird-dog" this major project. Contact safewayneighbors@sbcglobal.net to get on their mailing list. Also, Safeway has its own website for the project, http://safewayoncollege.com where project plans will be posted when released.

BULLETIN — Monday, April 28: There has been a sudden change in Safeway's plans for rebuilding its College Avenue store. As of last week, Safeway has terminated its contract with Kirk Peterson, the local architect working on the College Avenue Safeway project. Presumably, plans will need to be redone by a new architect. How long that will take is anyone's guess, but it probably means a delay of at least a month or two in the release of new plans.

■ **Hauser/Creekside residential/mixed-use project (Global Video Site – 5132 Telegraph)**

Preliminary project plans have just come out, and will be the subject of extensive discussion in next month's Rockridge News. There will also be an RCPC-sponsored community meeting on this large and important project.

■ **5175 Broadway residential/mixed-use project**

This project was heard by the Planning Commission's design review committee in April. RCPC submitted a letter providing extensive comments, which the committee considered in detail. The committee recommended some changes to the project design, especially a downward reorientation of the roofline at the rear of the building. Revised project plans are in preparation. Contact the applicant's consultant, Lucy Armentrout, at 220-6445 or lucy@planandev.com for more current information. The project is currently scheduled for a public hearing before the Planning Commission on May 21.

■ **Trader Joe's/Pharmaca Signage dispute resolved**

The signage dispute involving Trader Joe's and Pharmaca has been resolved. Trader Joe's agreed to reduce the size of its front signage to allow Pharmaca 100 sq. ft. for its sign. Trader Joe's also dropped its application for an additional large sign on the wall facing the BART parking lot (Miles Avenue). Trader Joe's is repairing the irrigation system for its landscaping. RCPC is continuing to work with the City and Trader Joe's to ensure compliance with City requirements.

■ **Broadway/Broadway Terrace 76 Station (5300 Broadway)**

The station is closed for installation of a State-mandated vapor recovery system. RCPC has not heard anything about changes to the future use of the site.

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Rockridge NCPC Reaches Out to Community, Seeks New Members

by Susan Montauk

Twenty people attended the first meeting of the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (GRNCPC) conducted by its newly-elected officers at the Rockridge Library on March 27. New co-chairs Chris Jackson and Denise Boisvert led discussion about crime trends in Rockridge beats 12Y (below Broadway) and 13X (above Broadway). Newspapers are full of horror stories about the rising Oakland crime rate and there is a definite perception that the streets of Rockridge are less safe than they have ever been. A comparison of local crime statistics between 2007 and 2008 for a recent six-week period gives a mixed picture as shown in the following chart:

February 18-March 31	2007	2008
Residential Burglary	12	13
Auto Theft	16	20
Auto Burglary	9	6
Robbery	6	6
Theft	6	5

The NCPC hopes to address Rockridge crime by developing a strong membership base that will attend monthly meetings and set appropriate priorities for each beat. To achieve that goal, it is redesigning its website (www.rockridgencpc.com) where users will find extensive ICE (in case of emergency) information, monthly priorities and information about the Rockridge NCPC. The group is also reaching out to Rockridge residents through a safety flier inserted in this issue of The Rockridge News, a new Yahoo Group called rockridgencpc@yahoogroups.com which will be used exclusively for crime reports, and voice mail for non-emergency reports (510/373-NCPC).



Information Officer and NCPC Secretary Karen Ivy is excited about the direction the NCPC has taken. She feels the program "will help pull the neighborhood together" and help to create a safer community. Co-Chair Boisvert concurs and adds that it is important to fight crime by taking preventative measures, "by knowing your neighbors, being aware of your surroundings, by not hesitating to call in anything suspicious, and by being active and engaged in your community." One of the most effective measures, she added, is "to join or start a Neighborhood Watch group on your block."

The Rockridge NCPC is an official community policing body of the Oakland Police Department. OPD assigns a Problem Solving Officer and a Neighborhood Service Coordinator to attend NCPC meetings and support members' efforts to combat crime in their neighborhoods.

The GRNCPC meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Rockridge Library.

Traffic, Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety News

A report from the RCPC Traffic, Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety (TPBS) Committee

by Ronnie Spitzer

Rockridge-specific changes envisioned in the Oakland Bicycle Master Plan for the Broadway corridor and improvements to existing bikeways, particularly along Colby Street in the "Rockridge Triangle" area, were presented by Jason Patton, Oakland's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, at the April RCPC Traffic, Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety (TPBS) committee meeting.

