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THE Rockridge News

No Newsletter in August !

VOL. 23 ■ NO. 7 ■ ISSUE NO. 247 ■ July 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

Agenda: RCPC-NCPC Joint Town Hall Meeting– July

Thursday, July 24, 7 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library,
5366 College Avenue at Manila,
Community Room (Upstairs)

PERSONAL SAFETY IS THE THEME OF THE JOINT RCPC-NCPC TOWN HALL MEETING TO BE HELD THURSDAY, JULY 24.

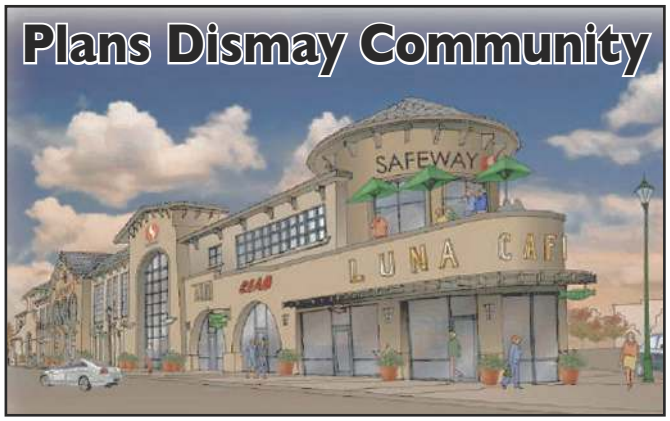
Oakland Police Department representatives will discuss the role and structure of Rockridge's police beats (12Y and 13X) and explain how residents can enhance their personal safety.

- **Captain Anthony Toribio, Oakland Police Department Area 1 Commander, will speak about how OPD is responding to crime in North Oakland. A question-and-answer period will follow.**
- **OPD Officers Eddie Simlin and Titus Taylor, Police Service Technicians from the Neighborhood Services Division, will give a presentation on personal safety.**

There will be a brief update on RCPC Land Use Committee activities following these presentations.

MEETING NOTE:

This meeting takes the place of the RCPC Town Hall Meeting held the third Thursday of each month. The Neighborhood Crime Prevention Committee (NCPC) normally meets on the fourth Thursday.



Citing the "new urbanism" as the inspiration for a revised store design, Safeway representative Todd Paradis presented the rendering at left as one view of the corporation's response to neighborhood design concerns.

COURTESY SAFEWAY COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Safeway Presents Revised Plans for College Avenue Store Rebuilding

by Carol and Ray Craun

Revised development plans for the Claremont and College Safeway store were presented publicly at a standing-room-only meeting co-hosted by City Councilmember Jane Brunner, the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), and the Claremont-Elmwood Neighborhood Association (CENA) at Peralta Elementary School.

Jane Brunner welcomed almost 300 people to the meeting held June 19, and introduced RCPC chair Stuart Flashman and CENA president Dean Metzger. In their introductory remarks, both neighborhood representatives indicated that their organizations had significant concerns about the size of the development, the potential increase in traffic, and the proposed project's incompatibility with the intent of the College Avenue C-31 special retail commercial zone regulations. (See Oakland Municipal Codes, http://municipalcodes.lexisnexis.com/codes/oakland/ Click on Title 17: Planning.) Concerned Neighbors of College Ave Safeway, represented by founders and Rockridge residents Susan Shawl and Nancy McKay, also made an introductory statement, noting their group's concern about the proposed project's design and troublesome traffic patterns it could introduce.

Safeway presenters Elisabeth Jewel and Todd Paradis then described the revised design proposal after which the meeting was opened to comments from the audience.

The revised design, which includes the development of the adjacent Union 76 sta-

Safeway Plans, page 10

EBMUD Advances Plans for Supply, Drought Relief

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC chair and East Bay MUD Community Liaison Committee member

On June 24, the East Bay MUD board of directors reached a milestone in the district's planning for future water supply. The board approved a "preferred alternative" to focus study of future water supply planning. Preliminary to that decision, the board made several important pre-decisions. First, and perhaps foremost, the board decided to eliminate Buckhorn Reservoir, a large and controversial proposed water storage facility in the East Bay hills southwest of Moraga, from the preferred alternative. The board also decided to ramp up future water conservation and recycling programs to high levels, but decided to limit future rationing to a maximum of 10%. (EBMUD's current rationing stands at 15% for this drought year – more on this below.)

Having made those decisions, the board chose what the District's planning consultants, EDAW, called a "robust" alternative, or what might also be called a smorgasbord of supplemental water supply options.

EBMUD Plans, page 5

Oakland Settles with Caltrans; Local Groups Press Ahead with Tunnel Suit

by Ellen Peterson, RCPC boardmember

As discussed in the May 2008 issue of The Rockridge News, the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) has joined the Fourth Bore Coalition (FBC), a group of local civic and neighborhood organizations that have banded together to improve the Caldecott Improvement Project (the fourth bore) by protecting nearby communities from the increased noise, pollution, and traffic problems expected to result from the project, both during and after construction.

The FBC has filed suit against Caltrans based on the inadequacy of Caltrans' environmental documents. While the City of Oakland also notified Caltrans that it intended to file suit challenging the approval of the project, the lawsuit was never filed. Instead, Oakland and Caltrans agreed to extend the deadline for filing suit and to engage in settlement discussions. (Caltrans refused to offer this option to the Fourth Bore Coalition.)

In mid-June, the City Council voted to accept a Caltrans settlement offer. Councilperson Nancy Nadel abstained, stating that the project was flawed and would encourage the use of private vehicles rather than supporting public transportation.

Under the terms of the settlement, Caltrans agreed to assist Oakland in obtaining up to $8 million in Alameda County Congestion Management Agency funds to reduce noise and pollution occurring during the construction of the new tunnel. In addition, no trucks will haul construction debris between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. Caltrans also agreed to add some traffic signals on adjacent roads, and to enclose the area where cement will be manufactured for the project. In exchange for these items, Oakland agreed not to carry through with legal action.

The Fourth Bore Coalition, including RCPC, is moving forward with its lawsuit. The Coalition feels the items accepted by Oakland in mitigation are woefully inadequate to protect the surrounding neighborhoods – and particularly local schools, parks, and recreational facilities – from substantial injury by the project's noise, pollution, and other damaging impacts, both during construction and after completion, as well as traffic problems created during construction.

