www.rockridge.org

THE Rockridge News

VOL. 25 ■ NO. 2 ■ ISSUE NO. 264 ■ February 6, 2010 ■ CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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

Special Program
Rescheduled from January

RCPC Town Hall Meeting ☛ AGENDA February 2010

Thursday, February 18, 7:30 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue at Manila, Community Room (Upstairs)

Presentation and discussion of RCPC projects and their status was incomplete by the end of the January meeting. RCPC has scheduled a recap and completion of the presentation and set aside additional time for audience discussion at the February 18 meeting. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend!

■ **RCPC Reports to the Community... and seeks feedback at the February meeting**

■ A yearly Town Hall Meeting is traditionally the opportunity for RCPC, FROG Park, and Friends of the Rockridge Library to report to the Rockridge community on the past year's actions. In turn, it's an opportunity for you to comment on the committee reports and to suggest topics for attention in 2010.

RCPC Seeks Applicants to Fill Board of Directors Positions

If you read The Rockridge News and want to work with others to help Rockridge, here's your chance.

The Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) will be holding its annual election for seats on the board of directors on Thursday, April 15. Six board seats (out of a total of 13) will be up for election. One of them could be yours.

What would you work on as a board-member? Among the projects currently facing Rockridge are the two major Safeway proposals, stimulating the College Avenue retail environment, improving Rockridge public schools, and confronting Rockridge's continuing problems with traffic and crime. RCPC is involved in all these issues and more.

Opportunity knocks! Send your letter of interest to the RCPC, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618, or by e-mail to chair@rockridge.org.

The deadline for applications has been extended to Wednesday, February 24, 2010.

OPD Asks Public's Help to End a String of Local Robberies

As a service to the Rockridge community, The Rockridge News is reproducing the following message from Oakland Police Captain Anthony Toribio, patrol commander for Patrol Area 1, which includes Rockridge. The subject is a recent series of armed robberies, some committed in Rockridge, for which Captain Toribio seeks witnesses and people with useful information. For more information on this robbery string, look on the Greater Rockridge NCPC Web site at: http://www.rockridgencpc.com/ (click on the link: North Oakland Crime - Area 1).

From Captain Toribio: We have a series of robberies occurring in Area One, mostly on beats 7, 9, and 12. A majority of the robberies have been in Area Two.

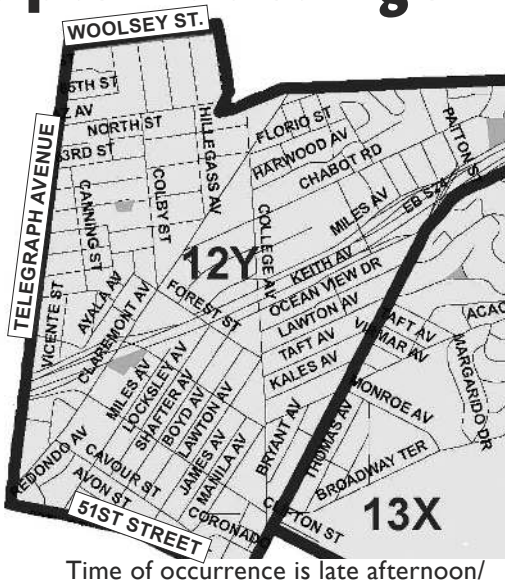
Here are the particulars:

Two suspects:

1. Male, black, 20s-30s, 6', 180-200 pounds, black mask or hoodie covering face, blue jeans;

2. Male, black, late teens-early 20s, 5'7", 150 pounds, black mask or hoodie covering face, blue jeans;

Weapon: Silver handgun.



Time of occurrence is late afternoon/evening. The suspects approach and flee on foot. The victim is either entering or exiting their residence or vehicle. The loss is money, cell phones, purses. We [police] believe the suspects are either lying in wait or following the victims to their residence.

Anyone with information related to these robberies is encouraged to contact the lead investigator, Sergeant Eric Lewis, at 238-3326. His email is elewis@oaklandnet.com. I am asking citizens to report all suspicious and criminal activity. We need witnesses to help us solve these crimes.

Patrol Map: OPD's Patrol Division uses a geographic, area command system to serve the City:

- **Area 1** includes West and North Oakland and is bordered by the Berkeley Hills on the north, Lake Merritt on the east, the Oakland Estuary on the south, and the Bay on the west.
- **Area 2** is located in Central Oakland between Areas 1 and 3 and is bordered by the city of Piedmont on the north, the Oakland Estuary on the south, Lake Merritt on the west and Redwood Regional Park to the East.
- **Area 3** covers High Street to the San Leandro border, from the Estuary to the Oakland Hills.

Each Area is comprised of beats. **Rockridge is in Area 1, Beat 12Y and a portion of Beat 13X**. Together, 12Y and 13X form the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council, or GRNCPC. Temescal is generally covered by Beats 12X and 09X.

Note: The patrol map portion and first section of text above is from the city of Oakland's redesigned Web site, http://www2.oaklandnet.com/. The full map is at http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca/groups/police/documents/agenda/dowd005013.pdf. Other text is by the Editor.

Telegraph Bus Lane Plans to be Heard by Planning Commission, Public, Council

by Andrew Charman, RCPC Transportation Committee chair

The latest details of AC Transit's proposed East Bay Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project were presented by Oakland City staff at a recent informational meeting held in the Temescal District. According to presenters, the BRT will replace the current 1 and 1R bus lines. Like those lines, it would start in San Leandro, run through downtown Oakland, and then travel the length of Telegraph Avenue into Berkeley. The new line would have a number of features intended to provide greater transit efficiency, reliability, and convenience:

- Buses would run in dedicated lanes, one in each direction;
- Bus stops/stations would be on raised platforms;
- Passengers would purchase tickets at the stop/station platform, rather than paying on the bus;
- Left-turns along Telegraph would be limited to intersections with optimally phased signals;
- Buses would be outfitted with Advanced Signal Priority (ASP) technology that would allow buses to delay yellow lights and hasten green lights when approaching a signalized intersection.
- Stops/stations would likely be separated by distances longer than those for the current 1 line, but shorter than for the 1R line.