For Broadway, changes between Keith and Broadway Terrace include resurfacing the roadway and potentially re-striping the traffic lanes to create bike lanes in both directions, reducing motor vehicle traffic lanes to one lane in each direction, and creating a center turn lane. Street parking would be unaffected. Lane configurations would vary beyond Broadway Terrace, but bicycle

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Dreyer's Ice Cream Parlor Reopens

by Margaret Wahlberg

Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream welcomed hundreds of Rockridge residents with free scoops at the re-opening of its Ice Cream Parlor at 5929 College Avenue. Children were treated to balloon artists and face painters and the sight of Dreyer's first delivery truck, a 1920 Model T Ford, fascinated the crowd.

The parlor opens with a fresh new décor that includes increased seating both inside and outside on College Avenue. In addition to the multitude of flavors to sample in the shop, Dreyer's also offers packaged ice cream to enjoy at home.

Rockridge neighbors are delighted to welcome Dreyer's Ice Cream Parlor back, just in time for the summer season.



◀ Ice cream countermen Alexander, left, and Brian dish out cups and cones of the cold stuff to crowds celebrating the re-opening of the Dreyer's Ice Cream Parlor.

PHOTO: MARGARET WAHLBERG

Letter to the Editor

RCPC's Role in Helping Shape College Avenue

EDITOR:

It was fun to see the crowd of excited children and parents at Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream celebrating the newly re-opened parlor. Special congratulations to Dreyer's as the new shop looks great.

The event reminded me of how much RCPC volunteers have done in helping to shape Rockridge into such an enjoyable community.

Back when Dreyer's corporate headquarters building was originally proposed, RCPC challenged the design's divergence from C-31 zoning regulations. Dreyer's original design envisioned a continuous wall of office spaces with tinted glass windows at ground level for the College Avenue façade. No retail space was included as called for in the zoning for College Avenue. RCPC pushed for the design to fulfill C-31 provisions for retail use, resulting in space for today's Cotton Basics, Katrina Rozelle, and Dreyer's Ice Cream Parlor.

RCPC also insisted on parking lot controls that would direct most vehicle traffic to the Claremont Avenue entry and restrict use of the Chabot Avenue access.

Lastly, the front garden and day care facility of the neighboring First Presbyterian Church still enjoys much direct sunlight thanks to RCPC's persistence in pushing for a deeper set-back for the third floor of the Dreyer's building.

Success can come at a price: the parlor was too crowded for me to get my free ice cream at the re-opening celebration, but I'll be just as happy to come back later with my family and buy our treats – and we'll raise our mint-chip ice cream cones in toast to RCPC and its support for pedestrian-friendly retail zoning.

So again, congratulations to all.

— Ray Perman, former chair, RCPC, 1982-84

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4/11/2008	2	2	5335 BROADWAY TER	$529,000	$529,000	$515,000	20
4/15/2008	2	1	5333 JAMES AVE	$799,000	$799,000	$929,600	10
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Worm Composting for Small Spaces

Cast your lot in with the future

by Annette R Floystrup, RCPC vice-chair

As he complimented our neighborhood on how many people brought their own bags to Trader Joe's, the young clerk lamented the fact that he could not compost his garbage because he lived in an apartment. I was happy to tell him about one of my favorite books, "Worms Eat My Garbage" by the late Mary Appelhof, the Worm Woman. This book is available through the Oakland Public Library.

Traditional composting has always required two things that many of us don't have; sun and a lawn. Most compost methods have focused on garden waste with great emphasis on lawn clippings. In the drought-conscious Bay Area, where lawns are becoming both smaller and scarcer, this isn't as relevant as general composting of all organic waste from the kitchen as well as the garden.

Waste Management and the City of Oakland have given us green kitchen scraps buckets to augment our green garden waste bin. This program makes compost that is then marketed. The City of Oakland publishes an informative document on food scrap recycling which contains a comprehensive guide to what can and cannot be properly composted. This is available as a PDF file on the www.stopwaste.org website, which has useful links to information including environmental purchasing, recycling used oil, and green building.

While throwing out compostable garbage is convenient, home worm composting is both easy and fun and a tremendous source of excellent potting soil as well as a natural liquid fertilizer called "worm tea." Traditional compost methods rely on sun-generated heat to speed the process; worm composting relies on red wigglers (*Eisenia fetida*), which number about 1,000 per pound. StopWaste.org offers discount composting bins to residents, including the Wriggly Wranch Worm Bin for just $29 plus tax and shipping, and a list of sources to purchase worms.

