THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

VOL. 23 ■ NO. 6 ■ ISSUE NO. 246 ■ June 7, 2008 ■ CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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

Fourth Bore Group Presses for Tunnel Project Changes; Asks Suit Support

See page 2

Agenda: RCPC June Town Hall Meeting

(Special Location)

Thursday, June 19, 7:00 p.m.
Peralta School Auditorium,
460 63rd Street

■ **Presenting: Revised Plans for Safeway's College Avenue Store Rebuilding**

Safeway has changed architects and revised its plans for the rebuilding of its venerable College Avenue store. In a public forum at the Peralta School Auditorium (*note meeting location change*) jointly sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), the Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association (CENA), and Councilwoman Jane Brunner, Safeway Stores will present the revised plans for community response.

Oakland planning department staff will also be on hand to describe and explain the administrative process in processing planning applications.

There will be a question-and-answer and comment period.



The College Avenue Safeway store's curving roofline will be a thing of the past when the market is replaced by a larger facility and a different parking layout. Revised draft plans will be presented at public meetings to be held in June.

Photo: Don Kinkead

Safeway to Present Revised Plans For College/Claremont Store

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC chair

In the midst of revising its plans for the replacement of its market on College Avenue at Claremont, Safeway Stores last month replaced its local architect, Kirk Peterson, with David Blair of MCG Architecture, a San Francisco firm, who will complete the revision.

According to Safeway consultant Elizabeth Jewel, the revised plans will be posted on a Safeway website, http://safewayoncollege.com, on June 13. Jewel said Safeway will present the plans privately to immediate neighbors before making them public. She also said Safeway would try to put the plans up earlier if that was possible.

The Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), the Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association (CENA), and Oakland Councilwoman Jane Brunner will co-sponsor a public presentation of the Safeway plans and community forum to be held in the Peralta School auditorium, 460 63rd Street, on June 19 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will also feature a presentation by Oakland planning staff explaining the administrative process for considering Safeway's application. There will be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and to comment on the plans.

Preliminary indications are that the new plans will include a series of small shops fronting on College Avenue and will focus all auto and truck traffic on Claremont Avenue, thus eliminating access to the store from College Avenue. As evident from the scope of the original plans, the project has the potential for either a positive or negative effect on the neighborhoods near the store. Attend the meetings to learn full details.

Join the RCPC Board: Help Shape the Future of Rockridge

Although stable in many ways, Rockridge is also a place of change, of evolution. Some change – demographic shifts, for example – results from factors beyond direct community response. Other change – city planning decisions, development proposals, local improvements – can be influenced by direct community involvement. This is your invitation to become a part of that process.

Joining the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) board of directors offers you the opportunity to help shape your community. Currently, there are three vacant positions to be filled by board appointment; apply now for one of those positions.

Candidates must be 18 years of age, reside within RCPC boundaries and indicate their interest in the position by June 30, 2008. (A map and description of RCPC boundaries is available online at www.rockridge.org.)

Candidates for the RCPC board are invited to submit a 125-word statement describing their interest in being appointed to the board for a limited term. Be sure to include your address, phone number and experience.

Electronic copies can be sent by e-mail to chair@rockridge.org. Mail hard copies to RCPC, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618.

Caldecott Tunnel Project Update

Fourth Bore Coalition Seeks Funds, Support for Tunnel Mitigations

by Ann Smulka, Fourth Bore Coalition chair

Planning for construction of the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel is well underway. Designed and managed by Caltrans, the project is expected to be noisy, to create vast amounts of dust and debris, and to increase long-term noise, pollution, and traffic from the highway, among other effects.

Many believe Caltrans has failed to fully disclose environmental impacts, failed to adequately consider alternatives, and failed to adequately identify mitigations to reduce the impacts. Seeking mitigations, the Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore Coalition (FBC) and the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), as an FBC member, joined in a lawsuit last fall challenging Caltrans' Final Environmental Assessment/Impact Report (FEA/EIR) for the Caldecott project. The Coalition's goal is to minimize the project's impacts, not to challenge the project itself.

RCPC wants project impacts affecting Rockridge — such as increased noise and decreased air quality at Rockridge schools and parks, increased traffic on Rockridge surface streets, noise and threats to pedestrian safety — to be reduced.

Caltrans proposed to FBC that the parties attempt to settle the case; settlement discussions began in January 2008, with FBC challenging Caltrans to find pragmatic solutions to the impacts of the project during the construction and operational phases of the new tunnel.

FBC and Caltrans are still engaged in settlement discussions, and Caltrans has put forth a settlement proposal that the FBC is considering. However, the lawsuit is moving forward because Caltrans declined to continue a stay of the litigation during settlement talks.

Dedicated FBC volunteers from all coalition member groups are preparing "the record" for review by the judge, a time-consuming process. To help, contact fourthbore@rockridge.org.

FBC is now a California nonprofit corporation, and is filing for 501(c)3 status with the IRS. Contributions for hiring the legal, environmental, and construction experts needed to help protect our public commons and to make the Caldecott Improvement Project an exemplary one are welcomed. Contributions are tax deductible if made to the Sierra Club Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization, and the FBC's fiscal agent. Non-tax-deductible contributions can be made directly to the coalition.

In support of the important work being done by the Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore Coalition, I enclose a check for the following amount:

❑ $500 ❑ $250 ❑ $100 ❑ $50 ❑ $25 $ _____

Checks may be made payable to:

❑ **The Sierra Club Foundation**. (The SCF is a 501(c)3 organization; your gift will be tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.)