AC transit circulated a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on the BRT project in 2007. RCPC submitted a comment

BRT Proposal, page 10

Meetings, BRT Proposal

1. AC Transit's BRT line proposal will be discussed at RCPC's Transportation Committee meeting, February 16, 7:30 p.m., at CrepeVine Restaurant, 5600 College Avenue.

2. The Planning Commission will discuss BRT at a public meeting February 17, Hearing Room 1, City Hall, One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 14th and Broadway.

Brunner Proposes Changes to RDA/BID Rules

by Annette Floystrup

Changes are being required of the Rockridge District Association (RDA) before its contract with the city of Oakland is renewed. The Rockridge Business Improvement District (BID), administered by the RDA, may become democratic and more transparent with the addition of by-law and reporting changes submitted by Council President Jane Brunner to the Community Economic Development Committee (CED) January 26.

Brunner's prepared memorandum, handed out at the start of the meeting, supported the renewal with changes as follows:

I propose that before Council approves the Resolution to Levy the Annual Assessment at the Public Hearing on February 16th, the Rockridge BID must provide evidence that the following changes to their by-laws and/or the agreement between the BID and the City have been made:

- Allow any BID member to make a nomination to the BID board
- Allow BID members to vote for board members by mail
- Require the submission of an annual CPA-reviewed financial statement to the City
- Require that quarterly financial statements be made available online
- Require that City of Oakland contact information be included on the annual notification postcard

Lacking a quorum, no vote was taken at the committee meeting. The BID renewal vote is scheduled for the February 16 City Council meeting.

Purpose of Proposed Changes

The purpose for the proposed changes is to allow assessed business owners in the BID to both nominate and vote for RDA board members, to provide more financial transparency, and to assist assessed business owners in exercising their rights. The RDA has a notice soliciting nominations in this issue of The Rockridge News.

In the original bylaws, the RDA board chose delegates from among the assessed and

BID Changes, page 12

ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY

5366 College Avenue
597-5017
Hours:
Tues: 12:30 – 8 p.m.
Weds, Thurs, Sat: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
Closed Friday, 2/12, Monday 2/15, and Tuesday. 2/16
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.

***Rockridge News* Production**
Don Kinkead.....Editor
Ortrun Niesar.....The Muse
Barry Kaufman.....Food
Jo Ellis.....Advertising & Community Calendar
Theresa Nelson.....Neighborhood Merchant
Susan Montauk.....Business Manager
Don Kinkead.....Graphics & Layout

RCPC Board of Directors, 2008-2009
Stuart Flashman.....Chair
Andrew Charman.....Vice-Chair
Michael Kan.....Secretary
Joan Martin.....Treasurer
Cesar Angobaldo, Annette Floystrup, Jonathan Gabel, Jennifer Kaplan, William Kaufner, Don Kinkead, Doug Patton, Ronnie Spitzer, Katy Taylor, Ann Winterman

Contact the Board: chair@rockridge.org
For information: info@rockridge.org

Newsletter Subscriptions
To subscribe to ***The Rockridge News***, send your check for $20, payable to *Rockridge News* Subscriptions, to: *Rockridge News* Subscriptions at the address below.

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
www.rockridge.org
The Rockridge News, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618
RCPC Voicemail: 510/869-4200

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

Newsletter Advertising/Deadlines
Publication date of the next issue is
- **March 6, 2010**
- **March deadline is February 18, 2010.**

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.)*

RCPC Land Use Committee

The RCPC Land Use Committee meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Next meeting: Febuary 24. Rockridge Branch Library, Upstairs Meeting Room: 7:30 p.m.

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.

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair

Perhaps the appropriate analogy for Rockridge land use activity this month is a frozen stream, but with water flowing underneath the ice. In a few months, the ice will crack and break, revealing a lot of activity.

■ Citywide Zoning Update

As reported last month, the citywide rezoning effort is continuing. You can check out the latest updates at: http://oaklandnet.com/zoningupdate. The commercial corridor technical advisory group (TAG) is meeting Friday, February 5, to review staff responses to community input, including input from RCPC and other groups in the Rockridge/Temescal area. TAG meetings are open to the public. There will be one final TAG meeting, probably some time in mid-March, before a final zoning proposal is brought to the planning commission and City Council for formal review and enactment.

■ College Avenue Safeway Shopping Center Project 6310 College Avenue at Claremont Avenue

According to Oakland planner Peterson Vollman (238-6167, pvollman@oaklandnet.com), work on the Draft EIR for this 61,000 sq.ft. project is well underway. An administrative draft of the EIR will be completed and reviewed by city staff before the DEIR is released for a 45 day public review and comment period. Expect that to happen sometime around April. Traffic will be a huge issue. Mr. Vollman would not disclose whether the EIR will discuss land use impacts.

■ Rockridge Montessori School 6516 Broadway

This school's expansion (by taking over and remodeling an adjoining residence) would bring total school enrollment to over 200 students. RCPC had expressed concerns about traffic and parking impacts. While there has been no visible progress, Oakland planner Ulla Britt-Jonsson (238-3322, ujonsson@oaklandnet.com) says the application is still active and the applicant has been revising its traffic analysis to take RCPC's concerns into account. The City has not yet decided what level of environmental review will be involved. Expect this application to resurface in the next month or two.

■ The College Preparatory School 6100 Broadway

City staff's approval of the school's facilities master plans had been appealed to the planning commission by a group of neighboring residents. The appeal was heard in mid-December and unanimously denied. RCPC took no position on the appeal, although it had been involved in trying to mediate this dispute. At this point, according to case planner Leigh McCullen (238-4977, lmccullen@oaklandnet.com), no lawsuit has been filed, so the case appears to be closed. RCPC will continue to monitor the school's compliance with the many conditions attached to the approval.