Several compact worm bins are available to make composting kitchen scraps easy. Like the Wriggly Wranch Worm Bin, which measures just 16" x 23" x 19" high, they are apartment friendly, and will compost 2-5 pounds of kitchen scraps a week depending on model. For coffee drinkers there is an added plus; coffee grounds make redworms really happy, and make them breed. You will be hard-pressed to run out of worms!

If you don't like the green plastic bin from the City on your kitchen counter, you can buy quite attractive ceramic and stainless scrap containers, and if you don't like cleaning them, there are biobag liners that biodegrade with the scraps in your worm bin… indeed, your worms like a bit of newspaper, coffee filter and pizza box paper to keep them happy.

RCPC looks forward to bringing you more topics of environmental interest, and to hearing your success stories about worm composting.

Worm Composting Resources

Here are some web resources on worm composting followed by a list of wonderfully informative books:
www.wormwoman.com
www.wormlady.com

Great books:

The Worm Cafe: Mid-scale Vermicomposting of Lunchroom Wastes, Binet Payne. This manual describes how a teacher and her students developed a system to compost lunchroom waste with worms and save their school $6,000 per year.

Worms Eat Our Garbage: Classroom Activities for a Better Environment, Mary Appelhof, Mary Frances Fenton, and Barbara Loss Harris. This curriculum uses over 150 worm-related classroom or home activities to develop problem-solving and critical-thinking skills in children grades 4-8. Activities integrate science, mathematics, language arts, biology, solid waste issues, ecology, and the environment.

Worms Eat My Garbage: How to Set Up and Maintain a Vermicomposting System, Mary Appelhof. The definitive guide to vermicomposting, a process using redworms to recycle food waste into nutrient-rich food for plants.


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Bicycle Plans

from page 6

lanes would continue along Broadway all the way to 22nd Street downtown. Broadway's resurfacing should occur within the next five years, subject to funding.

Oakland's recently adopted Master Bicycle Plan provides a comprehensive Oakland bicycle travel network.

Bicycle boulevards are routes on residential streets with relatively low traffic volumes that prioritize bicycle traffic and provide direct, right-of-way travel. "Sharrow" roadway symbols will mark these boulevards, to alert drivers that bicycles and vehicles share the same roadway travel lane. The TPBS committee's charge is to prioritize Rockridge streets receiving these markings. Colby Street and Chabot Road, Shafter and Lawton avenues will become Bicycle Boulevards. College Avenue, with the highest accident rate per mile, will be an arterial bike route.







Bike to Work Day, May 15; Get Rolling!

Join the thousands from all around the Bay Area on Thursday, May 15 and ride your bike to work! It's healthy, economical, reduces traffic, and is environmentally friendly. In fact, May is National Bike Month. Check out Bay Area activities online at http://www.bayareabikes.org/btwd.

College Avenue Bike Parking

Removing parking meters following the installation of "pay and display" parking kiosks along College Avenue created a shortage of secure bicycle parking. For the short term, two meter poles per block with the meter housing intact and a bike parking sticker remain for bicycle parking. In January, Councilmember Jane Brunner used discretionary transportation funds to help alleviate the bike parking shortage. Over the next five years, 25 new racks should be installed along College Avenue.

Rockridge Triangle Safety Study

The completed Rockridge Triangle Safety Study measured approximately 3,500 vehicles traveling on Colby Street daily, with "cut-through traffic" comprising 75% of the total. While substantially lower volumes than originally expected were observed, these are still high numbers for a neighborhood street. Slightly lower cut-through traffic numbers were measured on Hillegass Avenue.

Enhancements to neighborhood pedestrian crossings are being pursued. Once options are clarified by City staff, and the neighborhood prioritizes its choices, Jane Brunner's office will help secure funding. Tentative survey options include: Alcatraz/Colby crossing, Alcatraz/Dana crossing, Alcatraz/Hillegass crossing, and safety enhancements to Claremont/Forest/Colby intersection. An additional survey question is whether the neighborhood wants the proposed Alcatraz/Colby light installed, currently ranked #28 on the City's implementation list. Expect the survey sometime this summer!

More Information? Easy!