❑ **OR** to the **Fourth Bore Coalition** (not currently tax deductible)

And mailed to:

Fourth Bore Coalition
2930 Domingo Ave., #139
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Acknowledgement and Communications Choices:

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

Contact us at one of the following:
Editor: editor@rockridge.org
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The Rockridge News, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618
RCPC Voicemail: 510/869-4200

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

Newsletter Advertising/Deadlines

Publication date of the next issue is
☛ **July 7, 2008**
☛ **July deadline is June 28.**

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.)*

| Report | Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council May Meeting

Violence prevention in schools

by Karen Ivy, NCPC secretary

Following a number of aggressive incidents involving middle- and high-school age students fighting on College Avenue, vandalizing College businesses, and screaming threats at passers-by, the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) dedicated its May 22 meeting to reports from local school representatives of what is being done to end this type of behavior.

Speakers from the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), Claremont Middle School on College Avenue, Rock La Fleche School on upper Chabot Road, and Oakland Technical High on Broadway described the training in mediation and impulse control that is available to students, and discussed how neighbors can respond to such incidents.

Jackie Shonerd of OUSD said the district is devoting time and energy to programs redirecting student violence. She introduced consultant Gail Sedalla who has devised the peer mediation system being taught at Oakland middle schools, including Claremont Middle School. Students attend a six-hour training in mediation techniques, then work with their peers to resolve conflicts by talking instead of fighting. The school district also teaches impulse control, anger management, and problem-solving. At Claremont Middle School, social worker Greg Bailey

Meeting: NCPC, page 8

RCPC Land Use Committee

Land Use Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 25, 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.

Committee Notes

by Stuart Flashman,
RCPC Land Use Committee chair

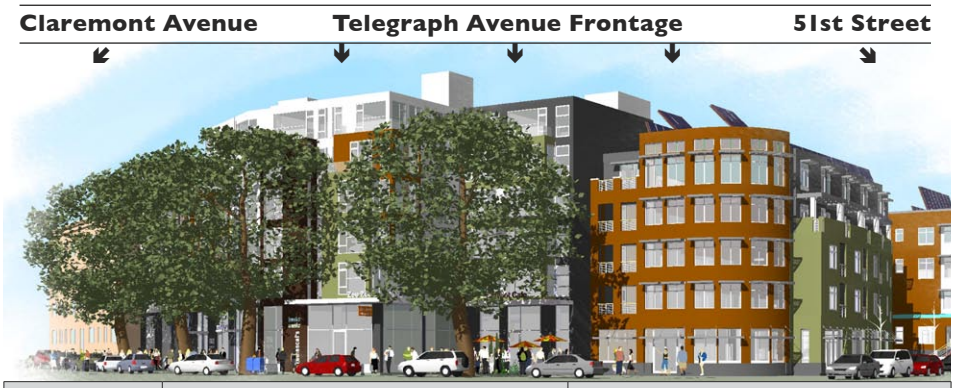
- **College Avenue Safeway rebuild (6310 College/Claremont)**
  Story, front page.
- **Hauser/Creekside residential/ mixed-use project (Global Video Site – 5132 Telegraph)**

The developer has released revised preliminary plans for this project, which is to include 115 residential units (either condominiums or rentals), including 5% affordable to very-low-income households. The proposed project, located just west of Redondo Park, would be six stories (65') high (see architect's rendering below) and would exceed the City's zoning height and density limits for the site. However, it would seek exemption from these limits because it would be providing the five units of affordable housing.

Plans call for a private walkway continuation of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenway, but with no special amenities. There would be commercial frontage on Telegraph, but a blank wall on Claremont. The City is currently preparing a draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for the project that will consider traffic and parking, visual, and shadowing impacts and is due to be released at the end of June for a 60-day comment period. RCPC intends to comment

Land Use Notes, page 11

The proposed Hauser/Creekside project extends along the east side of Telegraph Avenue between Claremont Avenue and 51st Street.



— *Graphic courtesy of Hauser Arch.*

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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.

Principal! I Saw Schoolkids With a Gun!

Forwarded to The Rockridge News

Dear Mr. Chambliss: On Friday, May 2 at approximately 3:45 p.m., I witnessed eight school boys brandish what appeared to be a silver automatic handgun at the corner of Forest and Ayala streets. It appeared that another boy held the clip. I called the Oakland Police, and they sent patrol cars to look for the boys.

The boys are between the ages of 13 and 14 years old. As a group, they walk home via Forest and Ayala streets practically every day. Forest, Ayala, Colby and McAuley streets are popular routes for Claremont Middle School students. Unfortunately, many of the houses and cars along these routes are subject to petty juvenile crimes, mostly stones (or other objects) thrown through house windows and broken-into cars – all between the hours of 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. (On Wednesdays, it starts earlier.)

After school, petty juvenile crime is one thing. Students carrying and brandishing weapons is another matter that needs to be dealt with seriously and swiftly.

Since December, there have been at least three "hold-ups" involving teenage boys brandishing guns on or immediately around Claremont, Colby and Forest streets. I am not suggesting that these are your students (mentioned above). But, I am suggesting that there is a correlation: getting away with carrying a weapon to school may embolden a child to commit a crime with it at school or after school.

— Forest Street Neighbor (Name witheld by request)

Reply from David Chambliss, Claremont Middle School Principal

Dear Claremont Middle School Community: I wanted to bring you up to date on our investigation of Claremont students allegedly in possession of a silver handgun after school one Friday. With the help of the neighbor who witnessed the event, we identified two Claremont students as having been there. Last week I met separately with the two boys we identified and additional boys that their stories revealed were involved. I did the interviewing in a way that the boys could not coordinate their stories. Each boy told consistently the same story: that there was a broken, clear plastic, spring-loaded pellet gun that they were playing with. One student had it Friday morning, but it was broken. He tossed it aside on the way to school, and they found it later that afternoon. Each student was very clear that the gun was never on campus. They knew how much trouble they could get in and very consciously dumped it before they got to school. They described playing with it after school, pointing it at each other and at cars.