What is a typical amount sought for mitigating project impacts? While no fixed percentage of a given project's cost is set aside for mitigations or enhancements, 10%

➧ **Fourth Bore Suit, page 3**

Donation Coupon: Fourth Bore Coalition

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

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

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Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
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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- Would you like to write a letter to the Editor?

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

Newsletter Advertising/Deadlines

Publication date of the next issue is
☛ **September 6, 2008**
☛ **September deadline is August 21.**

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.)*

The Zoning Counter

The Zoning Counter is a compilation of recent applications filed with the Oakland Planning Department. Individuals may contact the case planner or the Planning Department for additional information by phone or on-line at www.oaklandnet.com.

5343 Broadway

Proposal: To convert two residential dwelling units into condominiums.

Contact Persons: Edgar & Eliza Lantz

Phone: 510/428-9111

Owners: Edgar & Eliza Lantz

Permits Required: Tentative Parcel Map for condominium purposes

Case Planner: Mike Rivera, 510/238-6417 or mrivera@oaklandnet.com.

Fourth Bore Suit

from page 2

is normal; in some projects the percentage can go much higher. Ten percent of the cost of the current project, now totaling $420 million, would be $42 million, considerably more than the possible $6 to $8 million offered to the City.

Although the Coalition and Caltrans continue settlement discussions, the Coalition is preparing for trial. Volunteers for the Fourth Bore Coalition have almost finished preparing the Record, a necessary precursor to trial, and a court date is set for October 24.

Pre-trial and trial costs are expensive. The Coalition is seeking community support in this effort. Please consider contributing to the Fourth Bore Coalition to obtain a better project. A coupon is provided on page 2 to send along with your tax-deductible contribution.

RCPC Land Use Committee

Land Use Committee Meeting: Wednesday, July 23, 7 p.m., Rockridge Branch Library

Committee Notes

by Stuart Flashman,
RCPC Land Use Committee chair

■ College Avenue Safeway rebuild (6310 College/ Claremont)

The Land Use Committee heard public input and discussed the project at its June 25 meeting. The committee recommended that RCPC oppose the project in its present form as being both too large and incompatible with the surrounding neighborhood. That recommendation will be considered by the RCPC Board at its meeting July 10.

Safeway presented its revised plans on June 19 at a community meeting sponsored jointly by RCPC, the Claremont-Elmwood Neighborhood Association, and Councilwoman Jane Brunner. See front page story for details on this project revision.

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

This large project is currently proposed to include 115 residential units in a 65-foot-tall (over 70 feet, when the height of the rooftop mechanical room structures is included) building. Developer Hauser Architects of San Francisco also plans to include five very-low-income units and a semi-public greenway extension to Telegraph Avenue. RCPC and other community groups including STAND, FROG, ULTRA, and Friends of Temescal Creek, and the owner of the adjoining Claremont Towers apartment building are participating in negotiations with the developer over changes to the project. Also involved in negotiations are the Telegraph Avenue Merchants' Association, Telegraph Avenue Business Association, and Roy Alper, owner of the neighboring and as-yet unbuilt CIVIQ project facing onto 51st Street.

RCPC's position in the negotiations is that, despite the inclusion of affordable housing and the greenway, the project needs to be reduced in height and bulk, and the project's traffic, parking, visual, and shadowing impacts on the surrounding community need to be reduced or mitigated.

■ 5175 Broadway residential/ mixed-use project

This project was heard and approved by the Planning Commission on June 4th. RCPC acknowledged improvements to the plans, but expressed concerns about some of the units' layouts, which included "phantom bedrooms" – rooms that didn't qualify as bedrooms, but would probably be used as such – and the potential impacts on neighborhood traffic. Given that the City's traffic study showed no significant impacts, the Commission felt it could not impose any traffic conditions on the project. RCPC's traffic committee will be following the project once it has been constructed and occupied. If traffic problems develop, the traffic committee will work with the neighborhood, the developer, and the City to resolve them.

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.

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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.

Trader Joe's Policy on Solicitaton is Offensive

Editor:

Shame on Trader Joe's for their mean-spirited sign declaring the "right to distraction free shopping," banning "any solicitation" in front of the store. [See photo below.] I'm offended that their management comes into the neighborhood with the attitude that people here have to be shielded from anything that would interfere with their drive to spend money in this upscale store. I'm curious, too, why the sign is up some days while on other days they have given permission to some solicitors to be out in front.

In the twenty years I've lived – and shopped – in the neighborhood, I've never seen anyone being "distracted" by people passing out flyers soliciting help for good causes in front of Safeway or by Oscar or the other vendors who sell the Street Spirit newspaper in front of Yasai Market. And, I'm intensely annoyed to see that they charge higher prices for some items here than for the same items sold in their Emeryville store. What does that say about their attitude toward the people in Rockridge?

— Lydia Gans

Editor's Note:

Asked about Trader Joe's solicitation policy, a store management representative referred inquiries to the firm's headquarters office. The representative did say that the number of customers opposed to the policy was about equal to the number who support it.

The representative also denied that prices for the same items varied in different Trader Joe's stores.

A Rockridge resident and Trader Joe's shopper found the store's policy on solicitation at the entrance to be offensive and inconsistent. Store management said community sentiment about the sign seemed to be equally divided.

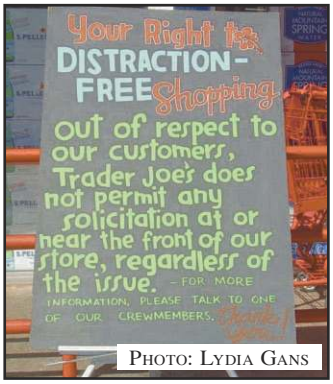


Photo: Lydia Gans

A Dangerous Increase of Bicyclists on Sidewalks

Editor:

There has been a huge increase in bicyclists – usually young men in their twenties – cycling on the sidewalks on College Avenue. I saw at least half-a-dozen when I was having lunch at a cafe one recent Saturday. Increasingly, they also ride on the sidewalks of side streets. I have seen several on Chabot Road, for example.

