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THE Rockridge News

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

NCPC-RCPC Town Hall Meeting AGENDA November 2008

Thursday, November 20, 7:00 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue at Manila, Community Room (Upstairs)

Neighborhood quality of life is the theme of the joint RCPC-NCPC Town Hall Meeting to be held Thursday, November 20, at 7 p.m.

Oakland City Attorney John Russo will discuss his plans to prosecute chronic non-felony crimes affecting the community's quality of life. He will also discuss the Neighborhood Law Corps (NLC), community lawyers for Oakland, working to improve Oakland neighborhoods by taking on drug sales, substandard housing, blight and other public nuisances.

- **7-7:30 p.m.: Presentations on two projects watched by the RCPC Land Use Committee:**
  - **the 102-unit "Creekside" project on the Global Video site**
  - **the proposed expansion of the Rockridge Montessori School**
- **7:30-8 p.m.: NCPC reports and discussion of neighborhood issues with OPD police officers**
- **8-9 p.m.: John Russo**



Aswarm with goblins, witches, ghosts and popular action heroes, College Avenue's reality merged with fantasy as groups of costumed kids and shepherding parents visited

Halloween, page 4

Fourth Bore Challenge Gets Day in Court

In November 2007, six neighborhood and environmental groups – including the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) and FROG – known collectively as the Fourth Bore Coalition (FBC), filed suit against Caltrans based on its failure to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The lawsuit argued that Caltrans failed to adequately address serious noise, health, and traffic issues that would result from the proposed Fourth Bore project during and after its construction. The project would add a fourth tunnel (bore) to the Caldecott Tunnel over the course of a year's construction.

The lawsuit's filing sparked extended negotiations between Caltrans and FBC, and separate negotiations between the

Fourth Bore Suit, page 5

Council Vote Preserves Oakland Arts Funding

Striving to maintain as many city services as possible while simultaneously preserving a workable budget, Oakland City councilmembers debated most of the night of October 21 to determine elements of the final budget.

Often a loser in late-night budget horse-trading sessions, Art survived the wrangling. Rejecting a proposal by council President Ignacio De La Fuente and Councilmember Jean Quan to cut Oakland's Cultural Arts Program, a council majority voted for $1.1 million in arts funding.

As Muse Ortrun Niesar explains below, the decision was likely influenced by the more than 100 artists and art supporters who spoke out at the budget hearing. — *Ed.*

THE Rockridge MUSE

by Ortrun Niesar

100 Reasons for Keeping Arts Funding Alive

On October 21 the arts community rallied in extraordinary numbers at City Hall to stave off a disastrous decision being weighed by the City Council.

To help correct the current budget

The Muse: Arts Funding, page 7

Bulletin: Creekside Project

The Creekside project will be heard by the Planning Commission on Wednesday, November 19. See Land Use Committee report, page 3, for details.

SB 375: Potential for Rural Preservation, Higher Urban Density

by Jason Burke, RCPC boardmember

SB 375, a bill intended to reduce greenhouse gases by encouraging higher density, transit-oriented development in California cities has been signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

This complex bill implements greenhouse gas reduction goals set out in AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. It directs the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to target reducing greenhouse gas emissions from private automobiles by encouraging higher density, transit-oriented development and shifting away from low-density suburban development, often referred to as urban sprawl.

Regional transportation planning agencies will be required to create sustainable communities strategies (SCS) that will synchronize housing, jobs and transportation planning. Financial incentives are included to encourage cities to apply these strategies by reallocating transportation project funding from highway construction that has traditionally served suburban development in favor of increased funding for public transportation, and increased urban densities to foster the use of public transportation.

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) will guide the creation of the new SCS for the Bay Area.

The new law also includes provisions for streamlined California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review for transit-oriented projects that are consistent with the SCS. For example, the law specifies "that any EIR prepared for a [conforming] project … shall not be required to reference, describe, or discuss a reduced residential density alternative to address the effects of car and light-duty truck trips generated by the project." Local governments were able to lobby lawmakers to soften the requirements of the law by allowing local General Plans (which guide land use decisions) to be inconsistent with the SCS.

New mixed-use infill development projects may qualify for exemptions from in-depth CEQA review, if they are consistent with the SCS. New development projects within one-half mile of a BART station or other transit corridors that meet minimum density requirements and include at least a one-half residential component could be exempt from CEQA. By streamlining the CEQA process, the State has sought to encourage denser infill development in order to reduce the time people spend in their cars and the commute distance from work to home, major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

Areas within Oakland (and the Bay Area in general) could see further increases in infill mixed-use residential density facilitated by the streamlined development approval process in order meet the bill's goals of providing additional housing closer to jobs in an effort to reduce suburban sprawl and greenhouse gases generated by personal automobile use.

The Law's Effect on Rockridge

In Rockridge, this law could streamline the development approval process for mixed-use residential projects (with up to 200 dwelling units) by creating a CEQA exemption and reducing the requirements for cumulative and traffic related analysis for projects within one-half mile of the BART station in order to increase housing around

Impact: SB 375, page 3

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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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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.

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☛ **December deadline is November 20.**
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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.

5110 Telegraph Avenue

Proposal: To establish a temporary seasonal pumpkin and Christmas tree sales lot.
Contact Person/ Thomas Speers
Phone No.: 510/705-2352
Owner: 5110 Telegraph LLC
Planning Permits Required: Minor Conditional Use permit to allow an open facility with required off-street parking on adjacent lot with existing parking spaces
Case Planner: Maurice Brenyah-Addow at 510/238-6342 or mbrenyah@oaklandnet.com

Impact: SB 375

from page 2

established public transit stops. Since much of the Rockridge area is within a one-half mile of the BART station and other, local, transit corridors, this bill could reduce the ability of the community (and RCPC) to comment during the CEQA review process for future infill development projects proposed within Rockridge.

Sponsored by State Senator Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), Senate Bill 375 was supported by, among other organizations, the California League of Conservation Voters (co-sponsor), the Natural Resources Defense Council (co-sponsor), the American Farmland Trust, the California Council of Land Trusts, the American Lung Association of California, and the California Nurses Association.