I spoke with each of the boys' parents and described what the boys did, how a neighbor had called the police about a real gun, how the police had missed catching the boys by a few minutes, and how either the police or a private citizen might have reacted believing the gun was real. The parents were furious with their sons. They were pleased that a neighbor had reported it and that the school had found out about it. Together we put real fear into the boys that they could end up dead over something as stupid as a broken pellet gun.

Obviously we are happy that there wasn't a real gun involved and that no gun of any kind (broken, plastic, or otherwise) was on the Claremont campus. If you hear from any student at any time, even a hint that something involving a play or real gun was around campus, we hope that you will report it to us right away. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

— David Chambliss

American Red Cross a Noisy Neighbor

Editor:

The Red Cross has been operating a loading dock alongside Florio Avenue ALL NIGHT LONG for the past three years. Once the executives and staff leave the Claremont Avenue office building at 6 p.m., it turns into a loading area, with trucks and vans delivering large boxes, often at 8:45 p.m., 9:45 p.m., midnight, 1:30 a.m., 1:45 a.m., 3:30 a.m., and 4:45 a.m. The trucks idle outside the loading area; the rear doors are rolled open, giant boxes thrown onto metal dollies and the dollies rolled up the metal ramp into the back door.

Since this nighttime, after-hours noise first began 3-½ years ago, I have contacted five different Red Cross executives. I learned the organization dropped its lease on an east Oakland industrial site and moved all its industrial loading actions to the Rockridge site to save money.

My neighbors and I drafted a letter and signed a petition that we gave to Councilwoman Jane Brunner asking that the Red Cross honor their stated business hours. Fines levied against the Red Cross by the City had no effect. For three years, Jane Brunner's office has sent me e-mails and phone calls telling me that they are "looking into it." But the noise continues.

So, I ask for help. Help from my community, from the City Council and from my neighbors ensuring that organizations that do business in our area allow us to sleep at night.

The City Council must step in to protect the neighborhood. And it should not take THREE YEARS to make healthy changes happen: especially when it's just to make a big, bad, very rich corporation behave in our neighborhood.

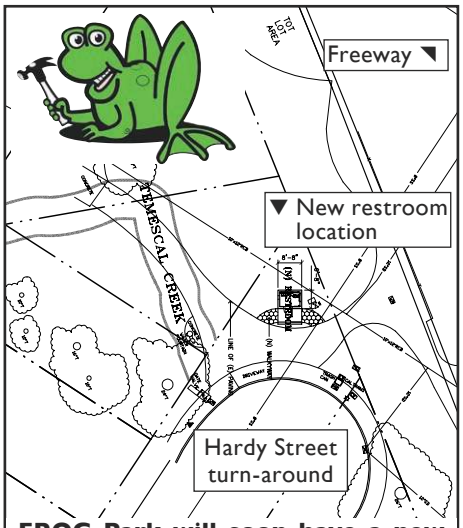
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FROG Park Corner

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





FROG Park will soon have a new restroom similar to the one pictured at left (arrow above and left). It will be located near the Hardy Street turn-around.

PHOTO AND GRAPHIC: CITY OF OAKLAND

FROG Park Soon to Have A New, Permanent Restroom

by Nila Kim, aide to Councilwoman Jane Brunner

The starkly utilitarian comforts of portable restrooms will soon be a thing of the past for visitors to Rockridge's FROG Park. Thanks to community support and the efforts of Friends of the Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt (FROG), the park will have a new, permanent restroom ready for use by fall 2009.

Designed for unisex use, the structure will be located directly south of the present temporary location, and northwest of Hardy Street (noted in the site drawing above). It will be accessible by a pathway from Hardy Street. Funding for the new restroom was allocated in the City's two-year budget by Councilmember Brunner.

The new restroom will be open seven days a week (and securely locked at night). Its outside finish will be smooth and covered with a special anti-graffiti coating, making unwanted paint easier to remove. The City is currently determining the hours of operation, and how to further secure the restroom and resolve safety issues.

FROG Park sits on properties owned by the City of Oakland, the Alameda County Flood Control District, and Caltrans. The current, temporary restroom is on Caltrans property. Because of increased rents required by Caltrans and Alameda County Flood Control, the new restroom will be located on City property. Also, it will not be affected by the BART retrofit construction slated for the summer of 2009.

If you have any questions or comments about the restroom, please contact Denise Louie, restroom project manager, at 510/238-3682, or Nila Kim, staff aide to Councilwoman Jane Brunner, at 510/238-7011.

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Rockridge Library Seeks Reading Program Volunteers

by Gay Ducey, Children's Librarian, Rockridge Branch Library

I was in O'Hare recently, waiting to board a plane home, when I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned and a woman asked, "Are you Gay Ducey, the one who works at the Rockridge Branch Library?" "I am," I said. She used to live in Rockridge, she told me, but now Chicago is her home. After we compared towns and reviewed restaurants, she asked, "Do you still have that summer reading program?" "Yes," I said, and she told me that her son had not been much of a reader until he enrolled in the Library's program. Then he was hooked, reading much of the summer day and sometimes late into the night. "What books was he reading?" I asked (librarians always like to know). "Oh, just stuff. Nothing special." That is the part I liked best: "Nothing special."