I realize in the big crime picture this is insignificant, but not insignificant is the real possibility of injury to children, dogs, seniors, and yes – other pedestrian young men in their twenties. There seems to be a real sense of entitlement in these riders. And they are, I believe, breaking the law.

I wrote to Jane Brunner and asked that she get involved with this. I would really like RCPC to be involved too, and lend its clout to a campaign to stop this very dangerous practice.

— Christine O'Connor

Editor's Note:

This month's Rockridge News presents bicycle riding regulations and safety information provided by the East Bay Bicycle Coalition (EBBC). The responsibility for bicycle safety falls equally on bicyclists, automobile drivers and pedestrians. Each must be attentive to the safety of those around them. Interested residents can also attend an RCPC Traffic, Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety (TPBS) Committee meeting and help work on this issue. E-mail info@rockridge.org for more information.

"Horrific" Train/Track Noise from BART Rockridge

*(A copy of this letter to BART Director Bob Franklin was forwarded to The Rockridge News for publication. Director Franklin's reply follows. – **Editor**)*

Dear Bob: When we met about a year ago at an RCPC board meeting, I mentioned to you that the track noise at the Rockridge BART station was horrific! You said the remedy was track sanding and that the assigned work crew was busy all over the system. When the problem was addressed, the result was a vast improvement.

However, one section of track escaped treatment; it is the last two structural spans over Forest Street. It is also, unfortunately, one of the loudest sections. I live 1,500 ft. from this track area and find it quite loud, especially at night. I can only imagine how bad it must be for residents living closer to the station.

— Richard W. Smith

Bob Franklin Replies: Thanks for the e-mail. We are measuring that part of the track now to see if grinding can solve this problem, as someone else also recently e-mailed me about this.

When I hear from our maintenance department, I will update you. In the meantime, please feel free to check in on the status of this problem.

Sorry for the disruption.

— Bob Franklin

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EBMUD Plans

from page 1

Those options include everything from new or enlarged reservoirs to water transfers to groundwater storage to a regional desalination plant. The thought is to begin pursuing a wide variety of supply options, many of them somewhat risky, but bring to fruition only those that turn out to be most feasible.

With this decision behind it, EBMUD is now moving forward on the environmental studies needed before a final decision. The District is still accepting comments on the scope of the environmental studies until July 31. (See the District's website: http://www.ebmud.com for more details.)

Meanwhile, as mentioned, EBMUD has approved 15% mandatory rationing to address this year's water shortage. That means a 19% cutback for single family residents and 10% for apartment dwellers and commercial users. While some restrictions and prohibitions have already been implemented – e.g., no washing down sidewalks to clean them – the main decision, still to be made, is the rate structure to implement the rationing. The current proposal calls for surcharges for customers who don't meet rationing goals, plus an across-the-board rate increase to compensate the District for loss of revenue due to reduced water use. The District is proposing to exempt from any increase those accounts using less than 100 gallons per day.

The rationing rates and restrictions will affect most Rockridge residents. Those interested can voice their opinions to the Board at a public hearing at the District's headquarters, 375 11th Street in downtown Oakland, on July 8, starting some time after 1:15 p.m. Responses may also be made in writing.

If a majority of the District's ratepayers were to object to the new rates, the District would be forced to reject them. The drought, however, would still remain to be dealt with.

BART and Rockridge: A Report from BART Director Bob Franklin

As gas prices continue to rise, commuters, shoppers and casual travellers are turning to public transit to fulfill their travel needs. According to recent figures from BART, ridership has increased dramatically. To smooth the passenger surge, BART has introduced system-wide and station-specific initiatives. In the following report, Bob Franklin, BART Director for District 3, which includes Rockridge, discusses BART service initiatives, Rockridge BART station improvements and the status of Rockridge-area projects with which BART has been involved.



Bob Franklin

PHOTO: B. FRANKLIN

Real Time Schedule Information

There are now computer monitors at three businesses (Café Lyon, Peaberry's, and Maison D'Être) that show actual departure times for the next BART trains leaving Rockridge. This information is also available on www.BART.gov, where you can also sign up for e-mail alerts that provide notification of train delays.

Passenger Drop-off Zones

BART, the City of Oakland and AC Transit have reconfigured the BART station drop-off zones on both sides of College Avenue. Use the new passenger loading zone on the east side of College Avenue (where taxis usually wait) to avoid a $271 fine for stopping in a bus zone.

Rockridge Plaza

BART is finalizing the bid documents for the redesign of Rockridge Plaza – the vision created by the RCPC, the RDA and the committee "UnderBART." The ivy at the base of the escalator will be replaced with additional seating, a new pathway and native plants.

New Initiatives at BART

BART now runs trains every 15 minutes on evenings and Sundays. This, along with high gas prices, has caused ridership to soar to an all-time high of 365,000 daily passengers.

Also, starting this fall, passengers will be able to pay for parking with the EZ Rider Smart Card, which is now used to pay fares. Parkers will just tap their card at a reader and go – without entering a stall number.

BART is also measuring rail corrugation west of the Rockridge station in response to recent reports of increased noise.

Seismic Update

The seismic safety program at BART is expected to occur in Rockridge from late 2008 through early 2011. BART will provide advance notification when dates become firm. The biggest impact will be in areas 15-20 feet around the columns that support BART's aerial trackway. Work on an individual column can last up to 6 months. Some Rockridge areas adjacent to the BART trackway will be directly affected:

- **Frog Park:** A portion of the basketball court by Hudson Street and the adjacent ball toss structure will be disrupted by the retrofit, but will be restored to their original condition. BART will also strengthen the two columns bordering the Dog Park, but at least a portion of this area will always remain open.
- **Revegetation at Locksley Gardens:** The Locksley Gardens will also be impacted. At the request of the neighbors, the ivy along Forest Street by the west BART parking lot will be replaced with a combination of native aspidistra, mahonia, and rubus.
- **Other temporary impacts:** The Hudson Street casual carpool pickup location will temporarily move farther east. BART also will mitigate for the other impacts that include noise and dust, traffic lane and sidewalk closures, street parking closures, and bus stop relocations.

Bob Franklin is the BART Director for District 3, which includes Rockridge. Phone: 510/684-0026; E-mail: BobFranklinBART@aol.com; Website: www.BobforBART.com.