Watch for TPBS updates in The Rockridge News and join the RCPC TPBS Committee Yahoo Group. E-mail your contact information (name, address, e-mail, and phone number; and your area(s) of interest) to the Yahoo group at RCPC_Traffic_Pedestrian_and_Bicycle_Safety_Committee. Not enrolled in the group? Sign up at http://groups.yahoo.com/.

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More: Earth Day at the Rockridge/Temescal Greenbelt

▶ Members of Chabot Cub Scout Pack 274 clean up trimmed debris.

▶ Far right, Bodi (in stroller), Deborah and Gavi Hill, Lily (left) and Jill Seiberlich.

PHOTOS: SUSAN MONTAUK











▲ Lois Dixon, who lives near 51st and Shafter, points to the Dumpster she helped fill.

PHOTOS: DON KINKEAD

▲ Lee Patterson, left, of Miles Avenue, and Buck King of 43rd Street prepare to plant a buckeye tree.

◥ Lee Patterson surveys tools used in the Earth Day clean-up.

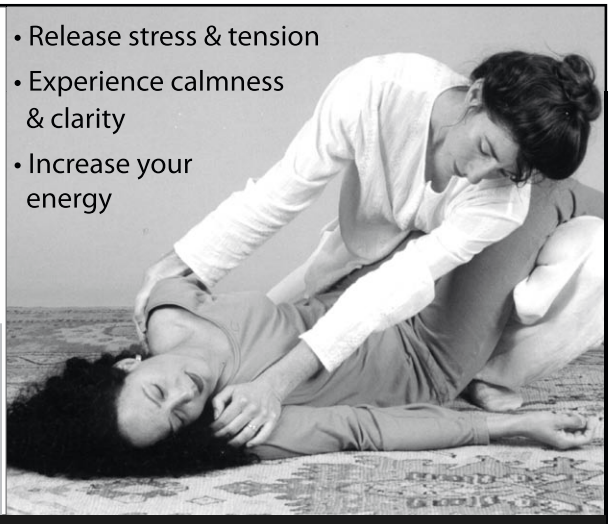
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More: Earth Day at the Rockridge/Temescal Greenbelt



▲ Gary Lee, right, with his son Apollos and his sister Sheryl.



▶ Kris Carraway, right, with granddaughter Alexandra Serrano.



◥ Lydia Greenspan, front, Lavinia Tiveti, left rear, Ruth Finnerty. PHOTOS: DON KINKEAD



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50 Years of Community and Song – The Oakland Symphony Chorus



Director Dr. Lynne Morrow, center, and Oakland Symphony Chorus members.

by Gloria Bruce

When I moved to Rockridge, I had no idea of the "arts scene" hidden among its bungalows and in-law apartments: jewelry workshops in back yards, artists living on every block, dance studios on residential streets– and 120 singers filling a church basement on Broadway with music every Wednesday night. I was lucky enough to stumble upon the latter and find a new community in the Oakland Symphony Chorus (OSC). Founded in 1948, this group has brought "50 years of community and song" to Oakland through its performances of classical and modern repertoire – ranging from Bach to Gershwin, to brand-new and commissioned works. With members from Rockridge, other Oakland neighborhoods, and well beyond, OSC performs in the East Bay's favorite venues, including the Paramount Theater, and is proud to collaborate with the Oakland East Bay Symphony and other local orchestras. The group is guided by the expertise, grace, and humor of director Lynne Morrow, whose credentials include hosting the Stern Grove Music Festival, teaching at Sonoma State University, and directing the Grammy-nominated Pacific Mozart Ensemble.

I'm one of the younger members and fairly new to choral singing, but was welcomed by people whose common love for creating music binds us together across generations, ethnicities, and professions. As Dr. Morrow puts it, "Singing is vital to the human condition, and the Oakland Symphony Chorus works in our community to bring beauty and song." One of OSC's primary missions is to share this passion by forging connections with the community, so we invite you to get involved as we enter our 50th anniversary season. Come to our performance of "Carmina Burana" at the Lesher Center in Walnut Creek on May 4 or 6, or in Berkeley on May 18. This piece is an old favorite for fans of choral music, and others will recognize it from dozens of films and commercials. Buy a raffle ticket for our annual fundraiser, and win great prizes like a Robert Mondavi VIP tour and tasting, a $250 Macy's gift card, and much more. Raise your voice during our "Summer Sing-Ins" of choral classics with great local conductors. Or audition! Find out more at www.oaklandsymphonychorus.org. Keep discovering the hidden cultural gems our corner of Oakland has to offer.