Summer Reading, page 11

Library Wants Photos of Branch

by Kristine Carraway, Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL)

Our Rockridge Branch Library needs photos. We're putting together a photographic history of our branch, starting with our first location at the corner of Miles and College Avenue, and then moving to our second location in the trailer on the grounds of Claremont Middle School. If you have any photos taken inside or outside either of those locations that you'd be willing to share with us, we'd be happy to copy and return them to you.

Although we have many photos of our current building, we'll welcome others that you may have and are willing to share. Along with the photo album we're putting together, we're planning a historic photo exhibit in the library during the fall. Let your memories become a part of our archives and be enjoyed by the wider community.

To offer photos, call Gay Ducey or Pat Lichter at the library, 597-5017, or just stop by the branch. Many thanks in advance!

REPORT: MAY RCPC TOWN HALL MEETING

RCPC Hosts May Candidates' Night

by Don Kinkead, Editor

Assurances of an improved city council and a more effective school board took center stage in Sanctuary Hall in the College Avenue Presbyterian Church as 10 candidates vying for three Oakland elected offices discussed their concerns and plans for the city at the candidates' night presented by RCPC at its May Town Hall meeting.

Grouped by candidacy, three candidates for Oakland's School Board District 1, five for City Councilmember-at-Large, and two for District 1 Councilmember told the audience of more than 60 persons why they are running, then answered questions submitted through League of Woman Voters (LWV) moderator Nikki Harris.

In perhaps the most closely followed contest of the three, incumbent District 1 Councilwoman Jane Brunner is being challenged by political newcomer Patrick McCullough, an attorney and electronics technician. Of the eight questions posed to both, four dealt with crime and police staffing concerns, two with development density on College Avenue, one with the best use for discretionary funds available to councilmembers, and one with strategies to strengthen Oakland's business environment.

McCullough, whose candicacy stems from his efforts to quell crime in his neighborhood, said change is needed in Oakland but there will be no change without new council leadership.

Brunner pointed to her 12 years of representing the council district and her achievements in increasing affordable housing, improving the quality of civic life, and fighting crime.

Like the District 1 candidates, the candidates for Councilmember-at-Large were questioned closely about crime. Other questions centered on the housing market, the city budget, violence prevention, and development in Rockridge.



◀ Patrick McCullough and Jane Brunner discuss their respective qualifications for election as District 1 Councilmember at the May RCPC candidates' night.
PHOTO: DON KINKEAD

Praised by all at-large candidates and called a model for transit-oriented, pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods, Rockridge was seen as a neighborhood to inspire change rather than to be changed to meet an ideal.

At-large candidates were 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 candidates Jody London, businesswoman and parent; Tennessee Reed, writer and editor; and Brian Rogers, retired teacher and parent, were asked about the role of schools in today's society and how best to reach students, how to resolve disruptive behavior by students, and how to work with an unruly educational bureaucracy.

Discussing recent student misbehavior near Rockridge schools, the candidates offered solutions: Rogers proposed increased school site resources and parent participation in the classroom; Reed would lower class sizes and provide healthier cafeteria foods; London would work closely with the PTA and administration at school sites, and encourage connecting students and local merchants in educational and social activities.

The election involving these candidacies was held June 3.

RCPC is grateful to the League of Woman Voters (LWV) for its help and support with the candidates' forum. Readers are encouraged to visit the LWV Smart Voter website at http://www.smartvoter.org/ca/alm/ to find a non-partisan voting and election resource.

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Chabot Elementary Invites Community to a Groundbreaking And Reunion Party

Saturday, June 7, 10 a.m. – noon

by Polly Winograd Ikonen, co-chair, Chabot: Way to Grow! campaign

A school construction project that will yield two new buildings and re-graded, re-paved play yards officially begins when a sledgehammer ceremonially falls on the campus of Chabot Elementary School, 6686 Chabot Road, Saturday, June 7, at 10:30 a.m. The overall celebration begins at 10 a.m. and continues to noon.

Members of the greater Rockridge community—especially Chabot Elementary alumni—are invited to join in the fun. The Groundbreaking and Reunion Party will include music, games for kids, refreshments, tours of the campus and opportunities to share memories and bid farewell to the campus as it has stood for most of its 80 years at Chabot Road and Patton Street.

The Groundbreaking and Reunion Party is organized by the *Chabot: Way to Grow!* capital campaign committee. This PTA-backed campaign aims to raise $500,000 toward closing the funding gap between what the Measure B funds will cover and what the community has envisioned for the campus: new playground equipment, park-like landscaping, and reconstruction of Chabot's award-winning garden program.

Full details about the construction project are available at www.chabotelementary.org and will be covered further in the summer issue of The *Rockridge News*. Questions about the construction can be directed to construction@chabotelementary.org.

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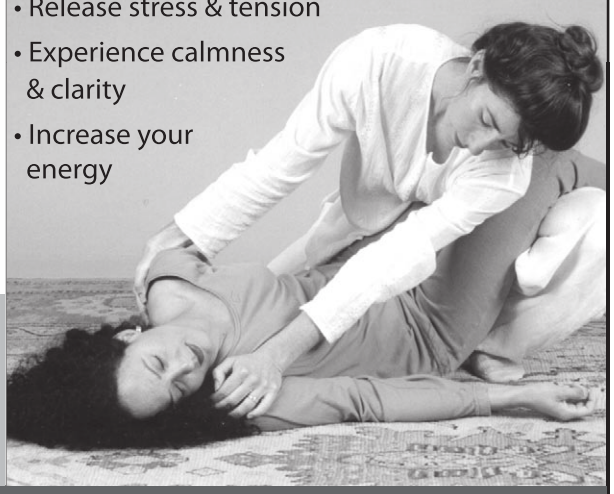
This year's Chabot Elementary auction, A Night in Paris, was a great success, with the PTA raising over $100,000 for Chabot's students. We could not have done it without the many generous contributions of the Rockridge community and our local businesses in particular.

