www.rockridge.org

THE Rockridge News

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

RCPC Town Hall Meeting
AGENDA
April 2009

- **RCPC Board Elections**
- **FORL Board Elections**
- **Rising Sun Energy**
- **Oakland Green Initiative**

Thursday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue at Manila, Community Room (Upstairs)

RCPC Board Elections

Vote for RCPC board members:
Pg. 2: Election steps; Pg. 3: Candidate statements


Andy Charman


Bill Kaufner


Colby Lavin


Ruth Miller


Ronnie Spitzer


Ann Winterman

FORL Elections

Vote for FORL board members

The Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) holds its annual election at the April RCPC Town Hall meeting. Candidates are:

- **Jennifer Alper**
- **Kathryn O'Neal**
- **Shari Tavaf**
- **Carol Bieri (Incumbent)**

The FORL board's mission is to champion the Rockridge branch library and to stimulate enthusiasm and interest for library programs.

Rising Sun Energy

Budget time? Come learn how much green you can save

The California Youth Energy Services program (CYES) offers free "green house calls" to East and North Bay residents. Teams of trained Energy Specialists will visit your home, install free energy saving equipment, and provide a personalized energy savings plan.

At the RCPC meeting, a representative from California Youth Energy Services will present details of their free PG&E-sponsored home energy inspections (coming this summer). Save energy and money, and help support young people. Sign up at the meeting, call CYES at 510/665-1501x10, or visit their Web site at www.risingsunenergy.org.

Oakland Green Initiative

Oakland's plans for sustainability: share your ideas

Oakland is developing a community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) to identify actions it can take to help minimize energy use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the city. RCPC will have a short presentation on the plan.

Oakland seeks to become a model sustainable city. Your input can help shape this important initiative.

Rockridge Celebrates Earth Day



RDA Earth Day Events

Earth Day is coming Saturday, April 18. To celebrate, the Rockridge District Association (RDA) is sponsoring three projects; the public is invited to help with all of them.

❶ First is cleaning the pedestrian walkway at College and Broadway between Wendy's and Sabuy Sabuy Thai restaurant at 5231 College. This one is a big job. Starting at 9 a.m., we will paint the fence, put up a mural, and pull weeds. This project is

Earth Day RDA, page 8

FROG Park Corner

Celebrate Earth Day at FROG Park

Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. to noon

Meet at Redondo Playground (Redondo and Clark Streets) or Hardy Playground (near Hardy Circle and Hudson/Claremont).

Help honor the Earth and lend a hand at FROG Park, our neighborhood park. YOUR help is needed! FROG is organizing a fun, family-friendly Earth Day clean-up Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. to noon. Bring work gloves, and gardening tools, rake or gardening fork, if you have them. Projects include playground cleaning, weeding, planting, turning fibar, sweeping, and clearing the pond and creek bed. See www.frogpark.org

Earth Day FROG Park, page 8

Ready? Kitchen Tour 2009 is Coming!

Do you have a kitchen you would like to see on RCPC's Kitchen Tour 2009? Want to be a volunteer for the Tour? It can happen!
See page 12 for details.

Safeway Development BULLETIN!

Safeway Corp has announced a public meeting to present the company's latest plans for the College Avenue store. See Land Use Committee report, page 5.

RCPC Board Election Procedures

At the RCPC Town Hall meeting on Thursday, April 16, board candidates will introduce themselves and describe their platforms for Rockridge. Following candidate introductions and statements, there will be two opportunities to vote for the candidates of your choice:

You may vote at the meeting on Thursday, April 16, or you may vote Saturday, April 18, in the lobby of the Rockridge library, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Voter Eligibility

People age 18 and over who live within RCPC boundaries are eligible to vote. Verification will be by driver's license or DMV ID card showing an address within RCPC boundaries, as depicted on the RCPC website at rockridge.org.

Budget Cycle Planning Is a Challenging Process for City and Citizens Alike

A look at last year's budget process helps in understanding this year's difficulties

by Jane Brunner, President
Oakland City Council

Oakland is about to begin a difficult budget process. In this report, I am going to look at aspects of last year's process to assist understanding of the challenging situation Oakland is facing for this next two year budget cycle.

Last year, Oakland's overall budget was close to $1 billion. Approximately $600 million of that money came from grants from the state or federal government or from other sources. Money from those sources has to be used as allocated. That left the city with $400 million, which we refer to as the General Fund. City funding for everything that doesn't have earmarked money has to come from that fund.

Last fall, the City Council had to cut $42.5 million from the General Fund because the city was receiving significantly less revenue from real estate transfers and sales tax. Police and fire services receive 65 percent of the $400 million in the fund and the Council decided not to cut police or fire. After accounting for other fixed costs such as debt service and voter mandated programs, the council was forced to cut $42.5 million from a remaining total of $110 million.

"This spring, the Council will have to cut somewhere between $50 million and $70 million to balance the budget."

The Council made the cuts by eliminating vacant positions, choosing not to fill new positions, and, mainly, by cutting staff that do not directly affect programs. The Council also established 13 furlough days, which are days that employees do not come to work.

This spring, the Council will have to cut somewhere between $50 million and $70 million to balance the budget. Since it will be able to make cuts only from the General Fund, and since the easier cuts were made this fall, the Council will have to look at cutting major programs and may not be able to protect police and fire completely.

An additional challenge in this year's

➧ City Budget, page 8

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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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CONTACTING *THE ROCKRIDGE NEWS*

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

Contact us at one of the following:
Editor: editor@rockridge.org
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RCPC Voicemail: 510/869-4200

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

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING/DEADLINES

Publication date of the next issue is
☛ May 2, 2009
☛ May deadline is April 16.

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.)*

Election 2009: RCPC Board Candidates

Andy Charman
Lawton Avenue



A fifth-generation Californian, and resident of Oakland for over a decade, I would like to help preserve and enhance Rockridge's unique character as an "urban oasis," and its appeal to residents and visitors alike — a neighborhood balancing residential and commercial use, with historical architecture and beautiful gardens, friendly to families, amenable to pedestrians and cyclists, and with superb access to public transportation, excellent food, and unique shops.

My issues of interest include many central to the "New Urbanism" movement, especially traffic calming, and further "greening" of our community.