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The Rockridge Muse: Abroad

China, As We Got to Know Her

by Ortrun and Gerry Niesar

Some readers may remember our son Christopher selling wrought iron bed stands and lamps at Brass and Glass on College Avenue in 2003-4. When Christopher had a chance to flee his oasis of leisurely comfort – read: free room and board in the family home – he didn't hesitate. Finding an opportunity to teach English in China, he flew like a bat out of hell toward a totally new life. That was three years ago.

Christopher went to Lanzhou in North Central China, situated on a high plateau just below the tip of Inner Mongolia on the edge of the Gobi Desert. Here, China was still the old China, part ancient, part Communist, part western, all of it covered with fine desert sand. When he arrived, Christopher became one of about 650 foreigners living in a city of 2.5 million inhabitants that is a university, trade, military and mining center of the west. It was also Jackie Chan's hometown.

In Lanzhou, Christopher became an instant celebrity. As a North American English speaker he was in great demand. He plunged eagerly into his new work, fell in love with China, wrote eloquent letters home about his adventures and met a lovely young lady. At that point the letters stopped. It was time for Gerry and me to visit China.

Getting There

Using all the flight miles we had accumulated for this purpose, we flew first class, flying east on United, then Lufthansa. First class turned out to be the life of Riley, with beds, pajamas, and gourmet meals.

The moment we arrived in Beijing, however, luxury vanished when we transferred to a local flight. Crammed into an economy plane with local travelers going west for school or work, we were in a totally different world where Chinese stewardesses greeted us in Chinese. After the passengers settled in, noodle dishes wrapped in foil were served. Everybody pulled out chopsticks and ate with gusto.

A snowstorm in Lanzhou forced our plane to divert to a closed airport 100 miles away, with no food or drink in sight. There we came to the attention of a young Chinese man with spiked and colored hair, yellow leather jacket, and cool boots. He knew only a few words of English but used his cell phone to call his English-speaking wife in New York City to translate. We learned we would be stuck in this airport until the storm over Lanzhou subsided. There was nothing to do but trust the flow of things.



Christopher and He Ling Niesar in wedding regalia at Jijaghoa National Park. Photo: Ortrun Niesar

Surprising News

Christopher and his girlfriend He Ling met us when we finally got to Lanzhou. Petite, big smile, sporty leather jacket and fashionable shoulder bag, she had lovely long curly tresses and greeted us in charming, halting, English.

A short ride to their apartment and we found ourselves lugging our baggage up four flights of a cold stone staircase. Single light bulbs dangled from the ceiling. Garbage is left on the stairwells for pickup and there are security doors on each apartment entry. Christopher's door opened into a comfortable little apartment, freshly painted, with pictures on the walls and TV and computer in sight. The kitchen is not what we would think of as a kitchen – a hot plate serves as the stove and who needs an oven anyway – and neither is the bath, but, after all, this is not Rockridge.

Hot tea was served, and then came the announcement: "Be prepared, we are getting married on Sunday!" Surprise, surprise! "Congratulations, Mom and Dad. Sorry for not telling you earlier. We wanted it to be a surprise." And, of course, we were surprised. And we had nothing to wear.

The Wedding

It turns out it is customary in the Chinese provinces not to dress up for a wedding. That's reserved for the wedding party only. He Ling wore a lovely flowing gown with a veil and flowers in her hair. Christopher had to fetch the bride, steal her away from her friends, find her shoes, and carry her down to the waiting cars where friends were setting off a barrage of firecrackers. This was a perfect send-off for a guy who used to sneak to San Francisco's Chinatown to buy Fourth of July firecrackers.

The ceremony took place in a fancy hotel. Christopher dutifully carried his bride up the escalator. At the entrance of the hall, the guests were lined up waiting to pay tribute—yes, in money—and have their names inscribed into the wedding book showing the amount they paid. Guests ranged from elderly relatives coming from villages, some sporting Mao caps and jackets, to the young whose restlessness finds expression in the latest fashions and hairstyles. Gerry and I were seated with the foreigners, of course, and we must have met almost all of them. Baijo, the favorite Chinese strong drink, flowed like water.

The happy couple received their documents, and then the fun began, filled with reenactment of vows, the traditional bowing to the parents, the exchange of children, and more traditional bowing, something Gerry thought was a good idea, until they were literally begging for a merciful release from this uncomfortable position. Finally, a big layered wedding cake, of which only the top layers were meant to be eaten, was served after innumerable dishes of local delicacies.

In July, Christopher and his new bride will visit with us here in Rockridge. We can't wait.

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Chabot Elementary Construction Underway

by Shelly Fierston and Polly Winograd Ikonen

The final bell of the 2007-08 school year had barely stopped ringing when movers swarmed over the Chabot Elementary School campus, whisking packing boxes into storage containers, moving vans and classrooms, signaling the start of the Chabot construction project.

Construction activity began with the demolition of two play structures and the tot lot, removal of asphalt surfacing on the upper and lower yards, and relocation of two portables on the lower yard.

The contractor has 55 days to complete the project's first phase, which includes resurfacing the lower yard, scrapping the 1940s portables, and relocating 17 other portables on the upper yard for the 2008-09 school year, which begins Monday, August 25.

With $17.5 million in bond funding from 2006 Measure B, the Chabot construction project will continue until Fall 2009, when the school will have more permanent classrooms, a new multi-purpose room for lunches, physical education and assemblies, and a new library and media center.

While the project includes re-grading and re-paving Chabot's two play yards, there is no funding to replace play structures or to rebuild the school's garden and landscaping. To implement the landscape master plan developed by landscape architects MIG (known locally for our own Frog Park), the Chabot PTA launched the Chabot: Way To Grow! campaign to raise up to $500,000 over the next two years. The result will be a delightful park-like setting for the entire community to enjoy.



Photo: Chabot: Way to Grow!

Further details on Chabot: Way To Grow! and the construction project are available at www.chabotelementary.org. Construction questions can be directed to construction@chabotelementary.org.

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.