Our biggest thanks go out to our Gold and Silver Sponsors, Ron Kriss of Lawton Associates and the Jocelyne and Jason Gardner Family, respectively.

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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Picnic Time

For most Americans, Memorial Day ushers in the backyard barbeque season. I love a backyard barbeque, but for our family nothing is better than a traditional picnic at a local park, the beach, a Napa winery, or a coastal roadside scenic vista point. We enjoy a leisurely outdoor gathering with friends and family in a beautiful setting eating at picnic tables or on a blanket spread out on the ground. Picnic hampers, attractive non-breakable plates and glasses, colorful napkins, wine, and easy to serve and eat room-temperature food make for a lovely picnic in any setting.

Food historians trace the picnic back to elaborate outdoor feasts enjoyed by the wealthy. Hunting feasts, Renaissance country banquets, and Victorian garden parties provide the foundation for today's leisurely picnics. During the Impressionist period, artists painted scenes of picnics as a sign of the rise of the bourgeoisie as a leisure class. In the 19th century, particularly in France, picnics became outdoor feasts enjoyed by all classes.

The American picnic is a unique culinary tradition. It is a celebration of culinary diversity and community. What do we eat?

- Traditional American foods prepared at home and served on a blanket at a local park – think fried chicken or deviled eggs
- An artfully presented picnic hamper of gourmet delights and wine served at something like Opera in the Park
- Bread, cheese, pâté, fruit, and wine with crusty French bread eaten nearby a beautiful California river or lake
- Ethnic finger foods served at family celebrations.

We like to bring a variety of relishes, mustards, olives, and crackers. Our picnic friends enjoy creating a mix and match of hams, salamis, cheese, and different mustards. A true picnic adventure is to go to the Pasta Shop to buy a variety of cured Italian meats, hams, hard cheeses, mustards, olives, and crackers. Once we hit the beach or park we just dive into our picnic. Nothing completes a picnic like a variety of seasonal fruit and berries such as ripe peaches, watermelon, and strawberries.

The key to a good picnic is to avoid serving anything that does not taste good cold or at room temperature. Although a picnic hamper has a romantic feel, small soft-sided coolers are a better choice if you are serving anything made with mayonnaise or other foods that might spoil, such as fish or poultry. Keep things simple. Remember: the goal of a picnic is to enjoy the setting and being with friends.

A staple for our family picnic and a specialty of my partner is curried chicken salad. It is easy to prepare and travels well.

Curried Chicken Salad

1 pound of cooked (preferably boiled in broth) chicken breast, cut into 1-inch cubes
2 tablespoons of curry powder
1 cup raisins
1 tart apple peeled, cored, and diced
½ cup chopped celery
1 tablespoon of mayonnaise or yogurt
Salt and pepper to taste
Mix all ingredients together in a bowl. Refrigerate for a least an hour.

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

Meeting: NCPC

from page 3

runs the peer mediation program and has trained 20 students. Eighty-six per cent of students referred to peer mediation after a suspension are not suspended again.

Claremont Principal David Chambliss said most violence is caused by a small number of students (he estimated about 20), and the lack of connection between the students – many of whom travel in from other neighborhoods – and the Rockridge community. Chambliss said his biggest issue is identifying problem students. He urged neighbors to send photos of problem students to him for identification. He offered his cell phone number (510/750-8745) for urgent situations. Chambliss and Greg Bailey plan to develop bridges between the students and the community over the summer. NCPC co-chair Denise Boisvert invited any neighbors who care to represent the NCPC in those discussions to call the NCPC at 510/373-NCPC.

Jim Armstrong, Rock La Fleche School and Richard Fairly, Oakland Technical High School advised the same: call the school and the police or the truancy hotline (510/879-8172) if trouble occurs; take pictures to help identify bad actors; and volunteer at the schools. The schools need the help (classroom aides, tutors, mentors); as the students get to know the residents, they will seem less forbidding.

Your Greater Rockridge NCPC's Crime Prevention Tip of the Month: Adequate street lighting is important to crime prevention. Report burned out street lights to Oakland Public Works 510/615-5566, naming the street address and/or intersection.

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June Open Studios— Get the Catalog and Go

June is East Bay Open Studios month. On June 7-8 and 14-15, artists living in our neighborhoods and nearby light industrial areas will open their rolltop doors and invite you into their world. It's a fascinating and fun experience you won't want to miss.

See the Show

All artists' work can be perused online, but of course there's no substitute for experiencing it live. Samples of each artist's work are on display at the Pro Arts Gallery, 550 Second Street, Jack London Square, through the middle of June. Find more information at www.proartsgallery.org.

Get the Catalog

Whatever you do, get the catalog! It is the best so far. Thanks to ever-increasing municipal support and public demand, the new Pro Arts Directory to East Bay Open Studios is so comprehensive that you will want to keep a copy all year 'round. The catalog features about 450 artists and studios. In addition to artist's information and color images and maps pinpointing studio locations, the artists are listed by media and in alphabetical order. There is also a calendar of major East Bay arts and cultural events, information about studios, arts organizations, classes and other arts services and resources. The catalog is free and available at Pro Arts Gallery, Blick Art Stores, Rockridge Branch Library, Diesel Books, Bosco's Frame Shop and other venues.