I work at UC Berkeley as a physicist, while my pro-bono work has included education outreach and consultation for education non-profits. I have served on the RCPC board and the transportation safety committee since February.

Bill Kaufner
Taft Avenue



A Rockridge resident since 1977, I am currently an appointed board member of the Rockridge Community Planning Council. I would like to serve a full term as an elected board member. I am co-chair of the RCPC education committee which is charged with supporting our local schools. As a former administrator at Claremont Middle School (1987-2003) and an employee of the nonprofit Public Health Institute (2003-6), I am eager to continue my service to the Rockridge community. My goals for this year are to deepen my involvement with our local schools and to support their efforts to attract and retain our Rockridge school children. I also plan to continue my contributions to the Rockridge News and assist in its distribution. I am committed to maintaining and enhancing the best qualities of our neighborhood.

Colby Lavin
Locksley Avenue



I grew up in Rockridge, moved back with my family in 2006, and recently finished graduate school at the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. I was appointed to the board last summer and have thoroughly enjoyed "giving back" to the community that I have called home for 35 years.

With RCPC, I am leading the effort to launch a new community-focused Rockridge.org website, and working with Rockridge Montessori and the Red Cross Blood Bank to reduce the impact of these changing businesses on their residential neighbors.

As a long-time Rockridge resident, parent and primary caregiver of two young girls, and an experienced technology business leader, I am a unique voice on the board and I hope to continue serving Rockridge as somebody who believes in strong support of local businesses but not at the expense of our neighborhoods.

Ruth Miller
Colby Street



I am a recent graduate from MIT's Department of Urban Planning and a new resident of Rockridge. I love my new community, and am excited to contribute my training and experiences to keeping it safe and comfortable. Particularly, I'm concerned about the difficulty of crossing the Claremont and College intersection on foot, and would like to investigate the possibility of a pedestrian-only signal interval.

Urban Big Box renovations can end up working for everyone, and I imagine more beautiful shops along the Safeway-side of College Avenue, instead of the concrete walls and planters there today, as well as a careful look at how Safeway can help improve traffic problems in the area. I look forward to bringing these ideas and others to the RCPC.

Ronnie Spitzer
Kales Avenue



I'm dedicated to upholding the historic RCPC mission and representing the community's interests in the areas of land use and transportation. Rockridge is a successful walkable community that can be even better. Preserving and enhancing the community by upholding all provisions of existing Rockridge planning codes is one element of our continued success. Making its streets and air quality safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and school children through better transportation planning is also important.

I interfaced with the City, State Legislature, community, and Caltrans on numerous Rockridge development projects and transportation improvements during my 2007-9 RCPC board tenure. My service includes Traffic Committee chair, Fourth Bore Coalition representative, and RCPC Vice-Chair. If re-elected, I will continue working for the community.

Ann Winterman
Ocean View



I am running for the board to support development in harmony with the existing neighborhood and values. I grew up in Orange County, and moved north in search of a lifestyle that included walking and public transit options. I attended law school at Berkeley and now practice at a downtown Oakland firm. I find great energy and balance through dance, yoga, and the outdoors.

I am particularly concerned about traffic in Rockridge, and plans to expand the Caldecott tunnel. I am also concerned about our water shortage.

In addition, I would like to work on creating an emergency plan for our community. Finally, I am interested in supporting our local businesses and favor buildings that are appropriately scaled in terms of greenery and open space.

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.

Crime is Theft of Sense of Security as Well as Belongings; The City Must do More to Protect Citizens

Editor

Yesterday afternoon, upon returning to my home on a sunny afternoon after taking my little dog for a walk, I found my driveway empty. There was no car there. It had been stolen sometime in the 30-40 minutes I was absent from my house.

This may seem isolated as incidents go, but since moving to Rockridge in 2004, I have been a victim of crime three times:

- In 2007, my house was broken into, tumbled and burglarized, computer and jewelry gone.
- In 2007, returning from purchasing groceries, I was attacked from behind very near my home. The assailant grabbed me by the neck and, in the struggle, my keys and wallet flew from my purse as I was knocked down and he fled with my belongings.
- Now, in 2009, my car has been stolen; not an easy thing to take from a careful and cautious person.

In each case the police have been prompt to respond and have been sympathetic. Yet in no case has any person been brought to face any consequence for harm. The police have said I have been lucky.

But as I lie awake at night I wonder: when will my luck run out? What does it mean to be a citizen of this city? How vulnerable must one feel? Sadly, in these economic times and worried as we all are, how much does it take to work hard for the modest things we have, only finding it more and more difficult to replace them? And at what point do we find ourselves robbed of things that are impossible to replace?

My experience is not unique, as I have learned from speaking with neighbors, none of whom has been exempt from being a victim of crime here.

I urge you to do whatever it takes to pressure our city to protect us.

— Naomi L. Maloney

Editor's Reply

The Rockridge News will soon inaugurate a column written by the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils' two Public Service Officers titled "Ask A Cop." It will speak to the questions you raise. Also, connecting with the NCPC Web site could provide support and answers: http://www.rockridgencpc.com/

What Are "Unofficial" Recyclers up to? Are There More of Them?

Editor

I am hoping you will run an article helping me understand the "unofficial" recycling collectors, those men and women that mysteriously show up on my block on trash day and take what appears to be mostly glass and aluminum from my recycling bin.

Why do they do it? I assume they take the recyclables to a center and cash them in. How much is it worth to them? Are they doing a service by sorting it, or are they indirectly raising my trash collection costs by lowering the value of my bin that Waste Management picks up? Has pricing gone up for recyclables, or is the economy a factor? I used to see just two or three of them; I have seen no less than six different people in my recycling bin since last night.

I am awakened almost every night before trash collection by banging bin lids, rattling glass, trucks being loaded and noisily driven off. I'd like to think it is just a nuisance, but I am also concerned about safety. Is it legal? Have there been any problems with children or theft related to these recyclers?

— Kevin Richter

Editor's Reply

The Rockridge News is not planning a specific article about recycling theft in the near future, since the topic is so often discussed in other forums.