Opponents included the Asphalt Pavement Association of California, the Associated General Contractors of California, the California Association of Realtors, the California Building Industry Association, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Orange County Business Council, the Orange County Transportation Authority, the Regional Council of Rural Counties, and others.

RCPC Land Use Committee

Land Use Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, November 26, 7 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman,
RCPC Land Use Committee chair

■ College Avenue Safeway Rebuild (6310 College Avenue at Claremont)

Stakeholder representatives presented a "Proposed Program for Safeway on College" at a meeting held October 1. (The document is available at RCPC's Web site at www.rockridge.org, as well as on Safeway's Web site at www.safewayoncollege.com.) The meeting was mainly devoted to the presentation and discussion of the proposal, which calls for a major renovation of the store, but emphasizes the need for the new store to fit well with the surrounding neighborhood, eliminate impacts on the store's immediate neighbors, and not worsen the already difficult traffic problems in the store's vicinity. Todd Paradis, Safeway's representative, agreed to take the proposal to Safeway's management for response at the stakeholder meeting now set for November 12 at 7 p.m. in the Claremont Middle School gymnasium. In the meantime, a meeting was held October 22 to gather the greater community's creative input about how the store's redesign might look. (Story, page 11.)

■ Hauser/Creekside Residential/ Mixed-use Project (Global Video Site – 5132 Telegraph)

Project applicant Hauser Architects has further redesigned this project, in part because the most recent proposal did not pencil out with financing agents. The revision increases the project's bulk slightly by enlarging the size of the recessed fifth story, but keeps the project height at 55 feet. It also reduces the project from 103 to 102 units, while increasing the average size of the units.

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.

Design drawings and a revised shadow study are available at www.rockridge.org.

The Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project is complete and scheduled for release on or prior to November 7. Hauser plans to request City approval of this newly-revised plan and consideration for approval of the EIR.

The project is expected to go to the Planning Commission for a formal public hearing and possible approval on November 19. (See the Planning Commission agenda at www.oaklandnet.com/government/ceda/revised/planningzoning/Commission/docs/111908_pc_agenda.pdf.) Watch for more details through the RCPC E-news and on www.rockridge.org.

The RCPC Land Use Committee voted unanimously to recommend opposing the project because it fits neither the zoning nor the neighborhood. The RCPC board will consider that recommendation at its November 6 meeting. The final project plans will be presented at RCPC's November Town Hall Meeting (agenda, page 1). Concerned Rockridge residents are urged to attend that meeting and the Planning Commission public hearing to have their say on this large and important project on the border of Rockridge.

■ Rockridge Montessori Expansion Project (5616 Broadway)

The Rockridge Montessori School,

Land Use Update, page 5

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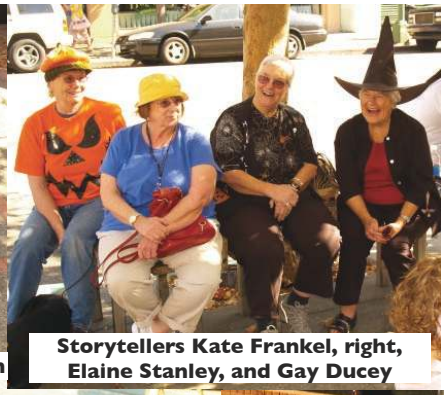
Halloween Parade Seen On College Avenue


Guarding the goodies



Cuttin' Up on College


Ladybug with pumpkin


Storytellers Kate Frankel, right, Elaine Stanley, and Gay Ducey


Rest and reorganization


Music by Mike Taylor


Two princesses


An Incredible(s) kid


Two pirates

Photos: Don Kinkead

Halloween, from page 1

participating merchants, hitting them up for traditional sweets and good humor. The parade, now in its 17th year, is organized and sponsored by the Rockridge District Association (RDA), composed of College Avenue merchants, and the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC).

After Trick-or-Treating on College Avenue, kids and their escorts sat on hay bales in front of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church to listen to storytellers, applaud the "Sparkle Dancers" from New Style Motherlode dance studio on College, and sing-along to classic Halloween oldies played on guitar and sung by Rockridge resident Mike Taylor.

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.

Spontaneous Harwood Heroes Foil Laptop Snatch

Editor:

It was another sunny day in the Rockridge, and I was happy. I was sitting on one of the big comfortable window seats at Spasso Coffee on College when a kid reached through the window and ripped my laptop off of my lap.

It was 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 2. I had the computer back within four hours.

Rumors fly in Rockridge. I think it is because we know each other: the neighbors, and the regulars of the coffee houses, pubs and restaurants. The rumor Al, who lives across the street, heard from Kris, who lives down the street, heard from Painter Dave, a Barclay regular, heard from another Barclay's regular… is that I tackled the thief and reclaimed my computer. Although I like that I get to be a super-hero in that version of the story, the truth is that I did follow my computer out the window, but fell down just after I jumped. Luckily, I belted out the primordial yelp, "Stop that thief!" before I hit the pavement. The real heroes are the College Avenue locals.

As I have come to expect, Chris, my next-door neighbor, was there. He had helped me purchase the computer and knew it better than I did. He described it to the police and even helped me file the homeowner's insurance claim. Erik S. was on College when he heard me scream. He took down the license plate number of the get-away car. Officer C. took the report, walked me home, and informed me the get-away car was not stolen. An officer was already waiting at the registration holder's home.

Raymond E. also heard my yelp for help. Later, riding BART on his way home from Barclay's, he recognized the thief and phoned the BART police. The passenger from the get-away car was carrying my computer when she and the thief were arrested at the Powell Street BART station. BART police then phoned me, using contact information from my computer. Less than two hours had passed.

At 8:30 p.m., Chris took me to Oakland Police headquarters where Officer C. allowed me to meet the perpetrator. He was a young, innocent looking 19-year-old. He apologized when I told him he scared me. I was scared to think of what would happen to him in jail. I felt sorry for his mom; she works in Berkeley.

Before I met him at the police station, I had no idea what the thief looked like. I am a Physician Assistant student. I am trained in objective observation, but I was not working at my rotation in Highland Hospital's Emergency Department. I was sitting in my favorite seat, in my favorite coffee house. I was enjoying my latte, logging my patients. My response was, in part, typical. It is what criminals count on. Chances are a surprised and scared victim will not react or recognize the perpetrator.