Help the Schools, Help the Community: A Perspective

Change has begun; you are invited to join in

by Tony Mills, Claremont Middle School parent and PTA member

After reading many articles about the abuses, real and projected, suffered by Rockridge neighbors at the hands of some Claremont Middle School students, I want, as a long-time Rockridge neighbor and parent of a Claremont 6th and 8th grader, to add a different perspective.

As most of us know, California is 46th in the nation in per student spending. In the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), the money for anything but the most rudimentary basics are simply not there. Support systems such as janitorial services, grounds maintenance, and security services, have been stripped as the schools focus on the fundamental needs of students and their teachers.

In spite of this, schools like Chabot, Hillcrest and others have flourished due to an outpouring of community involvement. At Claremont, huge changes have occurred

Claremont School, page 11

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Rockridge Sales Jumping This June

Close Date	BR	Bth	ADDRESS	Orig Price	DOM	Sale Pr
6/13/2008	2	2	5340 Broadway Terrace	$495,000	6	$500,000
6/12/2008	3	2	5244 Locksley Avenue	$560,000	5	$650,000
6/19/2008	2	1	6330 Colby Street	$699,000	32	$652,000
6/6/2008	3	1	6212 Hillegass Avenue	$829,000	14	$905,000
6/2/2008	3	2	5700 Glenbrook Drive	$949,000	8	$952,000
6/16/2008	2	1	5315 James Avenue	$879,000	8	$971,000
6/10/2008	3	2	6144 S. Rockridge Blvd.	$1,395,000	9	$1,450,000

• The average List/Sell price in Rockridge for June is 105%, compared to only 100% last year. • 6 out of the 7 properties listed in Rockridge sold for OVER asking price, in comparison to last year, less than 1/2.
• The average days on the market in June was only 11 days compared to 37 days a year ago!

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Rules of the Road = Safety & Courtesy for Motorists and Cyclists

Rockridge attracts a medley of commuting bicyclists who congregate at the Rockridge BART station and frequent the Webster-Shafter-Forest-Colby designated bike route. Other commuters join students and shoppers on College Avenue. Many of them are driving cars.

Since most Rockridge-area streets do not include bike lanes, motorists and bicyclists must share the roads, paying special attention to traffic rules. Being aware of the following list of traffic rules and courtesies can help keep Rockridge streets inviting and safe for everyone.

Same Roads; Same Rules

Bicycle riders have the same rights and responsibilities as other drivers on public thoroughfares, according to the California Vehicle Code (CVC). Cycles and motor vehicles alike must move in the same direction as traffic and abide by traffic laws.

■ Traffic Signs and Signals

Vehicles must stop at all stop signs and red lights, and so must bicycle riders.

■ Lane Position; Ride on the Right

Cyclists should ride in the right one-third of the road to give motorists room to safely pass, except when approaching a place where a right turn is authorized.

■ Cyclists may legally ride away from the right-hand curb or roadway edge under any of the following circumstances:

• When overtaking a slower bicycle or motor vehicle.

• When preparing to make a left turn.

• When parked cars, road debris, or other obstacles are in the way.

• When the right lane is too narrow for a bicycle and a car to safely travel side by side, a cyclist may "take the lane" by riding in the middle of it. When taking the lane, signal and check for traffic, then merge into the lane. On one-way streets with two or more lanes, cyclists may ride as close as practicable to the left-hand curb or edge of roadway.

• **Position Like a Car for "Right Turn Only."** A bicyclist intending to go straight at an intersection that has a "right turn only" lane should be positioned in the lane next to the right turn lane.

• **Narrow Streets**. Riding in the road is really the safest place to be.

• **Don't Weave**. Cyclists should ride in a straight line to be predictable. Curb-huggers are hidden from motorists and are vulnerable when they merge into traffic.

• **Avoid the "Door Zone."** Riding in the door zone is one of the most frequent causes of crashes on busy downtown streets. Cyclists should ride at least 4 feet from parked cars. Nevertheless, CVC §22517 directs motorists opening a car door into moving traffic to do so only when safe.

■ Other Useful Rules

• **Use Lights at Night**. CVC requires a bicyclist to display a white headlamp and a red rear reflector, as well as reflectors on pedals or shoes.

• **Be Visible.** Cyclists can increase their visibility at night by wearing a lightweight reflective triangle and adding a flashing red LED (Light Emitting Diode) taillamp. Light-colored clothes and helmet also enhance visibility—day or night.

• **Signal before turning or changing lanes.** At each turn or lane change, a cyclist should signal and check that the lane is free of traffic. CVC allows cyclists to signal a right turn with the right hand extended horizontally to the right.

■ Some Tips for Friendly Roads

• **Give pedestrians the right-of-way**. Walk bikes on sidewalks and in crosswalks. It's considerate, and it's the law. (Police bicycle details are specifically allowed to ride on sidewalks.) Whether on a bicycle or behind the wheel, assume that pedestrians don't see or hear your vehicle.

• **Cyclists should watch their speed**, especially on residential streets and downhill stretches. 20 mph looks like 40 mph to a person in the road or exiting a car.

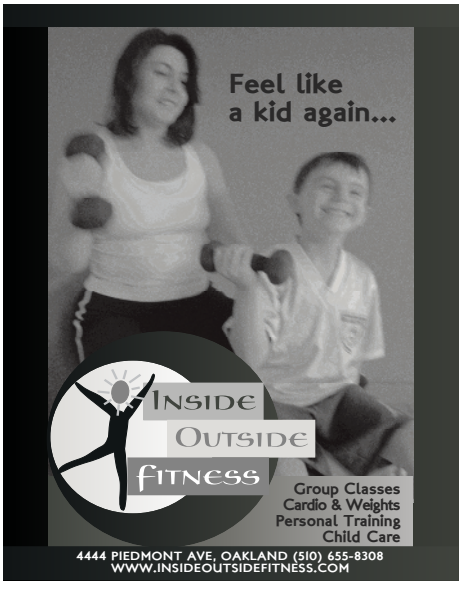
• **Ding Ding!** Try never to scare anybody. Slow down, yield, and call out or ring a bell. Passing a person or bicyclist is not like passing a traffic cone. Give a wide berth to people on foot to avoid any surprises.