For example, below are two links to Web sites related to OPD Rockridge area police beats 13X and 12Y and our local Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council that coordinates response to crime issues with the police in those beats. Our local NCPC meetings would be a good place to discuss your concerns and ideas. It meets monthly. Below those links are two more links to Web sites that give other general information — not necessarily specific to Oakland — about the concerns you raise.

- Link to a map of the two OPD police beats (12Y and 13X) involving Rockridge: http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=117539466904926966837.00044a60353cdf8e803b6&ll=37.844969,-122.236891&spn=0.023816,0.045233&source=embed
- Link to the Greater Rockridge NCPC Web site: http://www.rockridgencpc.com/
- Link to an SF Gate (SF Chronicle) article on recycling thefts: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/07/01/MNVI11GE90.DTL
- Link to a Berkeley City Council site discussing recycling theft: http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/council5/poachingnews.html

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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 online at www.oaklandnet.com.

6409 Benvenue Avenue and 332 Alcatraz Avenue

Proposal: To demolish two existing structures on two contiguous lots, merge the lots and resubdivide them into 6 mini-lots, and construct a new single family dwelling on each lot for a total of six homes served by a Shared Access Facility.

Owner/Applicant: Jerry & Mary Ann Boddum

Contact Person/Phone No.: Ed Buchanan, Jarvis Architects 510/652-3582

Permits Required: Vesting Tentative Tract Map for a mini-lot subdivision to create six mini lots; Minor Conditional Use Permits for: 1) a Mini-Lot Development, and 2) a Shared Access Facility [Shared Access Facilities are private driveways or private access easements that cross one parcel to access another, and have been determined to have specific additional potential impacts warranting additional review criteria. — Oakland Planning CUP requirements; and Regular Design Review for a new construction of six new single family dwellings.

Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property (PDHP);

Survey Rating: Db1*

Case Planner: Maurice Brenyah-Addow at 510/238-6342 or mbrenyah@oaklandnet.com

Visit the City's Web site for Planninng and Zoning for details of "Historic Status" and "Survey Ratings": http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/ceda/revised/planningzoning/HistoricPreservation/HP-overviewH.html. (The asterisk above is part of the rating system.)

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RCPC Land Use Committee

The RCPC Land Use Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m., at the Rockridge Library.
Next meeting: Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman,
RCPC Land Use Committee chair

■ Red Oak Realty (5915 College Avenue – Dreyers Building)

Red Oak Realty's application to move its Oakland office, now located at Pleasant Valley and Broadway, into the 4,000 square foot space formerly occupied by Cotton & Co. in the Dreyer's building at College Avenue and Chabot Road will probably be heard by the Planning Commission some time in April. (Visit RCPC's Web site — www.rockridge.org — for the exact date and to sign up for the RCPC e-news to get current information.)

RCPC is opposed to this move for two reasons: First, the Dreyers building lies in the heart of College Avenue's commercial district. Putting this large non-retail use into that key location is likely to seriously damage the continuity for the pedestrian shopper. Second, office uses can often afford to pay much higher rents than retail merchants. Allowing major office uses to move in on the ground floor of College Avenue will encourage landlords to further raise their rents, potentially displacing retail merchants. RCPC asks you, Rockridge News readers and others who shop on College Avenue, to help by urging merchants you patronize to oppose this dangerous application. The planner is Dave Valeska, phone 510/238-2075, or e-mail DValeska@oaklandnet.com.

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

Late-Breaking Update, March 31: Safeway has announced a meeting to unveil its latest plans for a 50,000 sq. ft. store plus small shops. The meeting will be held Wednedsay, April 29, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Claremont Hotel (self-service parking available).

Local architects had drawn up a smaller and far less ambitious alternative and presented it to Safeway's newest architect, but they appear to have been ignored. RCPC's position is that it's simply not possible to have a store of that size at that location without creating major traffic problems and disrupting the human scale of this successful retail area. Please come out and let Safeway know what you think of their new plans.

This may be another tough fight through the planning commission and up to the City Council. Between Red Oak Realty and Safeway's proposals, perhaps our College Avenue area needs a new slogan: "If it ain't broke, for gosh sakes, don't break it!" The planner is Peterson Vollman, phone 510/238-6167, or e-mail pvollman@oaklandnet.com.

■ 6409 Benvenue Avenue & 332 Alcatraz Avenue

This proposal to build six single-family homes on what are currently two lots at the corner of Benevue and Alcatraz will be heard by the Planning Commission on April 1. It requires two minor conditional use permits (one for mini-lot development and one for shared access). The Land Use Committee informally reviewed the project plans in January and found that the project generally conformed to zoning requirements and was consonant with the surrounding residential area. RCPC has taken no official position on the application. An earlier controversial project proposed 17 housing units for the same two lots. The planner is Maurice Brenyah-Addow, phone 510/238-6342 or e-mail mbrenyah@oaklandnet.com.

■ 1982 Pleasant Valley Avenue (Site of the former Emil Villa's Barbeque Restaurant)

The City is proposing to rezone this property under "best-fit" zoning from its current boundaries of R-50 to C-30. While the Emil Villa's property is just outside of RCPC's boundaries, the zoning proposal affects part of the parking lot for Long's Drugs, for which RCPC has longstanding concern. Planning staff feels that the current zoning was probably a "slip-up" because R-50 residential zoning makes little sense for that location, especially since the entire site is already in long-standing commercial use. The Land Use Committee discussed the proposal at its March 25 meeting and will make a recommendation to the RCPC board. The planner is

Land Use Committee, page 9

Land Use Meeting Agendas

Contact Stu Flashman at 652-5373 or chair@rockridge.org for a copy of the current Land Use Committee meeting agenda.



Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Neighborhood Comings & Goings

Although the economy continues to hurt the restaurant and food industry, Rockridge neighborhood eateries are, nevertheless, on the move.

The Hurley family of Garibaldi's on College has opened Marzano, a splendid Italian bistro on Park Boulevard in the Glenview neighborhood. The tiny restaurant bristles with Italian charm with a reasonably priced menu that includes 10 uniquely styled pizzas and delightfully prepared antipasti, salads, and entrees. Marzano does not take reservations, but they will put you on a wait-list and call your cell phone when your table is available.