■ Dreyer's Building 5915 College Avenue

According to the real estate firm handling this property, a lease has been signed for the retail storefront formerly occupied by Cotton & Co. The agent would not disclose the new tenant, but did indicate that it will be a retail use. Thus, no use permit will be required.

The smaller vacant storefront formerly occupied by Galvin's Workspace Furniture remains vacant. (Powell's Sweet Shoppe was apparently unable to reach agreement with Dreyer's over improvements to the space.)

■ 6000 College Avenue, Corner of Harwood

As previously reported, an application had been filed to put in an Italian winebar/restaurant at this site. That application has been abandoned and a new application was submitted for a coffee shop coupled to retail sales of coffee-themed merchandise. The good news is both that a long-vacant storefront gets filled and that the business, unlike many restaurants, will be open during daytime hours. Hopefully this will help restore the vitality of this part of College Avenue. Nevertheless, the continued shift toward restaurant uses reinforces RCPC's concern about maintaining College Avenue as a retail venue.

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 http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/ceda/revised/planning.html.

6000 College Avenue

Proposal: To establish a limited-service restaurant with a minimum of 20 seats in an approximately 1,300 square-foot ground floor commercial space. (sale of alcoholic beverages are not proposed under this application)

Applicant: Shawn Allison, 510/520-0236

Owner: Alan Pricco Et Al. Trust

Planning Permits Required: Minor Conditional Use Permit for Limited Service Restaurant Commercial Activity in C-31 Zoning District

Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property; Survey rating: Dc3 (minor importance)

Case Planner: David Valeska at 510/238-2075 or dvaleska@oaklandnet.com

6225 Brookside Avenue

Proposal: To construct a 720-square-foot two-story residential rear addition.

Applicant: Andrea Sessa / Ash Design, 510/295-9261

Owner: Sandre Skatter

Planning Permits Required: 1) Regular Design Review for an attached addition to a single-family residence located in the R-30 Zone; 2) Minor Variances to provide a westerly building wall length of 71 feet where 35 feet is the maximum; and to reduce the rear yard setback where to [sic] 29-feet where 32'-6" is required for lots with depth greater than 100 feet

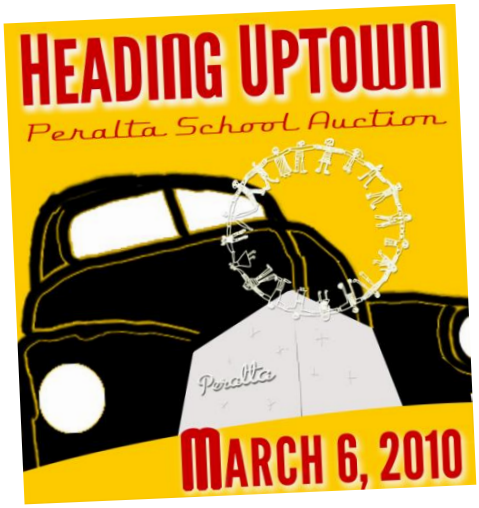
Case Planner: Mike Rivera at 510/238-6417 or mrivera@oaklandnet.com

Peralta Elementary School Auction Fun: March 6

by Jenny Summers

Mark your calendars for March 6, 2010, 5-9 p.m., for the Peralta Elementary School Auction.

This year, the Peralta Auction will be held at one of Oakland's coolest, most unusual venues: Uptown Body & Fender, 401 26th Street in Oakland. Yes, it's an auto shop — but wait until you see it! View photos of the stylish Uptown at http://tinyurl.com/yl4h829. This event is for adults only, so take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy a night Uptown.



Featured will be delicious food and entertainment, as well as silent and live auctions. Browse a huge selection of handmade crafts and jewelry, date-night packages and even weekend getaways. Feel good spending money, since it all goes back to Peralta's kids.

We hope to encourage everyone to join us, as the tickets are being sold for the low price of $10/person advance purchase, $15 at the door. Alcohol will be sold separately.

If you can't make it, please visit www.peraltaschool.org to find out how you can bid on fabulous auction items online.

In addition to attendees, we're looking for donations (goods and services). If you're a Rockridge business and interested in donating to benefit our wonderful school, please let us know. Visit Peralta's website at www.peraltaschool.org, or contact Erin McDevitt (erin_mcdevitt@yahoo.com) for more details on attending or donating.

Residential Parking Fees Hiked Prior to Final Audit

by Jon Gabel, boardmember, RCPC

The Oakland City Council voted unanimously on January 5 to raise Residential Permit Parking (RPP) renewal fees from $20 to $35 per year. The vote was calendared as a consent item, defined as "any action item that a subject matter Committee has forwarded to the full Council with unanimous recommendation for approval and is not controversial, and does not have a high level of public interest as determined by the Rules Committee." The fee hike was opposed by RCPC but only after the first affirmative vote on the ordinance at the December 8 Council meeting.

Because public notice of the proposal was provided just three days prior to that meeting, RCPC had no time to take a position. Additionally, the final vote on January 5 coincided with the publication date of The Rockridge News, so that the Council meeting could not be well publicized.

RCPC Chair Stu Flashman wrote to the Council that "RCPC opposes approving this fee increase ordinance on procedural grounds: specifically, that the present costs of the RPP program are unknown and therefore cannot justify the fee increase. RCPC asks that any decision on raising fees for the RPP program be put over until the final Performance Audit Report is issued, actual program costs have been fully disclosed, and proposed changes to the RPP program's administration have been released to the public."

No written reply to this letter was received from any councilmember. At the January 5 Council meeting, in response to a statement read by RCPC boardmember Jon Gabel, Council President Jane Brunner, who represents Rockridge, commented that the RPP program costs $188,000 per year; that there are more than 4,000 permits; and that the fee increase is intended to cover some of those costs. This cost estimate is not contained in the interim RPP Program Performance Audit Report issued in May, 2009 (http://www.oaklandauditor.com/images/oakland/auditreports/rpp_interim_report.pdf). The final report has not been issued, more than one year after it was mandated by the Council.