As a student, I spend an inordinate amount of time in College Avenue coffee houses. The other night at A 'Cuppa Tea, I was working on a paper. A guy plopped down in the

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Land Use Update

from page 3

located on Broadway at Manila Avenue proposes to convert a previously purchased residence to further expand the school. Converting the residence would increase their maximum enrollment from 132 to approximately 187 children. The school currently occupies two buildings, including a recently-acquired former church on Manila Avenue. Past school expansions have been controversial with nearby neighbors. This latest proposal could reignite that controversy.

RCPC has asked the school to provide a short presentation on its current plans at the November 20 joint NCPC-RCPC Town Hall Meeting.

- **Red Oak Realty (5915 College Avenue – Dreyer's Building)**

The RCPC Land Use Committee unanimously recommended, and the RCPC board unanimously adopted, a position to oppose Red Oak Realty's plans to move its Oakland office from the current location at the corner of Pleasant Valley Road and Broadway to the street floor of the Dreyer's building, a space currently occupied by Cotton & Co, which is closing.

While the board appreciated Red Oak Realty's local ownership and commitment to community service, it felt that it was important to protect the retail orientation of the College Avenue ground level street frontage. This was especially important given the key location of the Dreyer's building.

Consistent with this position, the board also adopted a more general policy of opposing non-retail uses on the ground floor along College Avenue.

The board's position has been conveyed to Red Oak Realty, as well as to Dreyer's and the City.

Who's That Knocking? NCPC Tells All About City Permits to Solicit

by Annette Floysrup, RCPC boardmember

Do you open the door to solicitors? Should you? Are they doing something illegal going door-to-door? Who are they, typically?

October's Neighborhood Crime Prevention Committee (NCPC) meeting included a discussion of Oakland's requirements for legal door-to-door solicitation: what permits are required, what people should expect, and what to do when someone comes to the door.

About Legal Door-to-Door Solicitation

OPD recommends that you always call the non-emergency number, 777-3333, when there are solicitors on your street. Tell Dispatch that your NCPC and area Problem Solving Officer (PSO) have advised you that they want these reports. Time allowing, OPD will ask these solicitors for ID. According to OPD, many have police records and some have outstanding warrants.

OPD beat and PSOs emphasized that you should never open the door to a solicitor. Often, solicitors use the time talking to you while looking beyond you into your house to case it for a later burglary. According to OPD, many solicitors are poor people recruited from other states by quasi-legitimate companies, then forced to work long hours for little pay and poor lodging and who are sometimes denied food for not making large quotas. Many of these are

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Fourth Bore Suit

from page 1

City of Oakland and Caltrans. The negotiations, made at the behest of FBC to Councilmember Jane Brunner and other Oakland councilmembers, resulted in a settlement of Oakland's threatened lawsuit against Caltrans.

The settlement between Caltrans and Oakland contains a promise to fund $8 million in mitigations of noise and traffic impacts of the project, most of which were also requested by FBC from Caltrans.

However, given the immense size of the project, FBC believes that the Oakland/Caltrans settlement is woefully inadequate to address additional substantial negative and lasting impacts the project will have on Rockridge and nearby neighborhoods. Those impacts include increased noise during construction and after it is completed, increased and continuing pollution at schools and parks located alongside Highway 24, and increased traffic on city streets in the area.

Caltrans has been unwilling to address these remaining serious impacts, so FBC continued with its lawsuit.

The suit came to trial on October 31 before Judge Roesch, with Tony Rossman and Stuart Flashman representing the FBC, including RCPC and FROG.

In the packed courtroom were several spectators in support of the FBC, and several Caltrans representatives.

After hearing 3-1/2 hours of spirited argument, Judge Roesch noted that the case involved several issues, and continued the trial to Wednesday, November 5, at 9 a.m., before the same court.

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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Fall Colors

I love the Bay Area, but as a transplanted East Coaster I miss the colors of the autumn leaves. As graduate students, Gail and I lived in Amherst, Massachusetts. During the fall, we would take long rides throughout western New England to marvel at the annual display of the fall colors. Although I miss the autumn leaves, I find the beauty of our Bay Area fall season in the variety of intense colors found in the produce available at our Rockridge green grocers and farmers' market.

An annual ritual I started in my years living in western Massachusetts is to buy all types of gourds, Indian corn, and mini pumpkins to display in my home. I always hang mini Indian corns on my door to announce the fall season. I marvel at the array of colors that proclaim it is autumn. I've been known to buy an abundance of different types of fall fruits and vegetables to create my own still-life canvas. Sometimes I don't cook or eat them; I just enjoy how they light up my kitchen. Here are three of my autumn favorites:

Apples

A is for apple. When Gail and I later left N.Y. for Amherst, we lived next to Atkins Farm. Each fall, we would buy baskets of McIntosh apples to eat out of hand or to make apple sauce. Today there are literally hundreds of varieties of apples to choose from: green Granny Smiths, pink Galas, red Delicious, and reddish-pink Fujis, to name a few found in our local markets. I am particularly partial to Fujis, which have a firm, crisp texture and tartish sweetness. My new favorite is the Ambrosia apple. I tried it at Market Hall Produce and it is by far the best apple I've ever tasted.

Persimmons

The first of the persimmons have come to market. The Fuyu and Hachiya are both Japanese varieties with a full-on autumn color. Fuyus can be eaten like an apple and are terrific in salads. Hachiya persimmons are best used baked and to make persimmon pudding. When buying Fuyus, look for those that are deep orange and firm but not rock hard. If using Hachiyas for baking or making pudding, be sure to let them get very soft before preparing them.

Pomegranates

My other favorite autumn fruit is the pomegranate. Native to Persia, pomegranates were brought to Spain by the Moors in the 9th century. Did you know that the Andalusian city of Granada was named for them? In the 18th century, pomegranates were brought to California by Spanish settlers. Once difficult to find, pomegranates are now available in most produce markets.