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The Ins and Outs of Residential Permit Parking

by Ronnie Spitzer, RCPC chair

Having difficulty parking on your block during the day? Seeing the same cars there all the time, none belonging to your neighbors? When this situation occurs, Oakland's Residential Permit Parking (RPP) program may be your choice. It provides residents and local business owners with the opportunity to park in their own neighborhood when non-resident long-term parkers compete for scarce on-street daytime parking spaces. Here's everything you always wanted to know about permit parking in Rockridge but were afraid to ask.

The RPP program does not guarantee a daytime parking space to each permit holder. It does force long-term parkers elsewhere. Permit holders typically chose from more available on-street parking spaces, with more frequent turnover. While daytime parking congestion can be reduced, no night-time enforcement is available. Many Rockridge streets close to College Avenue participate in the plan, with either a 2- or 4-hour parking limit in effect between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays. Residents at any one participating address can purchase up to three permits for that address. Every College Avenue business may purchase one (transferable) business permit. College Avenue residences near a street with RPP are also eligible for permits. Visitor passes are also available.

To obtain a permit, a resident must provide current proof of residence and car ownership. Currently, a residential permit costs $25 for the first year with a $15 yearly renewal fee. Merchant fees are higher. (The City Council is expected soon to receive and consider a proposal from the City Administrator's office that would triple initial RPP fees and quadruple renewal costs for residential areas.)

Establishing a residential permit parking zone is an individual street decision. A newly proposed RPP area can be created with at least six adjacent petitioning block fronts. Existing RPP areas can add individual adjacent streets upon petition. Eligible block fronts must be 80% zoned residential, and at least 75% of on-street parking spaces must be occupied during any 2-hour period between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. The petition should include the desired parking limit. Approval signatures from over 51% of each street's households are required, but the city strongly urges contact with all residences and encourages a higher percentage.

The program provides procedures to ensure that residents and the City Council are fully aware of all the facts before any Residential Permit Parking boundaries are established and parking time-limits implemented. Following City verification, a public hearing is scheduled to solicit public comments and explain how permit parking works. Then the City Council, in public session, decides whether to establish the area. Sufficient permits must be purchased within the following three months to establish the designated RPP area or street.

The decision to establish a residential permit parking zone is controlled by the residents of each block. This article is provided as a public service following numerous information requests. For more information, contact Transportation Services at 238-3466 or visit http://www.oaklandpw.com/Page547.aspx.

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Changes ON COLLEGE

by Theresa Nelson

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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)

Residents and business members of NCPC's 12Y and 13X areas are invited to voice their concerns about crime and public safety. **New time and place**: Meets 4th Thursday each month, 7pm, at Rockridge Library, upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Ave. info@rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN:

- **Toddler Story Time: Every Saturday**, 10:30am.
- **Pre-School Story Time**: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am: 5/7, 5/21, 6/4.
- **Pajama Story Time:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm: 5/13, 5/27, 6/10.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES:

The Summer Reading Program begins on June 7. Kids of all ages can sign up and earn prizes for reading.

FOR TEENS:

- **Anime Club: Teens 13 and up**, watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation) with other teens. 2nd Tuesday of each month, (5/13) 5 to 6:30pm.
- **Be a Book Buddy**: teen volunteers needed to read with children this summer. Call Susy at 597-5017 for more info.

FOR ADULTS:

- **Writer's Support /Critique Group**: ALL writers welcome. Third Saturday each month (5/17), 1 to 5pm. Bring 10 copies of up to 3 pages of your prose for on-site reading/discussion. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch (www.berkeleywritersclub.org.) 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. **Every Tuesday**, 12:30-2:30pm.
- **Peter Y. Sussman**: The former editor of the SF Chronicle discusses his book, *Decca: The Letters of Jessica Mitford*. Thursday, 5/29, 7 to 9pm.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice.** First Tuesday each month from 6 to 8pm. Advance sign-up starts 5pm. More information: 597-5017. **Note: no Lawyers in the Library on June 3 due to election**.

ART EXHIBITS

Gallery: May: **Merritt College portrait class** figure drawing.

June: **Giovanna Capone**; collage art.

Lobby Display Case:
May: Rockridge Library's Teen Photos.
June: Laotian needlepoint.