RCPC has requested that the city of Oakland provide all documents related to the RPP program costs and revenues, as well as plans for changes to the program that were briefly mentioned by City staff at the December 5 Council meeting.

Your Small Business:
Get noticed like a BIG business.
FREE CONSULTATION
Affordable Rates
305-6660
CANNING DESIGN
ROCKRIDGE STUDIO canningdes.com

Rockridge Optometry
Your neighborhood family eyecare providers since 1947
Dr. Donald Sarver
Dr. Larry Sarver
Dr. Scott Yokoi
Dr. Cindy Sakai
5321 College Avenue, Oakland
510-655-3797
www.rockridgeoptometry.com

local sustainable residential architecture
BUTTRICK WONG Architects
Jerome Buttrick, AIA
www.buttrickwong.com
Tim Wong, AIA
510.594.8700

Rockridge District Association Announces Annual Election, Calls for Nominees

The Rockridge District Association (RDA) will hold its annual board of directors election at the Rockridge Library on March 18, beginnning at 8 a.m. and ending at 10 a.m. Nominations are being accepted now for business tenants (RDA members), business property owners and representatives for the community at large.

The RDA board meets once a month. Our committees, Executive, Marketing & Promotion and Streetscape & Security, also meet once a month. Our board member terms are for two years. All board members are encouraged to be involved with at least one of our committees.

For more information, or if you wish to nominate someone or yourself, please send your name, address and contact information to: Susan Bernosky c/o Allstate Insurance, 5940 College Avenue, Suite A, Oakland, CA 94618, or email to: info@rockridge-district.com

— Susan Bernosky, Secretary, Rockridge District Association

The RDA is a 501(C)3 community based organization, organized as a Business Improvement District with the City of Oakland. *— From the RDA Web site*

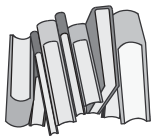
Rockridge Library Friends Set Board Elections: Sign Up!

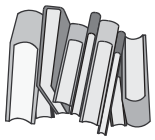
by FORL board of directors

Your library needs you to make a difference. The Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) will hold elections for new members of the governing board this April. The board, a subcommittee of the Rockridge Community Planning Council, meets four times a year and oversees FORL's support of the Rockridge branch of the Oakland Public Library by helping to raise funds and by organizing special projects.

Members of the board, whose number varies from eight to 11, serve for a two-year term. We hope to recruit at least one new member of the local community to the board this spring. No speeches or campaigning are required, and no prior experience: only a willingness to aid your local library.

Please join us. For further information, contact co-chair of the board Carol Bieri at cbieri@pacbell.net.





WINSTON'S PLUMBING
HEATING & ELECTRICAL
lic.# 537739/554406
Since 1979
• Trenchless Sewers
• Earthquake Protection
• Tankless Water Heaters
• Remodel & Repair
510-652-8014
www.winstonsplumbing.com
"May your toilet never runneth over!"

Jeff Auen
REMAX ACCORD
■ Residential
■ Income Properties
■ REO Specialist
WWW.REO-SFBay.COM
WWW.JLAHOMES.COM
JeffAuen@comcast.net
800-805-8827

NEW BUS HOURS
BREAKFAST/LUNCH
tues-sun 8am-3pm
aunt mary's CAFE
510.601.9227
WWW.AUNTMARYSCAFE.COM
4307 TELEGRAPH AVE. OAKLAND 94609
WE NO LONGER SERVE DINNER
BUT WILL BE AVAIL. FOR EVENING SPECIAL EVENTS

a cross-cultural congregation striving to partner with the Rockridge community in lifestyle and service.
College Avenue Presbyterian Church
5951 College Avenue, Oakland 510 658-3665
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM • VISIT: CAPCCHURCH.ORG
OUR WONDERFUL COMMUNITY MEAL, FRIDAYS, 6-7PM
A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Mariposa
Gardening & Design
Design, Installation and Maintenance
Native Plant Gardens & Stonework
Andrea Hurd, Horticulturist and Stonemason
License #883905 ❋ tel. 510.558.8429
www.mariposagardening.com

Regency Antique Restoration
Professional and Experienced
ALL Furniture Repairs
In-Home Services
New finishes & waxing
FREE ESTIMATES
Pickup & Delivery
517-6280
Bruce Wagg
bruce@bayareaantiques.com

GARDEN CLEANERS
$5 FREE DRYCLEANING with garment orders over $28
or $3 OFF orders over $15
Dry Cleaning only ☛ Present with incoming order
EXPERT SHIRT LAUNDERING!
Garden Cleaners
5808 College Avenue, Oakland
601-1188
Mon – Fri 7 – 7 • Sat 8 – 6
Across from Trader Joe's and Zachary's Pizza

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.

We Are a Community. Are Neighbors Aware of Others in Distress?

Editor:

Several weeks ago my granddaughter, who lives with me, was accosted by two men as she was walking home from class one evening. They threatened her and told her not to run. She ran as fast as she could, screaming, and got home safely.

I spoke with some of the neighbors afterwards. Several recalled hearing someone screaming. But no-one, *no-one* came out to check!

What does that say about our neighborhood? Are people scared? Or don't they care?

This is not an isolated incident. It's happening all over. With the current state of the economy, there are more and more people out there who are desperate and they are preying on whoever appears vulnerable.

We can't just depend on the police to chase them away. There are things we can do: carry whistles and carry mace, for two examples.

Basically, we need to think of ourselves as a community, stay in touch with our neighbors, stay alert to what is going on around us and be ready to respond to a call for help.

I'd like to think we really do care.