The folks at Á Côté have signed a lease to open a new restaurant, also on Park Boulevard in the Glenview district. It will be located in the former Mexican restaurant building at Park Boulevard and Wellington Street and will feature a Pan-Latino small plate menu. Presently in the permit process, the owners hope to open in late spring.

San Francisco's B-44 (Belden Alley) owner Daniel Olivetta has opened Barlata on Telegraph Avenue in the Temecal district. Barlata is a traditional Spanish tapas bar with an extensive Spanish wine list. The menu features typical items found in a Madrid or Barcelona tapas bar, such as clams sautéed with Spanish chorizo and white beans, stuffed piquillo peppers, house cured sardines, and mussels in wine sauce.

Café Lyon (College Avenue at Miles across from the BART station) has a new owner. Harry Marshall has transformed the menu to reflect a true Lyon-style neighborhood cozy café. Café Lyon offers a delightful breakfast, lunch and dinner menu. Specialties include an authentic Lyonnaise salad and onion soup, duck rillettes, duck confit cassoulet and a nice selection of cheeses and desserts. Harry lives in the neighborhood and Café Lyon deserves our support.

Oakland is beginning to be recognized as a restaurant destination. Ozumo, the popular Japanese restaurant on San Francisco's Embarcadero, has crossed the Bay with a new location in Oakland's Uptown district (Broadway & Grand). And the owners of Operto on Potrero Hill have opened Bellanica, also on Park Boulevard in the Glenview district. And finally, Adesso, a restaurant devoted to Italian cured and game meats including cured pork loin, salumi, pigeon and rabbit has opened near the intersection of Piedmont and Pleasant Valley avenues.

All of these restaurants represent a commitment to quality and a return to the authentic earthiness of good dining. Although several are not in our immediate Rockridge community area, they are our Oakland neighbors and need our support during this difficult economic downturn.

This month's recipe is found in almost every Spanish tapas bar.

Clams with Spanish Chorizo (Almejas con Chorizo)

4 appetizer servings

2 pounds of Manila clams (Ver Brugge)
¼ pound Spanish chorizo thinly sliced (Pasta Shop)
1 large shallot, thinly sliced
1 cup dry white wine
4 slices of rustic bead, toasted and sprinkled with olive oil
coarse Kosher salt

Place the clams in a large pan. Sprinkle the chorizo and shallot on top. Pour in wine. Cover the pan, place on high heat and cook until the clams open. Place a slice of toast in the center of each of four shallow bowls. Divide the clams and chorizo and the remaining pan juices among the bowls. Sprinkle with coarse Kosher salt to taste.

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

Got some time available? Share it with RCPC by volunteering. E-mail chair@rockridge.org, or call 869-4200 and leave a message. *Thank you!*

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What Legacy for Oakland, a City of Contradictions?

Have you noticed how beautiful Oakland really is? I mean the Oakland beyond Rockridge.

Lake Merritt

The other night we attended the Chabot School auction at the Garden Center by Lake Merritt. We went outside to cool off a bit from all that lively action inside and found ourselves bowled over by how beautiful Oakland is by night seen from this vantage point. Wow!

To the west, the gently curving façade of the Kaiser building rose above the tree line into a blustery evening sky lit from the street below. Grand Avenue skirting the north side of the Lake is truly grand, a stately setting for some very beautiful buildings, past and probably future.

At the far end of the Lake, the riot of scrolling lights of the Grand Lake Theater sign joyfully announced themselves as they have done for as long as anyone remembers.

To the east, the Oakland Hills stretch expansively, lush and dark green. Lights sparkled here and there like a carpet of stars. It was chilly out there, but I was imagining a stroll along the Lake on some timeless warm summer evening, joggers passing by me and strains of music wafting from the quaint bandstand on the green, while kayaks and gondolas glide silently into the dark across the water's glassy surface. And I found myself grateful for the work and visions of others who created this environment. Thank you, Mayors Merritt and Mott, for creating this jewel of an urban lake and park and wildlife sanctuary from what used to be a swamp. That was about 150 years ago.

THE Rockridge MUSE

by Ortrun Niesar

City Hall

I am in City Hall along with many other Oaklanders, waiting in line to sign four simple books. My friend mentions how impressive the building is, richly adorned with marble detailing, a gracious staircase leading ever upward. We crane our necks to look up into the dome. He conjectures that Oakland must have been very wealthy at one time, a real destination point. He has no idea how right he is. This impressive building was constructed in 1911, the first City Hall in America to be built as a skyscraper.

It's our turn to sign a book and stand in yet another line. There are four lines, four books to sign, and four officers dead. Our hearts are filled with so much sorrow. This is our city, I thought, our city of heartbreaking beauty at times and of painful memory at others. A city that is feared and loved; hopelessly frustrating and full of possibility. And it is precisely this disturbing, challenging mix that evokes a strange kind of loyalty among those of us who live here.

Our Legacy

What kind of a legacy will we leave behind, I wonder. We live mostly in houses and neighborhoods we did not build. But what a rich experience that is. People all over the world fight for their histories and we have this wonderful opportunity to connect right here.

What about a legacy of thoughtful care and respect for the old and sensitive, appropriate design and care of the new right here in Oakland?

What we do in our communities on our watch is terribly important and will have repercussions for years to come. Each year Oakland Heritage Alliance (OHA) honors projects, programs, organizations and individuals whose work meets those standards.

This year's Partners in Preservation awards will be presented at an awards event on May 14 at Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland. Applications are accepted until May 1. You will find the necessary information and application forms at their web site www.oaklandheritage.org, or e-mail them at info@oaklandheritage.org. The OHA phone number is 510/763-9218.

If you want to learn more about Oakland, I recommend "Oakland's Neighborhoods" by Erika Mailman. It's fascinating. Last time I looked you can get a copy at Diesel Books, 5433 College Avenue, Oakland.

Ortrun Niesar can be reached at oniesar@sbcglobal.net.