■ Riding Motorist-Friendly

• Bicyclists should always clearly signal their intentions using standard arm signals. When it's your turn to yield, do it. Brake to a stop and maintain eye contact with the other driver or rider. If others hesitate, wave them through. Acknowledge courtesy with a wave, or a smile, or a "thank you," or all three!

Bicycles & Autos, page 9

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Bicycles & Autos

from page 8

■ **Be a Bicycle Ambassador**

• **Whether you are lycra-clad or wearing jeans** on a cruiser bike, your behavior reflects on all bicyclists.

■ **Build Your Knowledge**

The East Bay Bicycle Coalition offers free bicycle safety classes taught by certified instructors. Visit www.ebbc.org and click on "safety."

Material for this article was obtained from the East Bay Bicycle Coalition, which has been "promoting bicycling as an everyday means of transportation and recreation since 1972." Vehicle Code references (CVC) are intended for illustration only. For the full text of the Vehcile Code and its application to bicycles, visit the California Department of Motor Vehicles' web site: http://www.dmv.ca.gov/about/bicycle.htm





National Night Out

When neighbors know each other, neighborhoods are safer!

WHAT: An invitation to individuals, families and groups in all Oakland neighborhoods to organize a block party, ice cream social, barbeque or other outdoor event that brings neighbors together and builds community.

WHEN: Tuesday, August 5, 2008 — 7 PM – 9 PM

How To Get Involved:

Register on-line by visiting: http://www.oaklandnet.com/nno2007.html

For any questions or for assistance in registering, call:

Brenda Ivey 510/238-3091 – English
Edith Guillen 510/238-7159 – Spanish
Sun-Kwong 510/238-7957 – Chinese

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 300 parties were held in Oakland in 2007. City Officials, firefighters, police officers and media personalities will visit block parties and acknowledge the hosting families.
- National Night Out has been held across the country every year since 1983.
- National Night Out in Oakland is organized by the Neighborhood Services Division, Oakland Police Department, City of Oakland.

Kimberly Lang

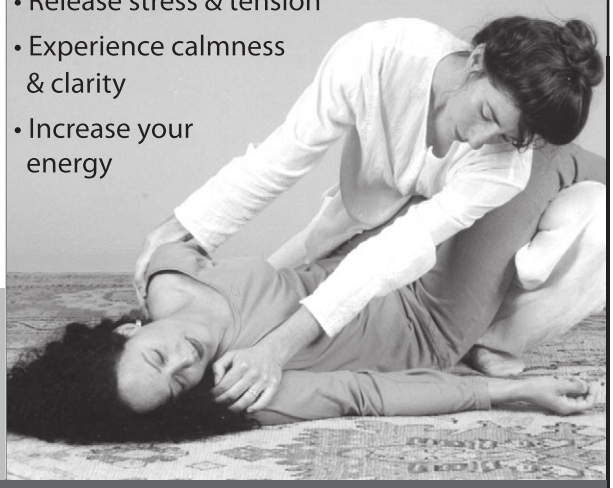
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Safeway Plans

from page 1

tion site, differs from earlier plans in several significant ways.

- The Safeway store is situated on a second level above the ground-floor College Avenue frontage.
- The total square footage of retail including the proposed Safeway store and 16,000 square feet of ground level retail shops along College Avenue has increased to 75,000 square feet.
- The majority of the 212 parking spaces are below the 59,000 square foot Safeway store and behind the proposed College Avenue-facing retail shops.
- Two elevator entrance lobbies on the College Avenue frontage provide access to the store from College Avenue and from the lower level parking.
- There are two vehicular entrances to the below-store parking level, one at the northwest corner of the site directly off College Avenue and another at the existing entrance at the top of the site off Claremont Avenue via an access ramp down to the below-store parking level.
- All service deliveries to the store are from two entrances off Claremont Avenue—which provide access to a staff parking lot and the primary service bays.
- There is no public entrance to the store from this upper level of parking.
- There is also a proposed professional building fronting on Claremont Avenue near the eastern-most end of the site.

The proposed new store, retail shops and professional building will be three times the area of the existing 24,483 square foot store. There will be 200 Safeway employees—twice the current total. On-site parking—including both the below grade and second level parking—will increase from 100 to 212 spaces.

Plans follow Safeway "lifestyle store" concept

The Safeway plans follow the template of the corporation's "lifestyle stores" which, in addition to interior design changes, include larger produce sections, an in-store bakery, pharmacy, service butcher and fish markets, expanded floral shop and delicatessen.

As a prelude to opening the meeting for comments from the floor, Jane Brunner re-introduced Nancy McKay and Susan Shawl, organizers of one of the groups most actively following the project, to speak for the balance of their allotted time. They reviewed the history of their involvement in the process, and expressed their concerns regarding Safeway's apparent lack of response to previously expressed concerns about the size of the project. They noted that current development proposals are 20,000 square feet larger than plans presented in previous community meetings.

A total of 80 attendees signed speaker cards and about 60 addressed the gathering. All but four opposed the project as presented. Almost all of the concerns can be related to the scale of the proposed development and associated impacts on traffic, incompatibility with the scale of the existing shopping street and surrounding residential neighborhoods, and the intent of the C-31 special retail commercial zone.

Next Steps

Safeway representatives indicated that they intend to submit a development application to the City by the end of July. This will be the first step in what will likely be a one- to two-year planning approval process.

City of Oakland Planning and Zoning Division staff member Pete Vollman, the planner assigned to the project, explained the steps the City will follow to process the application.

The initial submittal will include applications for Design Review and Conditional Use Permits. City staff will prepare an Initial Study for Environmental Review which will determine whether or not an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required. Assuming an EIR is required, a series of EIR-related Planning Commission hearings, public review periods, and Design Review Committee hearings will follow—all of which must be completed before Planning Commission hearings on the certification of the EIR and a final decision on the project can be made.

Vollman indicated that individuals wanting to be notified of public hearings on the project could e-mail pvollman@oaklandnet.com.

Additional information for those wishing to follow the project can be found on the RCPC website at www.rockridge.org, the Claremont-Elmwood Neighborhood Association website at www.claremontelmwood.org, and the Safeway website at www.safewayoncollege.com. Those interested may e-mail Concerned Neighbors of College Ave Safeway at safewayneighbors@sbcglobal.net to be added to their mailing list.