— Lydia Gans



Welcoming boys & girls ages 5 and up
(510) 547-4441 • www.piedmontchoirs.org
PIEDMONT EAST BAY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

LOTUS CLEANING SERVICES
FOR HOME AND OFFICE
Non-Toxic Housekeeping Office Cleaning
Eco-Friendly Auto Detailing Carpet Cleaning
(510) 452-0755
www.lotuscleaningservices.com
EXPERIENCED, LICENSED, BONDED AND INSURED

Praying - Serving - Growing
St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church
400 Alcatraz Ave.
Oakland
(between Telegraph and College Avenues)
510-653-8631
Mass Schedule
Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8 a.m.
& 10:30 a.m.
Weekdays: 8:30 a.m.
Reconciliation
Saturday, 4 p.m.
www.staugustineoakland.com

Sogno
Sogno Design Group

NEW HOMES,
REMODELS,
ADDITIONS,
KITCHENS,
BATHROOMS,
SUNROOMS,
DECKS
GARAGE CONVERSIONS,
SMALL SPACES,
HOME OFFICES,
OUTDOOR ROOMS,
GREEN BUILDING...
Kathryn A. Rogers Architect
1496-C Solano Avenue
Albany, CA 94706
tel. 510.526.2720
www.sognodesigngroup.com

something for every valentine!
rockridge home
furniture accessories gifts
5418 College Ave. (510) 420-1928

Peace of Mind Bodywork
A touch therapy to relax the fabric of your being.
Sharon Smith, CMT
6097 Claremont Ave., Oakland
www.peaceofmindbodywork.com
510-461-6431


Ubiquity International, LLC
PO Box 21265
Piedmont, CA 94620-1265
CST: 2070359-40 WA SOT: 602-549-382
There is a lot of world to explore.
new discoveries - new friends - renewed life
Contact Us Today
Call Thomas Talboy
(866) 984-8687
or visit us online at:
www.UbiquityInternational.com
Family and Student Travel
School Travel • Pilgrimages • Special Interest
ISIC, IYTC, ITIC • European Rail



The Rockridge Muse

by Ortrun Niesar

Celebrating Our Artists

Patricia Polacco

Over the past decades, Rockridge has produced an impressive number of successful artists, film makers, writers, musicians, scholars and more. But Rockridge is small, and inevitably our luminaries leave to seek wider horizons. Nevertheless, like homing pigeons, some of our best loved Rockridge graduates fly back into our coop now and then to say hello and remind us that this place and those of us who stayed behind still matter.

Patricia Polacco

Last week one of my favorites, Patricia Polacco, award-winning children's book writer and illustrator, fluttered into town. She first met a storefull of fans for a talk and book signing at Mrs. Dalloway's Bookstore in Berkeley's Elmwood District, then spent the week visiting neighborhood schools. I followed her to Redwood Day School where she spent a day speaking to children aged 5 to 14 years.

A vivacious, mature woman, not too tall, with her hair knotted high on top of her head and an intense, engaging gaze, Patricia conjured up a compelling figure as she stood in front of an auditorium full of middle-school students and began her afternoon talk tailored to teens. They listened spellbound as she deftly turned painful personal stories into one powerful lesson after another about family,



friends, hope, loneliness and growing up disadvantaged right here in Oakland.

In the guise of marvelous narrative and visual imagery, she was able to discuss tough topics like racial prejudice, inequality, disabilities, fear of failure, not fitting in and bullying. The crowd was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. When she finished, the questions flowed freely. The kids, clearly trusting her to speak the truth, couldn't get enough of her.

Patricia doesn't mind telling people that, while she could draw well, she could not read until age 14. A sympathetic teacher by the name of George Falker at Willard Junior High finally discovered her dilemma and likely saved her life. In her eyes, this teacher is a saint and, of course, she eventually wrote a book about him ("Thank You, Mr. Falker"). Still, a writing career seems an unlikely move for someone who struggled with severe dyslexia as a child. In fact, Patricia did not become a published writer until age 41. When I first met her, she and then-husband Enzo, and children Steve and Tracy, resided on Thomas Avenue. Her day job had to do with art restoration – she had studied iconography – but I remember her always telling stories and making beautiful illustrations.

One day she joined a workshop for writers of children's books in Berkeley, and the rest is history. In the 25 years that followed she has published 47 books, and there are more to come, I am sure. She specializes in personal narrative, drawing on a rich heritage of storytelling in her family and on personal experience, giving equal value, it seems, to illustration and text as she develops tales that appeal to young children, teenagers as well as adults. She has probably won every writer's award for her category there is. And many of you probably have at least one of her books in your collection. Tell me you haven't heard of "Chicken Sunday," a beloved Easter story set in North Oakland that is presented every year or so as a play by Stage Bridge senior actors and Oakland school children. Or, what about "Pink and Say," the story of Patricia's great-great-great grandfather who shook the hand that shook the hand of Abraham Lincoln? Or "Rechenka's Eggs," or "The Keeping Quilt ," or "I Can Hear the Sun", or, one of my favorites, "Meteor!" and so many more.

If we ever decide, as Berkeley has, to grace College Avenue with banners or plaques acknowledging the achievements of our brilliant residents, Patricia Polacco should most certainly be among those honored.

Perhaps we should begin making a list of honorees and get such a project under way. What do you think? Let me know. My e-mail is oniesar@sbcglobal.net. And go to www. PatriciaPolacco.com for more information about our famous children's book author.





About the Photos

Coincident with Black History Month, Patricia Polacco, far left, ①, tells parents and children at Ms. Dalloway's of her book involving the Underground Railway, "January's Sparrow." Middle, ②, the wall-to-wall crowd at the bookstore. Bottom left, ③, Patricia autographs books for Bobbie Kinkead and granddaughter Julia, and, ④, Cole and Sophie Foster of Lafayette.