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City Budget

from page 2

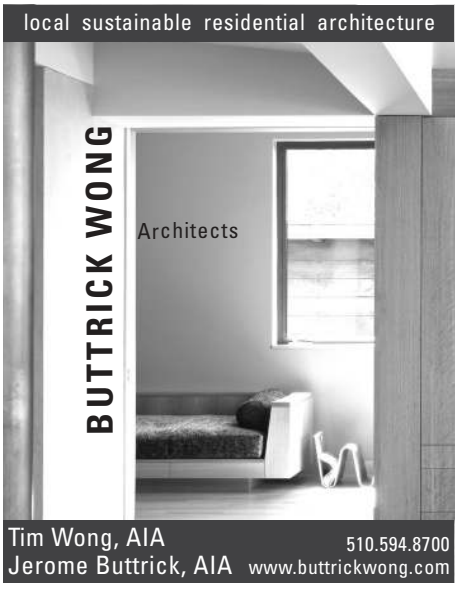
budget is the passage of Measure OO. Last November, Oakland voters approved Measure OO, an extension and expansion of the existing "Kids First" set-aside of 1.5 percent of the General Fund for kids programs throughout the city. Measure OO raises the original Kids First set-aside to 2.5 percent and is calculated based on all revenue to the city rather than just the general fund.

Unless Measure OO is repealed, or a compromise measure is passed, the city will need to find an additional $5 million for Kid's First this year, increasing to $15 million each year starting in 2011.

Arriving at a budget for the next two-year cycle will be extremely difficult. The council is looking at a wide range of options very carefully – everything from eliminating outside contracts, to furloughs, to negotiating with the unions for salary and benefit reductions, to laying off employees. We may even have to close libraries, senior centers, and park and recreation programs for some days each week.

I suggest that all residents watch the budget process carefully.

Ed. note: Councilmember Brunner's April Community Advisory Meeting was to continue the budget discussion but was scheduled for the day the April Rockridge News was first available for distribution. Most readers would not have gotten the notice in time. Instead, you may visit her Web site at http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/council/coun_mem/brunner/ or call her office at 510/238-7001 for further budget information.



Earth Day RDA

from page 1

sponsored by the RDA and the Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC).

❷ The second project involves the planted traffic island at College and Miles avenues across from Claremont Middle School. Come work with Susan Bernosky from Allstate and Elizabeth Armstrong from Dreyer's to pull weeds, trim shrubs and help with painting a mural, all beginning at 9 a.m.

❸ Sponsored by Jennifer Kaplan of Rockridge Home, the third project is to give a good cleaning up to the Rockridge Library grounds. This project starts at noon.

Come on out, meet your neighbors, and help your neighborhood. We will have Earth Day T-shirts and snacks for participants. All you need to do is bring gloves and pitch in. Please go directly to the project of your choice.

To RSVP or if you have questions, contact RDA@rockridge.com or call 510/604-3125.

To adopt a spot for an Earth Day project of your own, visit the city of Oakland's Earth Day Web site at http://www.oaklandpw.com/Page289.aspx.

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Together, we can truly impact some very worthy causes.

Julie Gardner
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JulieGardner.com



Earth Day FROG

from page 1

or www.oaklandearthday.com for more information. Contact Howard Ferrier at hwferrier@sbcglobal.net with questions.

The April FROG steering committee meeting details will be posted on the FROG Park Web site, www.frogpark.org. Information: e-mail Jennifer Cooper, FROG chair, at jennifer@live-work.com.

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Rockridge News Delivery Person Needed

If you are interested in helping to deliver The Rockridge News and live in the general area of the route, we would love to give you an assignment. The route is 24A and includes Woolsey from College to Benvenue and both sides of 6400 Benvenue, then up Alcatraz to College.

Please contact Susan at smontauk@gmail.com or call 547-3855 to help out.

Bike Parking Racks Installed

As the city of Oakland replaces College Avenue's parking meters with "pay and display" kiosks, the old parking meter poles are replaced with hoop-style bike parking racks that hold up to two bicycles each.



Land Use Committee

from page 5

Dave Valeska, phone 510/238-2075, or e-mail DValeska@oaklandnet.com. Comments should be submitted by April 8.

- **Rockridge Montessori Expansion Project (5616 Broadway)**

RCPC has already expressed concern about this expansion of a private school facility in the residential area on the east side of Broadway to over 200 students and requested preparation of an environmental impact report. The school has filed an application with the city, and the case has been assigned to Ulla-Britt Jonsson, phone 510/238-3322, or e-mail ujonsson@oaklandnet.com. RCPC will continue to follow up.

- **College Preparatory School Facilities Master Plan (6100 Broadway)**

The College Preparatory School (CPS) has submitted a proposed facilities master plan to the City. The plan outlines major construction projects for the next 10 to 15 years. The project amounts to about 20,000 sq. ft. of space, some of which would replace buildings to be demolished. The school envisions no increase in its student population. Included are 14 new or replacement classrooms in two two-story buildings, plus a dedicated theater building.

RCPC and CPS are co-sponsoring a community meeting to review and comment on the plan. The meeting will be in the Smith Room (next to the parking lot) on the CPS campus, 6100 Broadway, beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 6. (*Confirm meeting date and time at* www.rockridge.org.)

The case planner is Leigh McCullen, phone 510/238-4977, or e-mail lmccullen@oaklandnet.com.

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Temporarily under the baton of Claremont student Sirmorian Johnson, school musicians play on College Avenue to raise funds for music program expenses. School music director Renae Briggs says the number of music students has grown steadily over the yers.

'Thank you,' Says Claremont PTA After Successful Fundraiser

by Jessie Thaler, English teacher, Claremont Middle School

The 2009 Claremont PTA Silent Auction, whimsically dubbed "$9.99 and Some Change!," was a huge success, uniting the Claremont community for an evening of food, conversation and, of course, cutthroat bidding wars to raise over $18,000.

The auction, held February 21, was hosted by Thelma Harris of the Thelma Harris Gallery and Susan Bernosky of Allstate Insurance. Parents, staff, and local businesses donated over 170 auction items from jewelry to weekend retreats, yoga classes to dinners and parties. Trader Joe's provided chocolate and other desserts, and grocery bags to hold auction items.

Parents Celeste Allen and Becky Couch-

Claremont Auction, page 11

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Claremont Auction

from page 10

Alvarado created the festive decorations, caterer and parent Lois Neuberger contributed hors d'oeuvres, and parent Ron Kriss designed and donated the banner that adorned the school. Led by Calvin Hightower, Claremont Dad's Club members tended the bar with aplomb, and Claremont alumni, now in high school, were on hand to help out. The event would not have been possible without the planning, organizing, and auctioneering skills of PTA board members Claudia Mills and Julie Parker.