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 Book/Poetry Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Wed., 5/7, 7:30pm: local poet **August Kleinzahler**: *Sleeping it Off in Rapid City*.
- Mon., 5/12, 7:30pm: **Amnesty International Meeting:** exchange information and ideas on action. All welcome.
- Wed., 5/14, 7:30pm: local author **Michael Chabon**: *The Yiddish Policeman's Union*.

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 in Bloom

Peralta Elementary **Spring Community Festival**. Carnival games; 30-foot climbing wall; feast on pulled pork sandwiches; entertainment and more. Saturday, 5/10, noon to 4pm. 460 63rd St. Info: Paul Kagiwada, paulgkag@yahoo.com.

An Evening With the Peace Corps

No upper age limit to serve. Volunteers work in 74 countries in education, health, business, computers and more. Tuesday, May 20, 6 to 7:30 pm, Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave. Info: Nick Bosustow: 452-8444, nbosustow@peacecorps.gov or www.peacecorps.gov.

Spring Garden Party & Fundraiser

Light buffet, hosted bar and live music by **Robert Temple**. Donations of $25/person, $45/couple requested to support all-volunteer efforts in North Oakland. Proceeds to benefit Standing Together for Accountable Neighborhood Development (**STAND**). More info or to RSVP: 655-3841 or www.standoakland.org.

Jazz at the Chimes

Concert and Artist Reception (with refreshments) featuring vocalist **Clairedee** and the **Ken French** trio. Sunday, 5/18, 2pm. Tickets: $10-15, cash only at the door (starting at 12:30pm). **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. More info at 228-3218 or www.lifemarkgroup.com/oakland/special_events.asp or www.claaidee.com.

California College of the Arts (CCA)

2008 Baccalaureate Exhibition: celebrating the creativity and accomplishments of CCA's 2008 undergraduate class. May 8–12, (gallery hrs: Mon., Thurs. and Fri., 8:30am–noon and 1-4:30pm; Sat., 10am-1pm; Sun., 10am-4pm.) CCA Oliver Art Center, 5212 B'way. Info: 658-1224 or www.cca.edu/calendar.

Christensen Heller Gallery

Showing the work of local artist **Patti Heimburger**: California textural landscapes in mixed media through oil paint, fabric and yarn. Now through May 18. Gallery hours: Wed.-Sat., 11am to 6pm; Sunday, noon to 5pm. 5829 College Ave. Info: 655-5952 or www.christensenheller.com.

Singers Wanted

The Distaff Singers, the Bay Area's longest-running women's choral group, is seeking new members. No auditions necessary, just the ability to match pitch. Practice Tuesdays, 7:15 to 9:15pm at St. Theresa Church on Clarewood Ave. A benefit concert in the fall supports local K-12 music programs. For more info: 547-1191 or www.distaffsingers.org.

Red Cross Volunteer Orientation

Learn to give help and support to blood drives each month in the East Bay, weekends and evenings included. Greet and inform donors, offer refreshments, assist with community outreach and more. Wednesday, 5/7 from 10am to noon and Tuesday, 5/20 from 6 to 8pm. 6230 Claremont Ave. Advanced sign-up required. Contact Anne at 594-5165 or blackstonea@usa.redcross.org.

North Oakland Senior Center

Computer classes; health insurance counseling and advocacy program; exercise classes; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's caregivers support groups.

- **3rd Annual Health and Resource Fair**: Sponsors include Red Cross, Over 60 Clinic, Area Agency on Aging and many more. Thurs., 5/29, 1 to 4pm.
- **Big Flea Market**: Clean out your closets and garage. **Vendor space still available** for $10 (cash only). Saturday, 5/21, 8am to 4pm.

Hours: Mon. – Fri., 8:45am to 4:45pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.

Subscribe to "The North Oakland Senior Times," for a full schedule of classes/events and a monthly lunch menu ($2.25 to $4.00). For details about events, membership, and opportunities to become a volunteer, call 597- 5085.

Community Invited To Claremont's Spring Fling Festival

Join us at Claremont Middle School's Spring Fling on Saturday, May 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; a county-fair style celebration of everything great about the school!

We'll have student science and art exhibits, performances by our amazing 120-strong band and orchestra and local elementary schools, food and carnival games sponsored by different student groups, crafts activities, plus face-painting, henna art, demonstrations of wool-spinning, a petting zoo (for livestock, of course!), and much, much more.

For more information, check the school website at www.claremontms.org or contact PTA president Julie Harris at julieharris@pacbell.net or 510/652-2373.

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