GO—

Planning a workable tour can be challenging. Of course you'll visit old friends and particular favorites whose artistic progress you have been following. But, do consider visiting at least one new venue, whether it is a new artist or a new arts complex. New kids on the block are Laney College and Berkeley City College with dozens of participating artists. And, if you have not been to Jingletown or Art Murmur, put it on your list for a refreshing change of pace. Check the catalog for details.

Among the artists showing work in Rockridge and environs are Marsha Balian (sculpture) Andy Black (painting), Ann Daniels (jewelry), Liz Maxwell (painting and print making), Sara HaBa (painting), Whitney Giehl (painting and drawing), Linda Lemon (handmade paper), and Jeffrey Obser (painting and drawing). Joanne Yeaton (prints and paintings) and Jeannine Chappell (painting) are on Alcatraz. Diane Jacobson Studios on Kales will feature artists Miriam Abramovitch (textiles) Cydne Kaye (ceramics), Diane Jacobson (glass), Chandra Garsson (jewelry). In Temescal you will find, among others, Judy Belcher (crafts), Carrie Rehak (mixed media and painting), Wendy Yoshimura (watercolor) and I Made Moja at Desa Arts (painting). Enjoy!

THE Rockridge MUSE

by Ortrun Niesar



Hero (female torso) — ceramic sculpture, Cydne Kaye

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/2008	4	2	6242 Rockwell	$1,295,000	26	$1,295,000	$1,275,000
5/13/2008	3	1	371 Hudson	$749,000	16	$749,000	$725,000
5/20/2008	2	1	4965 Desmond	$699,000	20	$699,000	$699,000
5/20/2008	4	3	258 Cross	$1,375,000	14	$1,375,000	$1,350,000
5/22/2008	2	1	376 Cavour	$749,000	0	$749,000	$803,000

This months sales sold at an average of 102% of their original list price; 37.5% sold over asking & 37.5% sold under asking; 14 days was the average market time. Call me to sign up for a personalized Market Snapshot at no cost! Serving Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
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Red Cross Needs Summer Blood Donors Now

One donation may help to save up to three lives

Blood donor qualifications continue to become stricter, and as the donor population ages, the Bay Area is at risk of a dangerously low blood supply, according to the American Red Cross. Officials say it is not necessary to know your blood type in order to donate because every type is needed, but there is a special need for Type O donors, the universal blood type.

During the summer, the Red Cross gives donors small gifts such as t-shirts and reusable shopping bags. The Red Cross also holds drawings for gas cards and other items.

The donation process takes about an hour. Donors provide their health history and receive a mini-physical, checking blood pressure, temperature and iron, to confirm they are eligible to donate blood. Bring in names of any medications taken. The actual donation takes five to seven minutes.

People not eligible to donate may help the Red Cross in other ways, such as recruiting another donor.

The Red Cross is always in need of volunteers to assist at the center or to organize mobile blood drives. Call 800-GIVE LIFE (800-448-3543) or go online to www.beadonor.com to schedule an appointment.

The local blood donation center is at 6230 Claremont Avenue, Oakland.

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'Peralta in Bloom' Celebrates Students, School and Community

by Jen McKillips
Spring Festival co-chair



Peralta students Lauren Tramiel, Emma McKillips, Tiana Chang, and Kaia Marie Howard line up for cotton candy. PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER WATERS

More than 500 families, including students, neighbors, friends and alumni, gathered at Peralta Elementary School in Lower Rockridge to celebrate "Peralta in Bloom" on Saturday, May 10. Peralta's Spring Community Festival 2008 highlighted the school's blooming and growing gardens and its blooming and growing students. Everyone enjoyed a day of music, food, and fun in support of the unique and vibrant community, which extends beyond the walls of the school. The festival, a collaboration between the school and its surrounding community, is co-sponsored by the Peralta Parent Teacher Group (PPTG) and the Lower Rockridge Parents Organization (LRPG).

This year's festival, the most successful ever due to everyone's hard work and the generous donations from members of the business community, raised money for school enrichment programs such as art, music and sports that benefit all of Peralta's students. The real measure of success was the joy of bringing the community together for such a wonderful celebration. Thanks to everyone for helping to support a fantastic public school for all our children.

Please, join us again next year for "Peralta in Bloom." If you would like information about the Peralta Spring Community Festival, contact Jen McKillips at jsmckillips@yahoo.com. Learn more about Peralta School at http://www.peraltaschool.org/

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Summer Reading

from page 5

The Summer Reading Program

Our program celebrates a child's private relationship with reading. Kids are not tied to a reading list of Worthy Books, nor are they prohibited from choosing comics, graphic novels, or magazines. There is no prize for reading the greatest quantity of titles. No, Sir. The Summer Reading Program is not a competition. Instead, we ask children to keep track of the amount of time they read. We ask kids to aim for eight hours of reading, and when they reach that goal they get a nice, fresh paperback, along with other stuff like a trip to Lawrence Hall of Science, maybe an ice cream cone. Any child can join, including preschoolers, because being read to counts as well. We make it easy. We want kids to have a good time.

Joining In

Please bring your children in and enroll them. It is important. There is no dearth of opportunity and requirement for students to read; they must do so in school. But reading for pleasure? Less opportunity. If we wish to raise readers, we must provide space and time for them to develop the private joy that reading can become. Your library can help with that this summer, and so can you. Here's how:

We're hoping to get 1,000 kids signed up for the Summer Reading Program, to read and get prizes this summer; to do that, we'll need about 25 young volunteers to explain the game and to give out prizes. If you know someone 11 to 16 years old, who likes reading or likes talking to kids, let him or her know that the Rockridge Branch Library is looking for volunteers. Volunteers will also help with other library tasks, such as labeling, stamping, and sorting books, or setting up furniture for special events.