Removing Pomegranate seeds

Here is a trick I learned in culinary school for the easy removal of the tiny edible seeds:

- Fill a large bowl with cold water.
- Score the pomegranate's leathery skin in four places from stem to root.
- Place the pomegranate in the water. With your hands, crack open the fruit and pull the seeds apart from the white pulp. The seeds will sink to the bottom of the bowl and the pulp will float to the top.
- Scoop out the pulp and drain the water through a fine mesh strainer to capture the seeds.

By the way, Trader Joe's carries packed pomegranate seeds, but it's much more fun to get your hands dyed red.

Using Pomegranate seeds

Here are some ideas for using pomegranate seeds:

- Scatter over a mix of salad greens, sliced persimmons, goat cheese and chopped walnuts
- Top a fruit salad with yogurt and pomegranate seeds.
- Sprinkle seeds over orange slices, drizzle with orange-flower water (Pasta Shop), and cinnamon, sugar and lemon juice. Very Moroccan.

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

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The Muse: Arts Funding

from page 1

shortfall in the City of Oakland, a proposal was made to suspend funding for the Cultural Arts Department, thereby putting Oakland's cultural funding program into danger. The money that would be saved was about $1.4 million. In the alternative, 14 jobs would have to be cut.

The Council seemed prepared to abandon the arts community and the enormous constituency it serves. The number of citizens benefitting from the cultural arts programs is staggering. Cultural arts grants currently fund over 10,000 hours of arts instruction in our underserved public schools. Nevertheless, after years of cuts, the amount is less than 50% of what it should be. Total elimination of the Cultural Arts Department and the end of arts funding in the future is a very real possibility.

That is simply not acceptable; Oakland is home to more artists per capita than any other city in America with the exception of New York City. Arts funding is a low-cost community investment with consistently high return. Although the average income per working artist is about $19,000, artists are an economic force to be reckoned with, statistically returning $9 to the community for every $1 of grant money received.

That evening over 100 speakers from the arts community took the mike at City Hall to present what turned out to be a lesson in Civilization 101.

Speakers included dozens of arts organization members, artists, home owners, business operators, neighborhood leaders, restaurateurs, developers, vendors, musicians, librarians, youth counselors, school teachers, children and seniors. Their message was forceful, clear and unrelenting: the cultural arts are not a luxury but a basic human activity. They are the cornerstone of any civilization. A city that does not support its arts is destined for obsolescence.

Following are some keywords I jotted down as I listened to the speeches. They describe the targets and outcomes of creative activity that often represent our first line of defense and our last hope against alienation, fear, loneliness, oppression, ignorance, poverty, violence and death:

"Access Adaptability Architecture Awareness Beauty Caring Civilization Commitment Communication Community Confidence Crafts Creativity Culture Dance Development Design Diversity Drama Economics Education Entertainment Entrepreneurship Equality Ethnicity Food Freedom Friendship Giving Happiness Healing Helping Health Heritage History Hope Imagination Income Jobs Joy Justice Kids Language Learning Listening Literature Marketing Memory Mental Health Money Music Neighborhood Need Nurturing Opportunity Peace Performance Philanthropy Play Pleasure Poetry Preservation Professional Development Programming Reality Reading Recreation Respect Responsibility Safe Harbor Schools Self-Realization Self-Reliance Self-Esteem Seniors Sharing Shelter Skills Society Soul Storytelling Survival Talent Teaching Thanks Tourism Training Understanding Vision Volunteering Writing Wealth Youth

I am happy to report that common sense prevailed. The programs, though curtailed, will stay intact for the time being. But what will the future hold?

On Tuesday, November 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m., an Arts Advocacy planning session will be held at Pro Arts, 550 Second Street in Jack London Square, to help stake out a permanent claim for the cultural arts in Oakland. You are invited to work alongside arts and community leaders, parents and educators for this cause. Go to info@proartsgallery.org, or call 510/763-4361.



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RED OAK REALTY

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Closing Dte	BR/Bth		Address	Original Price	DOM	LP	SP
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10/3/2008	2	2	5340 Broadway Terr	$649,000	33	$649,000	$588,000
10/16/2008	3	2	93 Clarewood Lane	$775,000	48	$749,000	$724,000
10/15/2008	3	2	5216 Miles Avenue	$849,000	14	$849,000	$841,500
10/2/2008	3	2	5366 Miles Avenue	$939,000	10	$939,000	$915,000
10/16/2008	3	2	6090 N Rockridge Bvd	$1,250,000	13	$1,250,000	$1,300,000

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Construction Project Offers New Lessons to Chabot School

by Colby Lavin, RCPC boardmember

"It will be the highest quality building we've done in the [Oakland Unified School] District in 30 or 40 years!" OUSD Acting Director of Facilities Tadashi Nakadegawa told the Chabot PTA and community this fall about the new additions under construction at Chabot Elementary School.

Three years ago, there were no imminent plans for such an exciting improvement to Chabot; a lot has happened and been learned since then.

Community involvement has proved instrumental in developing a plan that works for Chabot students, teachers, and parents, as well as for the Chabot neighborhood. "We learned that reaching out to the community for feedback was extremely valuable. For example, the placement of the new buildings has a substantial impact on the neighborhood feel and safety. As a result, the new buildings will be set back from the street to allow for excellent visibility into the open playground spaces and to create a more visually appealing landscape," said Polly Ikonen, communications liaison for the Chabot Long Range Planning (LRP) committee.

Major construction projects can be perplexing and even scary for some elementary students, so Chabot learned how to integrate student input into the project. In early 2007, fourth- and fifth-grade students drew renderings of what they wanted the new buildings and landscaping to look like. Architects then incorporated aspects of the most promising student work and used the students' names as the titles for the designs they submitted. This invlovement helped students feel pride and ownership in the new addition.



◄ At Chabot School's Groundbreaking/ Reunion Party last June, current students got acquainted with those who had attended the school in past years. Chiyo Nakamoto, Chabot class of 1939, is joined by current students Nicola Schulte, left front, Natalie Bettendorf, behind, Sara Ikonen, and Meta Austin. Ms. Nakamoto's grandson, Matthew Ching, attended kindergarten at Chabot in 2006-07, before his family moved back to Hawaii.