The PTA uses the money raised through fundraisers like the auction to fund teacher mini-grants, field trips, the library, the music department, the computer program, the garden, and more. As Claudia Mills put it, "PTA money has touched every kid at the school in one form or another in this year alone."

Thanks to the Rockridge community, the PTA will be able to continue to enrich the lives of students at Claremont.

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Meet Your Neighbors and Support Rockridge

Join the Rockridge Kitchen Tour!

by Jennifer Edmister, RCPC Kitchen Tour co-chair

The Rockridge Kitchen Tour committee is busily viewing wonderfully remodeled kitchens throughout Rockridge, and will continue to do so through April.

If you have a great kitchen you'd like to showcase, this is your last chance to be considered for the September 20 event. Please contact Jennifer Edmister at kitchentour@rockridge.org.

If you don't happen to be the proud owner of a sparkling new kitchen but do enjoy seeing beautifully renovated spaces, meeting your Rockridge neighbors and supporting a great cause, we invite you to join the Rockridge Kitchen Tour as a volunteer. We have openings on several committees, including publicity, brochure text writing and event coordination. We are also seeking docents to guide our guests though some of Rockridge's finest kitchens.

All volunteers will receive a ticket to the Rockridge Kitchen Tour, the area's oldest and premier kitchen tour. Volunteers also receive the satisfaction of knowing that the funds raised allow RCPC to advocate for health, safety and quality of life in Rockridge, a neighborhood that continues to thrive in these challenging times.

If you have a few hours to contribute, we have a place for you! To get involved, contact Jennifer Edmister at kitchentour@rockridge.org or call 510/869-4200, attention Kitchen Tour.

Below: photos of two kitchens featured in the most recent Rockridge Kitchen Tour. Yours could be one of those on display in the 2009 Tour.





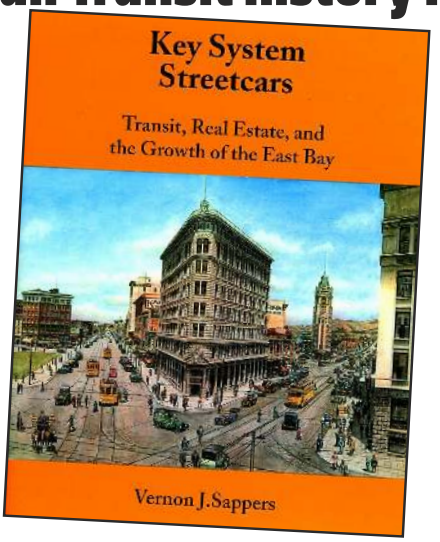
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Illustrated East Bay Rail Transit History Points to the Future

A book review by Jon Gabel



Rail lines and East Bay urban growth have been intertwined from the first subdivisions. Development of a comprehensive transit system was set back with the dismantling of the Key System in the late 1950s and early '60s.

"Key System Streetcars — Transit, Real Estate, and the Growth of the East Bay," by Vernon J. Sappers, is a reminder of what we had, what we lost, and perhaps what we can aspire to have again – a comprehensive electric streetcar network. And the book is a treasure trove of photographs going back to the 19th century.

On nearly every one of the 480 pages of this coffee-table sized book are wonderful historical photographs of the East Bay, including Rockridge. These photos document the history of the Key System: the horse-drawn trolley lines that developed into the superb electric train system that served our community, the gradual decline of the system, and finally its destruction and conversion to diesel busses by General Motors, Standard Oil of California, and Firestone Tire.

The book is organized in several overlapping ways. The first three chapters are chronological and document the history of the small streetcar lines that eventually merged to become the Key System. Among the more interesting photos in these chapters are those of downtown Oakland around Broadway and 12th to 14th streets. In 1902, the wooden buildings in the area were two to three stories high and the streets were shared by trains and horse-drawn wagons.

By 1910, there were iron- and steel-framed buildings taller than 10 stories and automobiles had replaced the horses. In 1912, pedestrians still strolled casually across the area without the need for traffic signals. Huge crowds filled the streets on November 11, 1918 to celebrate the end of World War I and in 1919 during a strike by the Street & Electric Railway Workers union. By 1920, there were more "skyscrapers," and women's skirts had risen to mid-calf. During World War II, the streetcars are shown "packed to the ventilators" with riders. Due to the military draft, women train operators are seen.

Chapter 4 (all 230 pages of it!) has a map of each streetcar route and photos of the streetcars in operation on it. Check out the section on the College Avenue No. 6 Line for photos from 1912 and 1946 of the intersection of College and Broadway, a 1941 shot of a passenger train headed for Sacramento stopped at the corner of College and Shafter, and pictures of other familiar intersections along College Avenue (including Claremont, Alcatraz, and Ashby) showing many buildings that are still in place. There are also sections of this chapter on other familiar areas, such as the No. 4 Shattuck Avenue, the No. 5 Telegraph Avenue, and the No. 10 Piedmont Avenue Lines.

And if this is not enough, Chapters 5 and 6 document the Key System facilities and every type of rolling stock ever used. Finally, there are several maps showing the Key System at different stages of its development.

In all, this is a book that will provide many hours of pleasurable reading. The Rockridge Library has acquired a copy, which will be available at the Reference Desk as soon as it has been cataloged. In addition, the Oakland Main Library also has one in its Oakland History Room, and the Berkeley Central Library has one reference and one circulating copy.

If you want to purchase your own copy, it is available online for $70 from the publisher, Signature Press, at www.signaturepress.com/currtitl.html.

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Metals Thieves Have Their Brass

by Don Kinkead, Editor

A little-noted crime wave recently washed over College Avenue from Broadway to Alcatraz Avenue as metals thieves made off with what must be the easiest gotten yet least rewarding swag in all of thiefdom: brass caps from fire hose connections on multi-storied residential and commercial buildings.

Found on what are known as siamese connectors, the caps protect the metal threading to which fire hoses would be attached to supply water to upper floors during a fire. Two fire hoses can be hooked up to the Y-shaped siamese connectors.