Kids can volunteer up to three hours at a time, on a schedule we'll work out together. Please call Erica Siskind or Gay Ducey at 597-5017 to set up an orientation. The library is at 5366 College Avenue at Manila.

Land Use Notes

from page 3

extensively on this very large and important project. RCPC believes the project as currently proposed is too big, and is negotiating with the developer and other community groups, seeking changes that would make it a better fit for the site.

■ 5175 Broadway residential/ mixed-use project

This project will be heard by the Planning Commission on Wednesday, June 4, 6:00 p.m. at Oakland City Hall, hearing room #1. The applicant's architect has revised project plans slightly (for the better). RCPC continues to support changes to the traffic circulation pattern to reduce traffic impacts on surrounding residents. The applicant also supports these changes, but the City's traffic department has opposed the changes.



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by Jennifer Vetter

An interview with Michael Morgan, conductor of the Oakland East Bay Symphony, over lunch at Oliveto



Oakland East Bay Symphony (OEBS) was founded in July 1988, when musicians from the former Oakland Symphony and the Oakland Symphony League joined together to form a new orchestra; Michael Morgan was named OEBS Music Director in September, 1990.

In the Symphony's early years, concerts were performed at the Calvin Simmons Theatre at the Henry Kaiser Convention Center. They moved to the larger space of the Paramount Theatre during the 1995-96 season. The first live telecast of an OEBS concert was done on BayTV in November 1999.

— Adapted from the OEBS Website, http://www.oebs.org/

Jennifer Vetter: My in-laws live in Sacramento and they enjoy going to your concerts there. How do you manage to conduct symphonies in Oakland and in Sacramento during the same season? Do you spend a lot of time on the road?

Michael Morgan: Yes, I end up eating in my car so often I've been thinking I should set up a table in there. But it's not as bad as when I was conducting in Chicago and Oakland, back in the days when Southwest Airlines only did short hops and you had to stop several times each way. This week, for example, I'll drive there on Wednesday and stay in a hotel in Davis until Monday morning. I have to get back for a Follies rehearsal here on Monday afternoon, so my assistant conductor will do the last concert on Monday night in Sacramento.

JV: Do you do the same programs or have any of the same performers in Sacramento and Oakland?

MM: [shaking his head adamantly] No, it's COMPLETELY different. We could never do the sorts of adventurous programming in Sacramento that we do here in Oakland.

JV: Why? Do you get complaints when you try something too challenging?

MM: No, we just see it in ticket sales. We did an Israeli-Egyptian program in Sacramento that got an okay response, but not great. We should have done it here. It probably would have been a slam-dunk, like our Persian New Year program here in March. The way we sneak in new music there is with Californian composers. As the state capital, they support that.

JV: I find your programming choices really interesting. Do you get much push-back from people who prefer the traditional classics?

MM: Not really, because I tend to dislike the same music that most people dislike. I avoid the really cacophonous, atonal material.

JV: One of my favorite pieces this year was Tan Dun's "Water Concerto." It was exciting sitting down front and wondering if we were going to get splashed! What did the score for the percussionists look like?

MM: I sat in the front row during rehearsal to make sure all the splash guards were protecting the audience. Lots of people have asked about the score – the percussionists actually had to memorize their parts because the pages were soaked and falling apart by the time we finished the rehearsals. The composer had also created an instructional video, which helped.

JV: Many of your concerts have a choral component. Is that a focus of yours?

MM: The East Bay has so many great choral groups, we'd be foolish not to take advantage of that.

JV: Are you concerned about the so-called "graying of the audience for classical music"?

MM: Well, we aren't panicking about it the way everybody was a few years ago. It seems to me that the graying audience keeps replacing themselves. I think what happens is people have children, and they disappear for a while, and when their children get older, the parents start going out to concerts again. So what we have to do is expose children to classical music, through our programs in the schools, and then they will come back to us in the future.

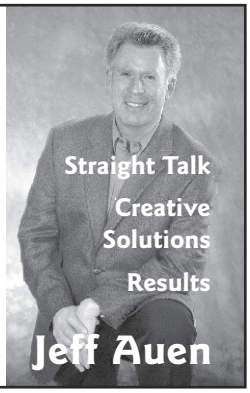
JV: What are you doing to encourage younger people to come to the symphony?

MM: Well, everyone's trying. It's hard. I'd

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recommend our recent Follies program [Stephen Sondheim] presented in May. Our holiday program [Let Us Break Bread Together, on Sunday, December 14] is fun for everyone, even kids. The klezmer guys [Kugelplex] are so funny; we never know what they're going to do but it's always fabulous. Last year they sang Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer in Yiddish. This year they say they want to interact more with the symphony ensemble, so we'll see how that goes.

JV: Are you familiar with Claremont Middle School's orchestra?

MM: Sure, I was just there a couple of weeks ago. They asked me to help them prepare for an orchestra competition. I also visited Chabot Elementary School last fall.

JV: Do schools in Oakland have music programs if they don't have a strong PTA presence?

MM: Every school has a music program, but they need help from the PTA to get everything they need.

JV: What are you up to this summer?

MM: I'm conducting the Festival Opera [at the Lesher Center for the Arts] in Walnut Creek.

JV: Is opera a tougher sell than orchestral music?