PHOTO AND CAPTION: *CHABOT WAY TO GROW!*

More recently, the PTA's *Chabot: Way to Grow!* fundraising campaign, which aims to raise over $300,000 to complete the campus "master plan," has learned how to incorporate local businesses into the project. The campaign recently partnered with Dreyer's Ice Cream Parlor and Becky's Chinese Restaurant, who pledged proceeds to support the school. Further business and foundation collaborations are under discussion.

The *Way to Grow!* campaign is also developing ways to involve the students in fundraising, including a "kids' guide" with ideas they can implement individually or within their classrooms. When the classroom goal is met, the students will be able to take pride in how they helped make Chabot a beautiful school, garden, and park.

The importance of a hands-on liaison between Chabot, OUSD, contractors, architects and the community became evident as the project entered its active phase last summer. Shelly Fierston, a parent volunteer and self-professed detail-oriented person, took on the role of construction liaison. Shelly acts as an information conduit for the groups involved in the construction effort, a role critical to minimizing confusion and maximizing efficiency.

Another lesson learned is that "these types of projects take longer than you expect," said Melissa Newel, chair of the LRP. Originally planned to be ready for the start of the 2009-10 academic year, the new building's completion date is now December 4, 2009, due to the project's complexity.

Given the outstanding facility to be built for the community, the three month delay doesn't dampen enthusiasm for the project; Chabot Principal Jonathan Mayer says he is very excited about the new additions to the campus.

Until the additions are complete, Principal Mayer and dedicated volunteers will work hard to keep Rockridge informed and to keep the project moving along smoothly.

To learn more, to donate to the *Chabot: Way to Grow!* campaign, or to get involved, go to www.chabotelementary.org or e-mail construction@chabotelementary.org.



◄ When completed, Chabot School's new campus will have the original 1927 school building (refurbished), a new classroom building (pictured to the right of the existing school building), and a new multi-purpose building large enough to accommodate the entire school for assemblies, as well as a newly landscaped playground.

GRAPHIC AND CAPTION: *CHABOT WAY TO GROW!*

Recruiting and Retaining Teachers

Join Oakland School Board directors Kerry Hamill and Jody London at the District 1 Town Hall meeting on Monday, November 17, 7-9 p.m. at Piedmont Avenue School, 4314 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland. The topic: "How Oakland recruits and retains teachers."

Kids Walk and Roll to Chabot

by Jennifer Vetter

October was International Walk to School Month, and the Chabot School community went all out to celebrate the event on October 8. Many families left their cars at home, travelling to school on foot or on bicycles, skateboards, scooters and roller skates. A big "walking school bus" gathered at the corner of Manila and Broadway, and another at the corner of Chabot and College Avenue.

The Chabot Safety Patrol came out in full force to manage the always busy Chabot-Patton intersection and to help distribute stickers, "Oakland Walks to School" pencils, and neon-colored reflective backpack tags. Firefighters from Station 19 on Miles Avenue brought their truck onto the lower yard and supported the kids with their star presence. A Clif Bar crew set up a stand and handed out lots of free samples.

The final tally posted on the Transportation Mode wall charts showed that 168 people walked to school, 48 bicycled, 12 took a bus, and 27 drove in cars. There were 50 bicycles in the three bicycle racks. (Not everyone checked in, so there was some underreporting in all categories.)

Nora Cody, former Chabot parent and now director of Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Alameda County, guided the event's planning and publicity and visited Chabot on the big day itself. More than 60 schools in Alameda County – 40 in Oakland – participated in the event; Chabot was pleased to get so much of her attention. Walk to School Day also had great coverage from ABC Channel 7 morning news, KTVU Channel 2 news, KGO Radio, and Mingpao Daily newspaper.

Our local SRTS program is made possible by a grant from Measure B, Alameda County's half-cent transportation sales tax, administered by Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA), and by support from Kaiser Permanente's Community Benefits Program.





International Walk to School Month

International Walk to School Month gives children, parents, school teachers and community leaders an opportunity to be part of a global event as they celebrate the many benefits of walking. In 2007, millions of walkers from around the world walked to school together for various reasons – all hoping to create communities that are safe places to walk.

— From the group's Web site. More information at http://www.iwalktoschool.org/index.htm

Safe Routes to Schools

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs aim to make walking and bicycling to school a safe and appealing form of transportation. Federal legislation and funding currently exist to support SRTS efforts, but these funds alone cannot meet all the needs of communities across the United States. Most programs can benefit from a mixture of local, state, federal, and private funding.

— From the SRTS Web site. More information at http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/index.cfm

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Rockridge Kid Task Force and Claremont School Work Together to Build Positive Climate, Community

by Danica Truchlikova, RCPC boardmember

Following up on its successful Claremont Community Day when 8th-grade Claremont Middle School students visited College Avenue merchants, Rockridge District Association (RDA) executive director Sarah Lamb announced that her group has formed the Rockridge Kid Task Force to work with the school to continue to build a positive environment in, and outside of, the school.

Stating the group's mission statement, "The Rockridge Kid Task Force is committed to building a positive climate while creating a stronger sense of community between residents, students and merchants throughout the Rockridge area," Lamb described the goals of a recent proposal for a joint merchant-residents adopt-a-classroom program:

- Build a more cohesive, positive community of students, merchants, and residents
- Create real-life educational experiences for students
- Provide curriculum that engages students and enables merchants and residents to make meaningful connections with the student body
- Encourage dialogue between students and adults about issues facing the community and society as a whole.

Lamb said the group will soon distribute an Adopt-A-Classroom survey to local merchants and nearby residents. Responses will help formulate content for student-faculty advisory groups that work to more fully integrate students into school life. The program is expected to begin in January 2009.

Also, based on the success of February's Community Day, 7th graders will participate in their own Community Day on Friday, November 21.

The first task force meeting was held in June and attended by representatives of the RDA, the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), the Oakland Police and Oakland School Police departments, and several residents who live near the school.

The meetings, held monthly, are also attended by Claremont Middle School principal David Chambliss, and representatives of the PTA and student council. Initial meetings were devoted to developing practical proposals.