Working in the dead of night, or even in broad daylight while shielded by ornamental shrubbery, these brazen, bottom-feeding thieves collect the protective brass caps for resale to metals buyers.

According to Lt. Jim Reis, normally assigned to Fire Station 20 but visiting at Fire Station 19 on Miles Avenue, missing caps can lead to hazardous situations for firefighters and fire victims alike.

"When the connector is open to the street, passersby may use them as trash receptacles for coffee cups, gum wrappers and other litter." he explained. Also, according to Reis, water pumped into a clogged connector can force the litter deeper into the pipe, slowing or preventing the water from reaching the site of the fire.

An informal survey of College Avenue building owners whose siamese connector caps had been stolen revealed that many were unaware of the theft. Some were unaware that the specialized connector had been installed.

Reis says that some building owners attempt to fashion a replacement cover by wiring a tin can or attaching other unsuitable material to the openings. Removing these unorthodox covers in an emergency can be difficult for firefighters, costing crucial minutes of firefighting time.



Siamese connectors, one with brass caps (top), one without.

Photos: Don Kinkead

An Oakland metals dealer, who asked not to be named, told The Rockridge News that the brass nets the thief about $0.25 per pound; the caps can weigh up to three pounds each. Replacement covers cost from $35 to $75 for brass, and $5 to $6 for firefighter-approved aluminum or plastic cover plates, according to firefighting-supply company representatives.

To discourage purchases of stolen scrap metal, the California Legislature passed AB 844 (Berryhill) which took effect December 1, 2008. The bill requires metals dealers to obtain a photo ID from sellers, photograph the purchased materials, and withhold payment until three days after the transaction. Similar federal legislation is pending.

According to its Web site, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries feels that the proposed federal legislation requires undue oversight by metals dealers, and fails to crack down directly on the metals thieves.

College Avenue Stores Host Children's Art

Kids Paint the Town and the Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA) announce their Kids Art Showcase and Art Event April 2 through 30.

Over 200 pieces of local kids' art will be displayed in merchant windows along College Avenue, at the Alameda Towne Centre and at Walgreens on Adeline at Shattuck in Berkeley.

Kids Paint the Town was designed as a way to enable people to make a contribution to their community. They believe everyone has a part in this project, from kids who love to draw, to merchants who create temporary "galleries," to sponsors who donate to make the event fuller, and the public that appreciates the art. Each piece submitted is displayed.

Locations and kids' names will be posted at http://www.KidsPaintTheTown.org. Call 510/814-8127 for further information.

Project sponsors: BLICK art materials, Miraglia Catering & Events Planning, Trader Joe's, Dreyer's Ice Cream and The East Bay Monthly magazine. For more information, contact Jennifer Rogers at 415/652-2217 or e-mail info@kidspaintthetown.org.



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3/11/2009	2	1	5563 Lawton Ave.	$735,000	11	$735,000	$743,450
3/18/2009	3	2	5247 Locksley Ave.	$799,000	40	$784,000	$755,000
3/18/2009	3	2	5656 Buena Vista Ave.	$895,000	16	$895,000	$890,000

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Join us on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje and the shrine of Our Lady of Peace or Rome and the Seven Pilgrimage Churches. Visit www.MyUITour.com or call 866/984-8687 or 415/963-4477. CST:2070359-40.

Dim Sum Mania @ Becky's Chinese Restaurant

5620 College Avenue, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. 11:30 am-3 pm. 510/601-9888.

Unexpected Guest?

Short-term rental, lovely room 2 blocks from Rockridge BART in owner's flat. A steal. Photos available. Wi-fi, cable, TV. Suitable for one person. Photos available. Barbird@aol.com 510/652-7044.

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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. **Compiled by Jo Ellis**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

- Rockridge residents and business members are invited to voice their concerns about crime and public safety, 4th Thurs. each month, 7 to 8:30pm. Rockridge Library, upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Ave. info@rockridgencpc.com or infofordenise@yahoo.com.
- **Joint Public Meeting**: Rockridge NCPC, Montclair Safety and Improvement Council and North Hills N'hood Council. **Topic: The City-wide Problem of Sexually Exploited Minors**. Speakers from "MISSEY" and Oakland Family Violence Law Cntr. Tues., Apr.14, 6:30 – 8pm, Montclair Park Rec. Center, 6300 Moraga Ave. Info and RSVP: chair@rockridgencpc.com.

Town Hall Meeting on the Education Budget Process

Speakers: OUSD Chief Financial Officer **Vernon Hal**, OUSD Budget Director **Jason Willis** and District 1 School Board Director **Jody London**. Tues., 4/14, 6 to 8pm. Santa Fe Elem. School, 915 54th St. Food provided (maybe child care: call to confirm). Info: Jody London, 459-0667.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN:

- **Toddler Story Time: Every Saturday**, 10:30am.
- **Pre-School Story Time**: 1st & 3rd Weds, 10:30am.
- **New additional Baby and Toddler Story Time**: 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 10:30am, **Community Room.**
- **Pajama Story Time**: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7pm (see special events below).

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR CHILDREN:

- **Celebrate National Library Week** with guest storyteller **Gracie Woodard**. Get a small gift of a matching pencil and notebook. Tues., 4/14, 7pm.
- **Bugs, Bugs, Bugs in Your Pajama Story Time**: stories about all kinds of insects. We'll each make a bug or two: Butterfly, dragonfly, moth, bee? Tues., 4/28, 7pm.

FOR TEENS:

- **Rockridge Ninjas (Anime Club): Teens 13 and up**, watch and talk about anime with other teens. Second Tues/month (4/7), 5 to 6:30pm, upstairs meeting rm.
- **6th Making Manga Magic Contest:** On one 8-1/2 x 11" sheet, draw, paint, or use computer graphics. Must be 12-18 and have an OPL card. Write your name, age, email, address, phone number, and OPL card number on a separate sheet of paper. Drop entry at the Rockridge Lib. or mail to: Contest, TeenZone/OPL, 125 14th St., Oakland, CA 94612. **Deadline is April 18**. Your artwork will be displayed. Awards ceremony with great prizes! Call Susy at 597-5017 for details.
- **Free Comic Book Day:** Free comics until they are all gone. Saturday, May 2, starting at 10am.