MM: Well, people are often advised to start with light comic opera to see if they like it, but the plots are often so complicated and silly and they're just not that… funny. I mean, I can barely see the humor of "The Barber of Seville." One year we brought some kids from East Oakland to a rehearsal of a tragic opera. The kids, even the ones studying music, didn't want to come in the first place. But it was a very simple story of unrequited love, not a comedy, and the kids could relate to it. In fact, they enjoyed it so much they didn't want to leave, and they asked to be brought back out there again for a performance!

Michael Morgan is conducting the Festival Opera's peformance of "Il Trovatore" from July 12-20, and Benjamin Britten's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" from August 9-17. http://www.festivalopera.com/. Oakland East Bay Symphony's 2008-2009 season begins with Prokofiev's Suites from "Romeo and Juliet," George Antheil's "Jazz Symphony"and the world premiere of Nathaniel Stookey's "Zipperz" at the Paramount Theatre on November 14. http://www.oebs.org/

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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: 6/18, 7/2.
- **Pajama Story Time:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm: 6/10 only – see special events.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES:

- **The Summer Reading Program** begins June 7. Kids of all ages can sign up and earn prizes for reading.
- **Summer Reading Kick-Off Party:** Treasure hunt followed by an Ice cream social. Kids of all ages welcome. Saturday, 6/14, 2pm.
- **Meet Moritz, the Big, Big Dog: Moritz**, a Bernese Mountain dog, whose job is to visit hospital patients and make friends, will be here with his companion **Barry Schieber,** who writes books about Moritz and his adventures. Monday, 6/16, 7pm in the Community Meeting Room.
- **Puppet Art Theater:** Tommy's Space Bug Adventure. Tues., 6/17, 7pm.
- **The Bubble Lady:** Tues., 6/24, 7pm.
- **Family Reading Fun Workshop:** the first of three hands-on events that each includes a story time and literacy activity. Ages 2 to 5 and their parents/caregivers invited. Saturday, 6/28, 10:30am.
- **Crosspulse Rhythm Duo:** Intercultural music and dance. Tues., 7/8, 7pm.

VOLUNTEERS AGES 11 TO 16 NEEDED TO HELP IN THE LIBRARY WITH THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM. To get info or sign up, call Gay or Erica at 597-5017.

FOR TEENS:

- **Anime Club: Teens 13 and up**, watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation) with other teens. 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6/10, 7/8. 5 to 6:30pm in upstairs meeting rm.
- **Mehndi: Temporary henna East Indian hand tattooing.** A permission slip (available now at the desk) needs to be signed by parent or guardian. Saturday, 6/28, 2 -3pm.
- **Guitar Hero III Video Game Tournament:** 1st and 2nd place winners will be declared .They will compete at a final tournament at the TeenZone at the Main Library. Saturday, 7/12, 2 – 4:30pm.
- **Be a Book Buddy:** teen volunteers needed to read with children this summer. There will be an end-of-summer party for all participants. To get info or sign up, call Susy at 597-5017.

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. **NOTE: no knitting class June 3 due to election**.
- **Writing From the Soul**: free creative writing workshop with **Suzanne West**. Saturday, 6/21. Call 597-5017 to sign up.
- **J. Gary Gwilliam**: successful attorney will sign and discuss his book, *Getting a Winning Verdict in My Life: A Trial Lawyer Finds His Soul*. Saturday, 6/28, 2 -4pm.
- **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: June: **Robert Horning**; paintings.
July: **Cliff Dunning**: portraits of Rockridge Firefighters.

Lobby Display Case: June: Laotian needlepoint.
July: **Lila Wahrhaftig:** prints, paper objects.

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 Readings

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Wed., 6/11, 7:30pm: **David Guterson**: *The Other*.
- Friday, 6/27, 6:30pm: **David Sidaris**: *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*.
- Wed., 7/9, 7:30pm: **Monica Ferrell**: *The Answer is Always Yes*.

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.

Book Signing at The Pasta Shop

Carlo Middione, of Vivande restaurant in S.F., will present his two new books, *Pasta* and *Panini*. The Pasta Shop culinary team will prepare some of his classic recipes to sample, and Carlo will be signing books, tasting and discussing his food and recipes. Saturday, 6/21, 1 -3pm. The Pasta Shop Rockridge Market Hall, 5655 College Ave. Info: 250-6005.

Jazz at the Chimes

- **Second Annual Fathers Day Jazz Jam and Brunch:** For all dads. Here's your chance to jam with some of the Bay Area's finest jazz sidemen. All instruments and vocalists are welcome. All levels. Bring your musical sons and daughters to play along and friends to hear you. Light brunch provided. **All free.** Sunday, 6/15, 11am to 1pm. Info/sign-ups: 228-3218. **Followed by:**
- **A Tribute to Hal Stein:** concert with **The Pete Yellin Allstars**, followed by artists' reception and refreshments. Sunday, 6/15, 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.

Wisteria Ways Concert Series

- **Fishtank Ensemble:** "Cross-pollinated gypsy and world music", using a variety of instruments to play and sing everything from Romanian folk, flamenco, Swedish folk and original songs. Saturday, 6/14. House opens 2:30pm. Outside venue (wheelchair accessible). Bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic. $15-20 suggested donation for musicians (cash please at the door).
- **Elameno Quintet**: Saturday, 7/5, 8pm. Details at www.WisteriaWays.org.

383 61st Street. For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

Photo Exhibit and Reception

Show by Rockridge photographer **Paula Li**: *Frozen Warmth*. Photos of polar bears. Show runs June 16-August 11. Reception Friday, 6/20 7:30 to 9pm. Music and refreshments. Sahaira, 5510 College Ave. Info: 653-6466.

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: Carola Ingram, 547-1191 or www.distaffsingers.org.

North Oakland Senior Center

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

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