The task force meetings are open to all Rockridge residents. The committee welcomes new ideas and community input. To participate in the Adopt-A-Classroom program, to be a chaperone for the 7th grade Community Day, or to learn more about the group, contact Sarah Lamb at 510/604-3125.

A Farewell to Rockridge: Cotton & Co to Close

It is with deep sadness that I will be closing my store on December 15. During the last 19 years I have watched your children grow and shared your triumphs in raising a family. This has truly been a wonderful time in my life and has given me many precious memories of each of you. Your joys have been my joys. You have given me a huge extended family and we have had many laughs over my being the "bra queen."

Many of you have heard of my husband's passing in July, my efforts to try to keep his business concerns intact and running – and now my own health concerns – which has led me to re-evaluate, to smell the roses and to focus on taking care of myself.

As a result, I have decided to relocate to Davis to be near my daughter and my precious grandchildren Ella, Christopher, and Patrick.

As with all of us, life changes and we go with the flow – not always what we want the most, but eventually what is best. I have tried to sell my business, but with the way the economy is today and the shift to Internet sales, I have not been successful. As a result, my only feasible option is to buy out my remaining lease term and allow the landlord to find a suitable replacement tenant.



College Avenue shoppers make a final trip to Cotton & Co before its closing.
Photo: Don Kinkead

I have been a proud member of the Rockridge community for many years and thank each and every customer for supporting my store and making me a part of your family.

Please stop by in the next few months so we may say goodbye and so you can take advantage of our closing sale. There are lots of beautiful things for the holidays and, of course, we will still be fitting shoes for your children.

We will be packing boxes on December 16 with the remaining merchandise to be distributed to the needy in our community. Let me know if you have an organizaton that we may have forgotten to include. I want to make Christmas special for as many as possible.

— Claudette von Rusten

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Safeway Design Debated at Brainstorming Meeting

by Annette Floystrup, RCPC boardmember

The design and amenities of the building proposed to replace the current Safeway supermarket at College and Claremont avenues were debated in another of a series of "stakeholder" meetings convened by Safeway to "harness the neighborhood's creativity to generate ideas that Safeway can use in the new store design."

Stakeholders are representatives from the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), the Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association (CENA), the Rockridge District Association (RDA), the "Concerned Neighbors of College Ave Safeway" group, the store's Alcatraz Avenue residential neighbors, an independent Rockridge resident, and local merchants.

The meeting area in the Claremont Middle School gymnasium was divided into discussion topics agreed upon as of concern by all stakeholder groups: Exterior of Building/Store, Interior of Store, Parking, Landscaping, Contiguous Neighbor Buffer and Traffic. Participants in each topic were asked to elaborate on their wishes for the new store design.

> The next Stakeholder's meeting date is November 12, 7 - 9 p.m., in the Claremont Middle School gymnasium. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Comments from all topic groups, except Landscape and Store Interior, related to the size and bulk of the store. Interior wanted wider aisles, but did not want store aisles used for storage as at the South Shore Alameda store. (At the October 1 meeting, Safeway provided plans for the College Avenue (23,000 sq.ft.), Grand Avenue (26,000 sq.ft.), Fruitvale (28,000 sq.ft.), Cabrillo (San Francisco) (28,000 sq.ft.), and South Shore (Alameda) (64,000 sq.ft.) stores. Plans for these stores (see Web site addresses at end of article) revealed no significant differences in aisle widths regardless of store size.

Landscape (and Parking) wanted a more attractive parking lot with shade trees and additional landscaping.

Traffic wanted better bus access and bike lanes on College Avenue, given preliminary figures indicating 65% of the shoppers drive and 35% are non-drivers. The possibility of a delivery fleet such as at the Walnut Creek Rossmoor store was also raised.

Store Exterior and Landscaping both touched on the idea of an outdoor public gathering space with seating, potentially tied to a Safeway deli.

Rockridge residents who have shopped at the South Shore Safeway report that, although the store is almost three times larger than the College Avenue store, the selection of goods is almost identical; there are just larger quantities of each item on the shelves.

Neighbors contiguous to Safeway on upper Alcatraz Avenue (Berkeley) have had ongoing and specific concerns regarding noise from delivery trucks, the trash compactor, HVAC and refrigeration units and a rodent problem. Todd Paradis, real estate manager for this Safeway project, made arrangements for a unit at Safeway to work with the neighbors after two years of fruitless efforts to engage Safeway to address these problems.

Forty-five people attended the meeting, held October 22. Visit Safeway's site at www.safewayoncollege.com for further information. Also visit RCPC's Web site at www.rockridge.org for up-to-the-minute news and information.

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A Future of Hope

Creaky Site Seeks Support

RCPC's web site has grown tired and tattered over the years. An early entrant on the Web scene, the site is now hobbled by dated code and overlayered styles. Time for a change! We are seeking designers and coders to work with us on an update now in progress. Got time? Interested? Jump into the mix. E-mail chair@rockridge.org to tell us of your interest and availability.

Letters

from page 4

next seat. Startled, I grabbed my computer. I looked him straight in the eyes. I was afraid, but I can describe him. I am determined not to let fear stop me. I have ordered a cable lock for my computer. Once it comes, I will be back in my seat by the open window at Spasso, logging my patients and enjoying Rockridge.

— Ingrid Zina Pampalone, Rockridge Resident

Welcome, oaklandnorth.net!

Whoever gleefully announced that "print is dead" missed the transmigration of print from ink on paper to pixels on computer screens. The proliferation of blogs, on-line journals and newsletters, not to mention e-mail, confirms that print is, in fact, wildly alive.

A recent local addition to the digital print world is www.oaklandnorth.net, one of a group of regional on-line newsletters produced by students at Cal's Graduate School of Journalism in a project funded by a Ford Foundation grant. The goal is to provide communities with the news coverage lost as traditional news sources shrink.

RCPC and The Rockridge News welcome oaklandnorth.net and anticipate a rewarding, collaborative relationship in the telling of Rockridge news and stories.

Other newsletters published are: El Cerrito Focus; In Emeryville; East Bay West, covering West Oakland and West Berkeley; and Mission Local, covering San Francisco's Mission district.