PHOTOS: DON KINKEAD

Ortrun Niesar offers her views on art, culture and quality-of-life questions in this monthly column. She can be reached at oniesar@sbcglobal.net

Claremont School Class Offerings Continue to Expand Opportunity

by Shona Armstrong

Shona Armstrong is a parent at Chabot Elementary with three children headed to Claremont Middle School one day. She is active on the Chabot PTA and the Claremont PTA and lives around the corner from Claremont School. Armstrong believes Claremont (and most Oakland schools) is better than most people realize. The problems get the publicity, she believes; improvements and positive change are less widely noticed. Armstong hopes to change that. In this interview, she talks with Vice-Principal Kevin Taylor, focussing on classes and electives.

Shona Alexander: Can you talk a little bit about the math programs offered at Claremont?

Vice-Principal Kevin Taylor: Claremont offers the standard array of middle school math classes. One unique thing about our school is that the math classes are currently divided by gender. Numerous studies have shown that students in single sex classes outperform students in mixed-gender classes, and we believe we are seeing some of those benefits at Claremont. (See, e.g., http://www.singlesexschools.org/evidence.html.) After one full year of running this pilot program, we will assess its success and determine whether to continue.

In addition to the standard middle school menu of math classes, Claremont offers advanced Geometry during the 0 period (before regular classes begin) at Oakland Tech. The students that attend Tech are achieving beyond middle school standards. Studying geometry in 8th grade is a year ahead of the normal college track. Using nearby Oakland Tech to incorporate high school geometry into the middle school curriculum has been a practical way for our small community middle school to offer additional electives despite our size.

For the very, very, very enthusiastic math students, Rick Prime, the parent of a Claremont student, is heading a program called Math Counts, in which a group of students meet weekly to prepare for math competitions and to tackle even more rigorous math material. (See www.mathcounts.org.)

I am especially glad that you asked me about our math program, because it gives me a chance to congratulate our math teacher extraordinaire, Ruth Nagash, who not only taught the highest scoring math academy (a program offered for struggling students) this past summer, but whose class this fall also had the highest scores on the first overall district wide benchmark assessment. Congratulations, Ms. Nagash!

[The first school-wide benchmark test results, just published, were not as strong as the school had hoped. The school is taking steps to identify and remedy problems so future student performance will improve. — S. A.]

SA: What kinds of electives are available to students at Claremont Middle School?

KT: During the regular school day, students can choose from Physical Education, Art, Computer Animation, Study Skills, and Music (Band, Orchestra, etc.).

Our Computer Animation program is unique among middle schools in Oakland. It is supported by a PTA program called "Project Seven." The mission of Project Seven is to develop and facilitate a professional digital media program for Oakland middle school and high school students. (The "seven" in the title refers to the whole seven-year period of training from middle school through high school.) The program aims to prepare students so that, upon graduation, they will be qualified to embark on careers in the digital media and technology industry. You can learn more about the program at www.projectseven.org.

Our band, led by the dedicated Ms. Briggs, has blossomed over the past few years into an award-winning group of dedicated students. They perform at numerous events both locally and around the state. We recently had the opportunity to congratulate musicians Akiro Duey, Sirmorian Johnson and Reva Sweidler who participated in the California Music Educators Association (CMEA) Bay Section All Region Honor Band & Orchestra

Claremont Classes, page 9

ANGELISSE KAROL
COLOR & DESIGN
510-658-2599
Hourly consultation
to fit the size
of your interior or exterior
home projects.
www.angelissekarolcolor.com

For Sale
Superb Views Overlooking the Bay
773 Euclid Ave, Berkeley
Immaculate 3+ bedroom, 3 bath home plus office/in-law space with separate entrance. Recently landscaped, retaining walls and new detached garage, updated plumbing and electrical. A real gem.
To preview this home, please contact:
ElisaUribe Realtor®
(510) 485-7272
Wells and Bennett Realtors
www.rockridgedigs.com #01427070



Me. I've been an Allstate Agent for 10 years. And riding bikes for 17. That means I can talk all day about insurance features and discounted rates, but I'd just as soon talk about a new route you've found. Let's talk today.
Susan Bernosky, LUTCF
(510) 450 9050
5940 College Ave, #A
Oakland
susanbernosky@allstate.com
Allstate.
You're in good hands.
Auto Home Life Retirement
The Cupped Hands logo is a registered service mark of Allstate Insurance Company. Life insurance and annuities issued by Allstate Life Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL and Lincoln Benefit Life Company, Lincoln, NE. In New York, Allstate Life Insurance Company of New York, Hauppauge, NY. Property-casualty insurance products issued by Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Company, Allstate Indemnity Company, Allstate Insurance Company, Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company: Northbrook, IL. © 2007 Allstate Insurance Company

Claremont Classes

from page 8

in early January.

During the after-school program, students can participate in Spanish, wrestling, basketball, flag football, tennis, computer animation and 3D modeling, music engineering, fashion design, student leadership, poetry, hip hop composition, hip hop dance, and school newsletter (via our blog at www.claremontknighttime.blogspot.com).

The after-school wrestling program is new to Claremont. It is run by a non-profit called Wan-Tu-Wazuri. Wan-Tu-Waziri operates a year-round wrestling club at Claremont Middle School, Oakland Tech, and a few other Oakland schools. The coaches use wrestling training to instill in their students self-confidence in all aspects of their lives. The Director of Claremont's after-school program, Sylvestor Gaskin, says that he sees a direct correlation between students' participation in this wrestling program and improved academics and social skills. Wan-Tu-Wazuri has given many Oakland kids a positive outlet. One of their best-known alumni is Stephen Abas, who went on to receive a wrestling scholarship at Cal Sate Fresno, and eventually earned a silver medal in the Olympics. The coaches are extremely dedicated, taking the kids to tournaments on weekends, making sandwiches with their own money, and never asking parents for donations.

Although Claremont has a smaller wrestling program than most other teams, we have been able to place in every tournament we have entered and we have produced numerous individual champions.