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Claremont School

from page 7

over the last two years. The PTA, which as little as three years ago had about 15 members, now numbers 150. Programs like music, art, garden, sports, web design and the new Media and Technology Center have been established and are succeeding.

Few Rockridge residents know or see these changes because they are happening inside where the children are. Outside, the school still looks the same, and that has never been great. The lack of adequate after-school security affects one of the most prosperous retail areas in the East Bay. We all want the school to be painted and made more beautiful. We all want increased security, especially after school. The list is long. The solution is simple and compelling: it simply requires taking responsibility for helping solve the problems facing our neighborhood school.

We parents and neighbors can begin by funding the educational needs at Claremont that OUSD simply cannot. For example, if we were all to skip just one restaurant dinner a year and donate that $50 or so to the Claremont Improvement Fund (part of the Claremont PTA), there would be money enough to solve or diminish virtually every school-site need.

There are personal benefits, as well. If our community truly embraces this school and creates – in conjunction with Chabot and Peralta elementary schools – a K-8 system on par with what has already been achieved at the elementary level, Rockridge property values could increase dramatically.

As most any local realtor will agree, Rockridge's biggest deficit is its lack of a proper K-8 system. Albany's solution was a $3,000 tax per house. In Piedmont, it's closer to $5,000 per household. But we can get it done here if each of us just chips in $50-75 a year. Want it to happen faster? Chip in a little more. It is, after all, tax deductible.

This is the new face of successful public schools in Oakland. We, as a community, must accept some responsibility for school improvements, just as we have taken some responsibility for some area parks and other civic benefits the City can't afford. For Claremont Middle School, the solution is simple, and the rewards are great. And, more than the reward of an improved property value is the pride of having a healthy school system in the heart of one of the best neighborhoods in the Bay Area.

There is a movement afoot to create this all-important component of our neighborhood. Help us make it happen sooner.

Visit the Claremont Middle School website for school information: http://www.claremontms.org/Claremontms/home.html. Click on PTA for information on how you can help.

You may also call Principal David Chambliss at 510/879-2010 for more information.

Tony Mills is a 30-year Rockridge resident with a daughter entering 8th grade and a son entering 6th grade at Claremont Middle School. Both are Chabot Elementary School graduates.



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A Future of Hope

Recapture for One-of-a-Kind Weddings



Photo: Don Kinkead

The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson

Recapture Vintage Bridal



Photo: Theresa Nelson

Owner: Robin Densten
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If you are looking for a bridal gown or special occasion dress that is truly a one-of-a-kind, look no further than Recapture Vintage Bridal, on College near the Library. The store carries an impressive variety of vintage bridal gowns and special occasion dresses from the Victorian era through recent times, all ready to wear, or better yet, ready to be made into the dress of your dreams.

While some brides seek the latest designer fashions, others prefer to wear something unique. Owner Robin Densten and Recapture provide that unique dress, made from precious beaded materials and lace (almost impossible to find today), a dress that speaks of a different time and place when handwork was a treasure handed down from generation to generation.

Robin, who lives in Oakland, opened Recapture Vintage Bridal after several years owning a store on San Pablo which offered both vintage fashion and furnishings. Robin started her career in accessories: she always collected textiles, trims and lace, and made her own wedding dress.

On the day I visited, several brides were in for fittings. One had a dress made of two different vintage dresses: a Victorian underdress of complex embroidery, and a '30s overdress of openwork lace and cutwork, both drawn from the Recapture collection. The bride had collaborated with Robin on the design and how to incorporate the two dresses into her personal vision.

Many vintage dresses are high-necked and long-sleeved, in contrast to the modern strapless and tank-top styles. Vintage dresses can be cut down, necklines changed, sleeves removed or altered. In the '50s, for example, dresses with sweetheart necklines were common, but they were overlaid with layers of illusion lace on the neckline and arms for modesty. Modern brides can remove some or all of that illusion lace or add something new.

Where does she find these one-of-a-kind dresses? "Dresses find me now," Robin says, as resale shops refer those with wedding dresses to her. A nonprofit called Making Memories also receives donated dresses which she buys, and the resulting fees are donated to the Breast Cancer Foundation.

The oldest dresses in the shop are Victorian day dresses (as Victorian women rarely wore white dresses for weddings), though most women would not want the elaborate hoops required for such dresses. The day dresses in thin cotton lawn that feels beautiful feature gorgeous cutwork and irreplaceable handmade lace.

"Each bridal consultation takes about one to two hours," noted Robin, "because we look through the dresses to find exactly the right dress or dresses that speak to the bride, and then determine how to suit her particular taste." A vintage dress can be as little as $500 plus alterations, with re-styled or combined dresses running in the $1,000 range – much less than designer dresses and one-of-a-kind as well.

In addition to bridal gowns and special occasion dresses, Recapture Vintage Bridal offers vintage smaller dresses suitable for flower girls, even Victorian christening dresses.

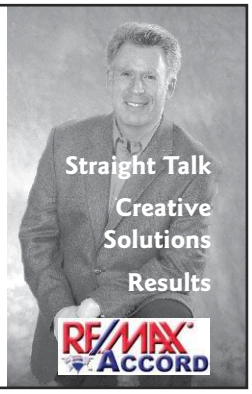
Robin also offers an amazing array of vintage hats from the '20s through the '50s, in various colors, which can be customized. Her collection includes vintage jackets and shrugs in white, black and colors, along with modern versions in silk and other fabrics, which are made locally.

Bridal accessories are a specialty of the store as well. Robin makes headpieces from vintage crowns, "birdcage" headpieces and headbands. Brides can choose a headband or crown and she can customize it with a veil, pearls, or other ornaments to complete the look.

For a one-of-a-kind wedding, contact Recapture Vintage Bridal. You'll have the chance to recapture the beauty and elegance of the days of handmade lace and beading, and make something that is new and old for your special day.

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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)

Joint RCPC-NCPC Town Hall Meeting will be about personal safety. Thursday, July 24, 7pm. See details, page 1. Rockridge Library, upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Avenue 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: 7/16, 8/6, 8/20. Note: no story time 9/3.
- **Pajama Story Time**: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. 7pm: **extra story time, July only, on 7/29. See special events**.