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Liz Maxwell	5808 Chabot Road	Paintings, Work on Paper



NCPC Meeting

from page 5

young people who are petty criminals.

Peddler's/Solicitor's permits are issued by the Oakland Police Department. OPD records manager Millie Crossland stated that there are only 23 existing permits, none for the sale of magazine subscriptions. Permits are obtained through a process that includes a photo and fingerprinting. The Peddler's permit has a complete description of the door-to-door salesperson. Such permits are good for one year.

Permits to solicit for charities and religious organizations are issued through the city administrator's office. Barbara Killey, assistant to the city administrator, stated that the City has never issued any such organization a door-to-door permit.

Solicitation permits are typically used by 501(c)(3) registered non-profit groups to raise money. RCPC had such a permit for the donations bucket at the Out and About street fair.

Solicitation Permits in Oakland

by Karen Ivy, NCPC secretary

Oakland issues two kinds of permits to solicit in the city:

1. Commercial peddler's permits, allowing sale of items, issued by the OPD Records Division.

Very few people actually have these permits: the list has only 23 names. Peddlers also have to have an Oakland business license, be fingerprinted, and pay numerous fees: the Master Fee Schedule for the City shows that the Peddler-Solicitor Permit fee is $50, plus $25 for fingerprinting and $32 for a Department of Justice check. It's the impression of OPD records manager Millie Crossland that almost none of the people going door-to-door actually have permits.

If there is a "no solicitors" sign on the door, people with Peddler's permits may not knock. Peddlers are required to show the permit. Citizens may take the peddler's name and complain to the city, if they have a license and have ignored the sign. If they don't have a license, the only recourse is to send them away or not even open the door.

2. Charitable solicitation permits, allowing people to ask for donations, issued by the City Administrator's Office.

The charitable solicitation permit costs $20. The organization must be a registered 501(c)(3), and must give the city a financial report on what they took in. There are only five outstanding ongoing permits (one of which is the group working with people selling the Street Sheet).

Groups may also get a one-day permit which will specify where they can go to solicit; the usual permit is for "store front solicitation" or "street corner solicitation." No door-to-door permit for charitable solicitation has been issued for at least the last four years.

General Note:

Door-to-door signature gatherers who then ask for donations have crossed the line. The First Amendment does not include the right to ask for money.

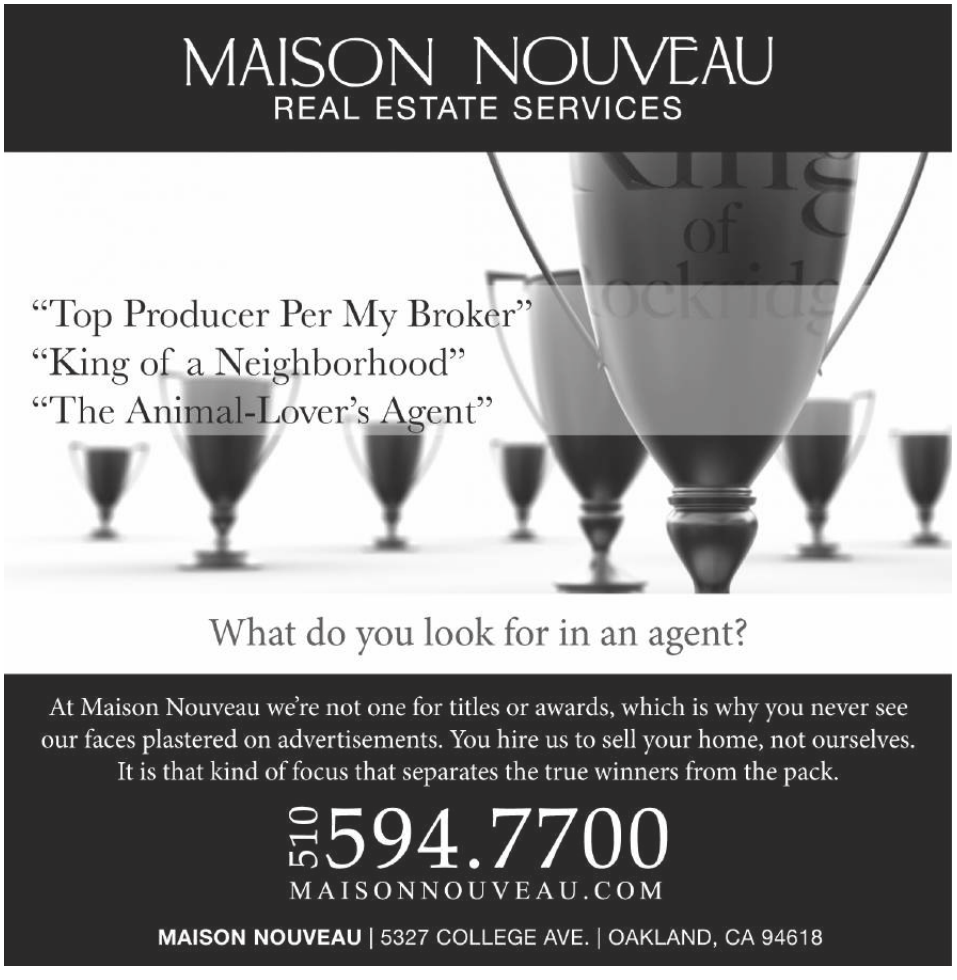
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E-mail *Rockridge News* Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210 (after noon), or mail to: *Rockridge News* Community Calendar, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the 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 attend this month's NCPC meeting, a joint Town Hall meeting with RCPC, on Thursday, November 20, 7-9 p.m, at the Rockridge Library upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Ave. info@rockridgencpc.com or infofordenise@yahoo.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN:

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- **Pre-School Story Time**: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am: 11/19, 12/3.
- **Pajama Story Time:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. 7pm: (**NOTE: Closed 11/11, 11/25, 12/9**.)

FOR TEENS:

- **Rockridge Ninjas (Anime Club): Teens 13 and up**, watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation) with other teens. 5 to 6:30pm in upstairs meeting rm. **NOTE: meet on 11/18 because library closed 11/11 for Veterans' Day**. Info: Susy, 597-5017.