The students' work in the after-school and electives programs was on display at an exhibition before the winter break, and we will hold another open house in the spring.

SA: What is the status of the Claremont Library?

KT: With the help of our wonderful PTA, we have been able to re-hire Debbie Hughes part time to assist us in re-launching our successful library with all of its components. She began work on January 13. We could definitely use some community participation on this project. Volunteers are needed to increase the hours of operation during the second half of this year. If you are interested, I invite you to contact our PTA Vice President, Mike Napolitano at 510/655-4725.

SA: Any final message for the community?

KT: Our school seeks to be a vibrant part of the community. Check us out at www.claremont.org and keep your eyes on the school bulletin board by our front entrance on College Avenue. We hope you'll enjoy our many exhibitions, performances, and events, and you may also find some fun and rewarding opportunities to support the school. If you're especially interested in staying abreast of events, you can sign up for the Claremont KnightLine e-mail newsletter at www.claremontms.org/Claremontms/Broadcast.html

School Board Director Jody London invites you to a
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
Parent Empowerment: Building Mutually Satisfying Home-School Partnerships
Saturday, February 27, 2010, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Emerson Elementary School
4803 Lawton Avenue, Oakland
Recent State and Federal initiatives give parents new power to shape and move their schools. Yet devastating budget cuts mean schools have increasingly less to work with.
How can parents and guardians partner work with schools to provide the education they want for their children?
How can engaged parents and guardians recruit others to join in their efforts?
How can the constituents of District 1 create efforts for all children to succeed? Are we all in this together?
Refreshments and childcare provided
Please RSVP if you require childcare
For more information and to RSVP:
Jody London Jody.London@ousd.k12.ca.us 510/459-0667

94618
For the week of 11/30/09:
Median List Price: $795,000
Avg. Days on Market: 162
McGUIRE REAL ESTATE
Want all the facts?
Stop by and discuss 94618 weekly updates with a Rockridge McGuire agent.
510.622.8300
5327 COLLEGE AVENUE | ROCKRIDGE
mcguire.com

Rockridge Dental™
rockdent.com 510.653.6677
3rd Floor
Market Hall
Ste. 312
Bruce D. Fong, D.D.S.
Rana Baroudi, D.M.D.
Advanced Preventive, Restorative, Cosmetic Dentistry, and Periodontal Gum Care.

Here's Your Chance to Join The Rockridge News Team

Thanks to Jeff Rabb for his many years of service as The Rockridge News Block Captain for two routes on Keith and Ocean View Avenues.

Jeff is moving so we need one or two


The Rockridge News

RCPC Seeks Applicants to Fill Board of Directors Positions

OPD Asks Public's Help to End a String of Local Robberies

people to replace him. If you like to walk, and live on or near Keith Avenue or Ocean View, please let us know if you would like to pick up route 10D or 09H. Call Susan at 547-3855 or email her at smontauk@gmail.com to volunteer.

- 10D Even numbers along College from 5620 (Eve's Hunan), up Ocean View even numbers to 5656 OceanView, across street to 5659 Ocean View odd numbers and then along College to 5540 College
- 09H Up Keith from McMillan to 5925 Broadway.

BRT Proposal

from page 2

letter that did not oppose the project, but raised concerns about potential impacts on traffic, parking, transit, local businesses, and increased "cut-through" traffic on nearby residential streets by drivers frustrated by congestion on Telegraph Avenue. The DEIR also provoked strong comments from the affected cities. AC agreed that each of the cities through which the BRT would run – Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro – could identify "Locally Preferred Alternatives" to the draft plan analyzed in the DEIR. AC would, in turn, incorporate aspects of these alternatives into BRT "build alternatives" that would be analyzed in the Final EIR.

At the meeting, Oakland staff showed a preliminary Oakland preferred alternative and highlighted its differences from AC's draft plan. Oakland's plan adds bicycle lanes throughout the Temescal/North Oakland corridor, as well as additional left turn lanes. Some bus stops are added, to better serve pedestrians, drivers, and transit-riders in the area, while other stops are moved to improve traffic flow at certain congested intersections, notably Alcatraz and Telegraph. Oakland staff also intends to propose an intermediate "Rapid Bus Plus" alternative, which would include some BRT features, but not dedicated bus lanes.

The Oakland Planning Commission will hear about BRT and the City's proposed alternatives in a director's report at its February 3 meeting, followed by a full public hearing on February 17 (http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/CEDA/revised/planningzoning/commission/docs/021710_Planning-Commission-Agenda.pdf. Confirm meeting and time: 510/238-3941). The Planning Commission's recommendations will then go to the City Council's public works committee on March 23, and finally to the full City Council for a public hearing and council vote on April 6.

More details of AC Transit's BRT proposal can be found on the AC Transit website at: http://www.actransit.org/planning_focus/brt/, while preliminary plans for Oakland's preferred local alternative can be viewed at: http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/ceda/dcsd_ts_brt.asp.

AC hopes to begin construction of BRT in 2012 or 2013, but many "decision points" remain, as do opportunities for public comment. Concerned Rockridge residents can share their concerns through RCPC via letter to RCPC, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618, or by e-mail to andrew@rockridge.org, or by attending the next meeting of RCPC's Transportation Committee. See box, page 2, for details.

Join the committee's Yahoo! group at RCPC_Traffic_Pedestrian_and_Bicycle_Safety_Committee to stay up to date on transportation committee news.





City's Parks Need *You*

by Susan Montauk, chair, Oakland Parks Coalition (OPC)

We're sure it is not news to you that Oakland is in a financial bind, facing extraordinary deficits in 2010 and 2011 and scrounging for ways to cut the budget or raise revenues that do not irreparably harm the quality of life for its residents. A tall order!

It thus becomes crucial that those who can help out do. OPC has always focused on park volunteerism as a way to build community around parks but now it is more important than ever. We are proud to say that 67 Oaklanders have signed the OPC Stewardship Pledge, promising to monitor and care for their parks and, thanks to those volunteers and scores of others, our parks may weather the storm.