Special Events for Kids and Families:

- **Family Reading Fun Workshop**: hands-on events that each includes a story time and literacy activity. Ages 2 to 5 and their parents/caregivers invited. Saturday, 7/26, 8/9, 10:30am. (coincides with Toddler Story Time).
- **Book Buddies**: kids 3 to 10 will team up with teen volunteers who will read with them. Sign up at Children's Reference desk for one-on-one time with your own book buddy. Spaces available for both readers and listeners. Wednesdays, 2 to 4pm: through 8/6. Info: 597-5017.
- **Summer Reading Program:** through Aug.9. Kids of all ages can sign up and earn prizes for reading.
- **Magic by Andrew Chang**: classic magic show, Tues. 7/15, 7pm.
- **Local Storyteller Joel Ben Izzy**: Tues. 7/22, 7pm.
- **Insect Discovery Lab**: a quick peek at some creepy crawlies for pre-school age kids. Wed. 7/30, 11am.
- **Book Making** with East Bay Depot: hands-on fun for all ages. Tues., 8/5, 7pm.
- **Opera Piccola**: *Mirrors of Mumbai.* Live theater for all ages. Tues. 8/12, 7pm.

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.
- **Guitar Hero III Video Game Tournament (GH III)**: 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.
- **End of Summer party for Book Buddy Volunteers**: call Susy, 597-5017, for date and time.

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FOR ADULTS:

- **Writer's Support /Critique Group:** ALL writers welcome. Third Saturday each month, 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+): 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.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice**. First Tuesday each month from 6 to 8pm. Advance sign-up starts 5pm. More information: 597-5017.

ART EXHIBITS

Gallery: July: **Cliff Dunning:** portraits of Rockridge Firefighters.

Aug.: **Irving Wiltshire**: photos and watercolors.

Sept.: **Oparna Ewing**, Quilt Group.

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

Aug.: **Marcia Weisbrot**: paper and textile sculptures

Sept.: **Barry Paul:** china marker and pen drawings.

LIBRARY HOURS:
Mon. and Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed., Thurs. and Sat. 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri., 12 to 5:30pm. Closed Sundays also Mon., 9/1 (Labor Day) and Tues., 9/9 (Admissions Day).

An Evening with the Peace Corps

Volunteers work in 74 countries in education, health, business, environment and more. No upper age limit to join. Information sessions Monday, 7/21 and 8/18, 6 to 7:30pm, Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave. More info: Nick Bosustow, 452-8444, nbosustow@peacecorps.gov, or www.peacecorps.gov.

Diesel Readings and Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Thursday, 7/10, 6:30pm. Students from **UC Berkeley Young Writers Camp** reading from their final project.
- Monday, 7/14 & 8/11, 7:30pm. **Amnesty Int'l** meeting.
- Sunday, 7/20, 3pm: **Ethan Canin**: *America America*.

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.

Pasta Shop: Book Signing and Tasting

- Saturday, 7/19, 2- 4pm. **Dana Jacobi:** *Essential Best Foods Cookbook: 225 Irresistible Recipes Featuring the Healthiest and Most Delicious Foods*.
- Saturday, 8/23, 1 - 3pm. Local celebrated chef **Joyce Goldstein**: *Mediterranean Fresh: A Compendium of One-Plate Salad Meals and Mix-and-Match Dressings*.

At each event, free recipe samples and ingredients will be offered to taste. The Pasta Shop, Rockridge Market Hall, 5655 College Ave. Info: 250-6005.

Jazz at the Chimes

The Oakland Jazz Choir Fundraiser Concert, Reception and Silent Auction. Silent Auction bidding starts at 1pm; Concert at 2pm, followed by a reception to meet the Choir, enjoy refreshments and finish the silent auction. Sunday, July 20. Tickets: $28 general/$20 students & seniors in advance available through http://www.brownpapertickets.com or $33 general/$25 at the door, (based on availability). Jazz Choir info: http://www.oaklandjazzchoir.com. 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

Jeff and Vidya: bluegrass, blues, ballads and original songs. Sunday, 7/27. House opens at 2:30pm. Inside venue (not wheelchair accessible). 383 61st Street. $15-20 suggested donation for musicians (cash only at the door). For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

Photo Exhibits

- Show by Rockridge photographer **Paula Li**: *Frozen Warmth*. Photos of polar bears. Also photos of Greece. Now through August 11. Sahaira, 5510 College Ave. Info: 653-6466.
- Winners of the Oakbook Photography Competition. Photos by **Emmanuel Canteras, Russ Osterweil** and **Christian Ericksen**. Now through 8/31. Christensen Heller Gallery, 5829 College Ave. For hrs. call 655-5952.

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 and more. **Special Events:**

- **BIG Flea Market**: Saturday, Aug. 2, 8am – 4:30pm. Clean out your closets and garage; vendor spaces now available; $10 (cash only). Sign up at reception desk in office.
- **National Night Out Block Party**: join us to fight crime with an ice cream social, refreshments, fun and visits from the Police and Fire Depts. Tuesday, Aug. 5, 6:30pm. Call the Center for updates on this event.

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. For other details, call 597- 5085.

Give Blood and Get Gas

Support the American Red Cross Blood Drives. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or go to www.BeADonor.com to schedule a donation appointment. Every week, July through September, there will be a drawing for a $100 Gas Gift Card. Grand Prize in September is a $1,000 Gas Gift Card. More information from American Red Cross No. Calif. Blood Services Region, 6230 Claremont Ave., 594-5205.

11th Annual Bay to Barkers Dog Walk/Run and Festival

Join hundreds of dog lovers for a 1.3 mile Dog Walk or 5K Fun Run. Activities for canines including Doggy Olympiad games, the world's longest doggy line dance and a "Do You Look Like Your Dog?" contest. Come with or without a canine companion. Sunday, July 20, 8:30am to 1pm. Registration begins 8:30am; dog walk/run starts 10am. Cesar Chavez Park a the Berkeley Marina; 11 Spinnaker Way (N end of University Ave). Advance registration, $25 per dog (or $30 day of event). Register at www.berkeleyhumane.org. Proceeds benefit homeless animals at Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society. More info: C. Shelby, 845-7735 x13 or cshelby@berkeleyhumane.org.

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