FOR ADULTS:

- **Writers' Support /Critique Group**: ALL writers welcome. **NOTE: Special date for Nov. mtg., Saturday, 11/22**, 1 to 5pm. Bring 12 copies of up to 5 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, upstairs meeting room.
- **The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics: Stacy Malkan**, author of *Not Just a Pretty Face*, will discuss her work to eliminate hazardous chemicals from personal care products. Saturday, 11/15, 2 to 4pm. Sponsored by the local chapters of the AAUW and NOW.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice**. First Tuesday/month, 6 to 8pm. Advance sign-up at 5pm. **Nov. 4 meeting cancelled: Election Day.** Info: 597-5017.

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Art Exhibits

Gallery: Nov.: Judith Mortensen: Pastel and mixed-media collage.

Dec.: Oakland Art Assoc. miniature oil paintings

Lobby Display Case: Nov.: To be announced.

Dec.: John Baldwin, mixed media finger puppets.

LIBRARY HOURS:
Mon. and Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed., Thurs. and Sat. 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri., 12 to 5:30pm. **Closed 11/11, 11/27 – 28.**
Note: call ahead or check Web site for December hours, as library may closed additional days.

Diesel Book Readings and Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Mondays, 11/10, 7:30pm: **Amnesty International Meeting.** All welcome.
- **Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley**.
- Thursday, 11/13, 7pm: Oakland Art History professor **Clark V. Poling**: *Andre Masson and the Surrealist Self.*
- Sunday, 11/16, 3pm: Australian surfing champion **Nat Young**: *The Complete History of Surfing*.
- Thursday, 11/20, 7pm: local author **Eli Brown**: *The Great Days*.
- Sunday, 12/7, 3pm: **Poetry Flash! Rick Barot**; *Want:Poems* and **Vicky Chang:** *Salvinia Molesta*.

DIESEL, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave. Info about other events, book discussion groups and El Grupito, the Spanish discussion group: 653-9965 or www.dieselbookstore.com.

An Evening With the Peace Corps

It's never too late to serve. Volunteers work in 74 countries in education, health, business, environment and more. No upper age limit to join. Information session: Tues., November 25, 6 to 7:30pm, Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave. More info: Nick Bosustow, 452-8444, nbosustow@peacecorps.gov, or www.peacecorps.gov.

Jazz at the Chimes

The Marcus Shelby Trio, Sunday, 11/16, 2pm. Concert followed by artist's reception and refreshments. Tickets: $10-$15. **Kids under 12 free**. Cash only at the door starting at 12:30pm.Sponsored by the Lifemark Group Arts program that features Bay Area talent. Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. Wheelchair accessible. 228-3218 or www.lifemarkgroup.com/oakland/special_events.asp or www.marcusshelby.com/.

Pacific Boychoir Academy Auditions

Boys and young men ages 5 to 18 invited to audition for the Grammy award-winning choir's after-school program on Wednesday, 11/12 from 4:15 to 6pm. No musical knowledge or experience required; choir directors will gauge musical ability and willingness to learn. 410 Alcatraz Ave. To register for auditions, call 652-4722. More info at www.pacificboychoiracademy.org.

Christensen Heller Gallery

"**Tapestries,**" featuring the beautiful fiber art of **Boisali Biswas**. November through Jan. 15. Gallery hrs: Wed.-Sat., 11am to 6pm; Sun., noon to 5pm. 5829 College Ave., www.christensenheller.com 655-5952.

Calif. College of the Arts (CCA) Holiday Fair

Shop for one-of-a-kind, affordable gifts made by students, alumni and staff: ceramics, blown glass, jewelry, clothing, photos, textiles, paintings and more. **Live jazz music**. Saturday, 12/ 6, 11am to 3pm. 5212 Broadway, main walkway. Info 594-3678 or www.cca.edu.

Holiday Boutique and Tea Party

Handmade gifts for the holidays, baked goods and jams. Saturday, 11/15 from 10am to 4pm. Tea served from 11am to 2pm. St. Peter's Church, 6013 Lawton (at B'way). Info: Debbie Stanford, stancomm@pacbell.net.

3rd Annual Purr-Casso Art & Craft Sale

Decorative, wearable and functional art pieces celebrating our feline friends. This year some dog-themed items are included. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages and meet Miss Oakland 2008. **Free admission and parking**. Sunday, 11/9, noon to 4pm. Hollis Street Project, 5900 Hollis Street, Emeryville. Proceeds benefit the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society. Info: 845-7735 x 13 or www.berkeleyhumane.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 and more.

Special Events:

- **New Deal Film Festival**: Presented by Berkeley-East Bay Gray Panthers. **Free popcorn**.

  11/14 – Artists at Work: Public Art.

  11/21 – The New Deal: Our Hope for the Future.
- **Lavender Lunch Bunch: free lunch**, entertainment, socializing for LGBT elders 55+ and friends. Meets 3rd Friday each month.

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.). For details about events, membership, and opportunities to become a volunteer, call 597-5085.

American Red Cross

- **Volunteer Orientation**: Tour the Oakland Blood center. Learn how to: serve, inform and thank blood donors; deliver blood; call donors; special projects. Wednesday, 11/12 and Tuesday, 11/18, 6 to 8pm, and Wednesday, 12/3 from 10am to noon. 6230 Claremont Avenue. For more info or to sign up: Anne at 594-5165 or BlackstoneA@usa.redcross.org.
- **Donate Blood and Enter to Win a $250 Shopping Spree**: All donors at any Red Cross blood drive or blood center can enter the drawing for a $250 Safeway gift card until November 21. Drawing will be held on 11/25.

The Blood Services Center in Rockridge is at 6230 Claremont Avenue (across from College Ave. Safeway). To make a blood donation or get info about all blood drive locations, call 800-GIVE LIFE or go to www.BeADonor.com.

Chabot Space & Science Center

Volunteers wanted to assist visitors and share their wonder of the Universe with others. **No science or astronomy background needed** – extensive training opportunities available. Call the volunteer department at 336-7414 or visit www.chabotspace.org.

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