FOR ADULTS:

- **Writers' Support/Critique Group:** ALL writers welcome. Bring 12 copies of up to 5 double-spaced pages of prose for on-site reading/discussion. 3rd Sat/month, (4/18) 1 to 5pm. 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. Beginners bring light color yarn and a pair of size 8 needles. If experienced, bring projects to work on. **Tuesdays**, 12:30-2:30pm, upstairs meeting room.
- **Yiyun Li** reads from her debut novel, *The Vagrants*, set in Communist China, in the late 1970s. Co-sponsored by the American Assoc of Univ Women, Oakland-Piedmont Chapter. Saturday, April 4, 2-4 pm.
- **How to De-Clutter Your Papers and Your Place**: methods and tips from Professional Organizer Joan Craig. Sat. 4/18, 2-4:30 pm. A follow-up workshop on 5/2, 2-3:30pm.
- **Peace Corps Information Session**: No upper age limit to join. Mon., 4/20, 6pm to 7:30pm. Info: Nick Bosustow, 452-8444.
- **Financial Foresight: surviving, and thriving during tough times**: Saturday, April 25, 2-4:30pm
- **Lawyers in the Library:** Free legal advice. First Tues/mo., 6 to 8pm. Sign-up starts 5pm. Info: 597-5017.

ART EXHIBITS

Gallery: April: **Vaughn Hovanessian**: Photography.

May: **Merritt College Students**: Figure and portrait drawings.

Lobby Display Case:

April: Children's Art from **Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA).**

May: **Barry Paul**: 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 closed: 4/9 and 4/10 for City of Oakland Non-Emergency-Services Shutdown.

Diesel Book/Poetry Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Sun., 4/5, 3pm. **Poetry Flash**, featuring **Diane di Prima,** Michael McClure and David Meltzer.
- Wed., 4/8, 7pm. **Pico Iyer**: *The Open Road: The Global Journey of the Fourteenth Dalai Lama*.
- Thurs., 4/9, 7pm. Local illustrator **Michael Wertz** will discuss and sign his picture book of feline poems, *A Curious Collection of Cats*.
- Mon., 4/13, 7pm. **Amnesty International Meeting**: All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Thurs., 4/16, 7pm. Local author and radio show host (on KPFA) **David Bacon**: *Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants*.
- Sun., 4/26, 3pm. Local resident (and "old-time" banjo and fiddle champ) **John Pedersen** will read, discuss and fiddle in support of his first novel, *Scroll and Curl.*
- Thurs., 4/30, 7pm. **John Wray**: *Lowboy*.
- Sun., 5/3, 3pm. **Poetry Flash**, featuring **Carol Moldaw, Julia B. Levine** and **Ruth L. Schwartz**.
- Wed., 5/5, 7pm. Rockridge resident **Jennifer Riggs Vetter:** debut picturebook, *Down By the Station*.

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

Hillcrest School Carnival

Fun for all: games, a giant slide, face painting, BBQ, Jamba Juice, live music and more. Proceeds benefit Hillcrest PTA for school programs. Sat., 4/25, 11am- 3pm. Hillcrest School, 30 Marguerite Dr. Info: hillcrestpta.org/walk-athon.shtml or email hansonds@pacbell.net.

Secret Gardens of the East Bay

Park Day School benefit. Features 10 local gardens created by renowned local landscape designers. Tours: Sat., 4/25, 9am-4pm and Sun., 4/26, 9am-5pm. Also on 4/26: **Marketplace and Green Talks**. Garden-related wares; talks by garden experts; lunch and other foods available. Free, open to the public 10am-5pm. 370 43rd St. The Garden Tour raises funds for academic and financial assistance programs. Info: 653-0317x103, or cathy@parkdayschool.org. Garden photos, Marketplace events timetable, tickets: www.SecretGardenTour.org.

Wisteria Ways Concert Series

Palm Wine Boys: **Tom Chandler, Richard Linley, Q.B. Williams,** and **Dylan Eliyahu Sills**, sing and play acoustic world folk music. Saturday, 4/18, 8pm (house opens at 7:30pm). $15-20 suggested donation for musicians (cash please at the door).383 61st St. (inside venue, not wheelchair accessible). Reservations recommended: RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

Pacific Boychoir Academy Performs

The Rockridge based, Grammy winning choir performs the Pergolesi Stabat Mater in Holy Week observances, St. Augustine Catholic Church, Good Friday, 4/10. Church opens at noon; the Stabat Mater begins at 1pm. 400 Alcatraz Ave. Info: 653-8631.

Christensen Heller Gallery

Dusk on Lucy's Pond: Fine oils by Calif. Artist **Juliana Harris**: through May 3. Gallery hrs: Wed.-Sat. 11am-6pm; Sun., noon-5pm.

Calif. College of the Arts (CCA)

- **Undergraduate Exhibitions**: CCA student work, rotating weekly. Receptions every Wed., 5:30-7:30pm. 5212 B'way, Oliver Art Center. Info/hours: 658-1223 (or 1224) or www.cca.edu/students/undergadexhibitions.
- **22nd Annual Barclay Simpson Award Exhibition**: Award-winning work by MFA graduates. 4/20-25. 5212 B'way, Oliver Art Center. Info/hours: 415/551-9214.
- **CCA Oakland Campus Spring Fair**: Apr.25, 11am to 3pm. Singular affordable gifts made by students, alumni, faculty and staff: paintings, jewelry, ceramics, blown glass, photos, textiles and more. **Refreshments and live jazz.** 5212 B'way. Info: 594-3678.

American Red Cross

- **Mobile Blood Drive; Donate blood**: Thurs., 4/9, 10am-3pm, Claremont Resort, Horizon Ballroom, 41 Tunnel Road. Call 800-GIVE LIFE or go to BeADonor.com (Code: CLAREMONT) to schedule an appt.
- **Volunteer Orientations**: Learn how to: serve, inform and thank blood donors; deliver blood; call donors; special projects. 4/18, and 4/11, 10am-noon; 4/14 and 4/22, 6pm-8pm. 6230 Claremont Ave. Info/sign up: Anne, 594-5165 or BlackstoneA@usa.redcross.org.

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