If you have thought about volunteering in a particular park, please contact us via oaklandparkscoalition@gmail.com. We can connect you with people who are already active; or, you can rescue a park that has no steward. Just visit our Web site (address below) and go to the page marked Stewardship to find a list of parks, by districts, that do not have OPC stewards. Choose one and contact us to get you started.

OPC meetings are open to the public. They generally occur on the 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:30 a.m. at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, phone 510/238-3208.

Contact us via e-mail at oaklandparks-coalition@gmail.com if you wish to attend our next meeting.

Visit our Web site, www.oaklandparks-coalition.org, for more information and to learn about ways to help.

Hotline Established to Report Fraud, Waste and Abuse

by Oakland City Auditor Courtney Ruby

Last year, the office of the City Auditor launched the Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Prevention Program (FW+A) to help residents and employees report suspected misuse of City resources. As part of this program, a hotline has been launched to provide a safe, confidential, and most importantly, reliable method to report suspected fraud, waste, and abuse.

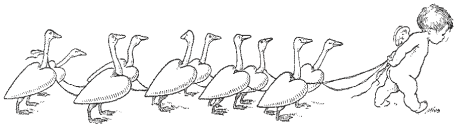


City Auditor Courtney Ruby

If you have knowledge of fraud, waste, and abuse in Rockridge — or anywhere in Oakland — we want to know. Only by having a collaborative relationship with dedicated employees, concerned citizens, and accountable leadership can Oakland ensure transparency, accountability, and integrity in its government.

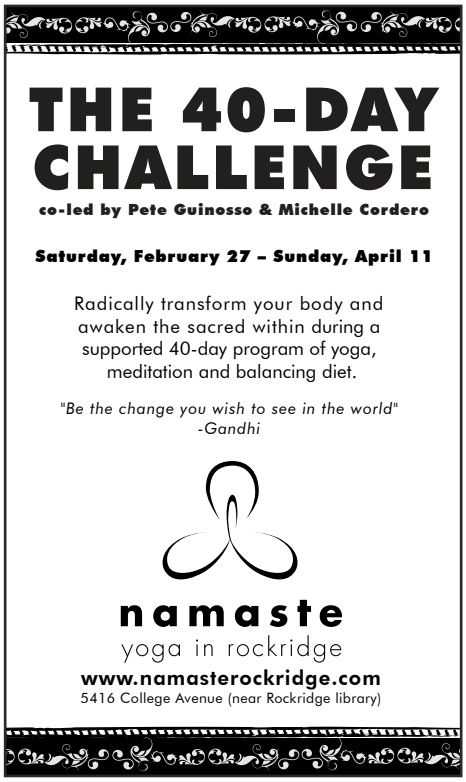
To learn more about the FW+A and the hotline or to provide a tip via the Web, visit the the City Auditor's Web site: www.oaklandcityauditor.com.

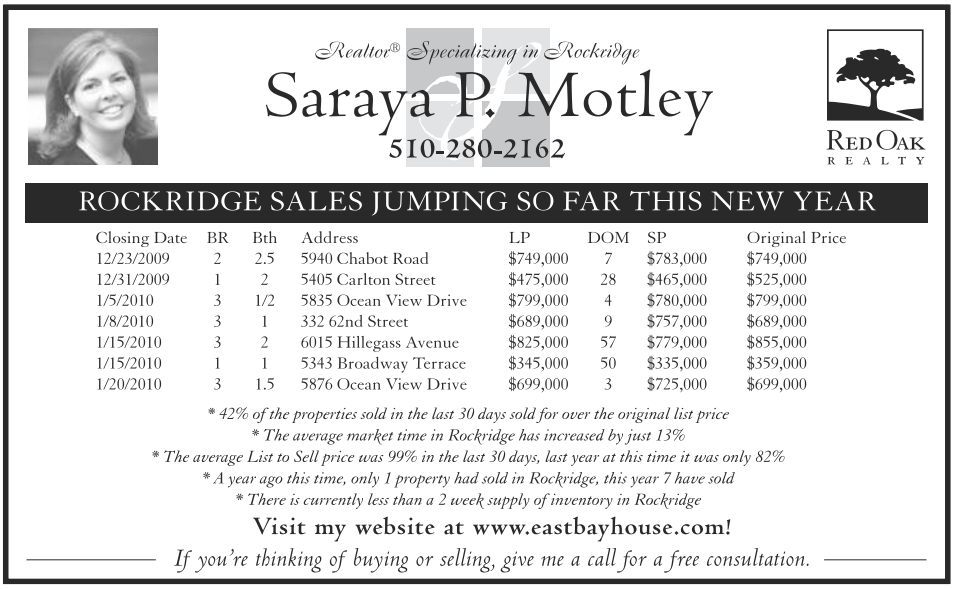
To report suspected fraud, waste or abuse, call toll-free: 888/239-6390.











BID Changes

from page 2

non-assessed business owners in the BID to participate in voting for a new board. After by-law revisions in 2007, the delegates were eliminated and the board directly selected and voted for its own members.

Perhaps as a consequence of this "closed" election process, several current RDA board members have served for extended periods. The Rockridge BID is just beginning its 10th year; three members have been on the board the entire ten years, and all but one of the others have served four years or more.

It remains to be seen whether this longevity will continue with the more open election process proposed by Brunner.

No Members, No Vote

The RDA by-laws specify that the organization has no members, and that any rights "members" might have in the organization belong exclusively to the board. This includes the right to vote for the board. As written, the proposed changes still might not grant voting and nomination rights to anyone outside the board unless the by-law revisions specify "assessed business owners" instead of the proposed wording "members."

Financial Statements

The RDA contract with the City of Oakland currently requires that "a full disclosure financial statement" be submitted for each calendar year within 90 days of December 31, and be available for public inspection. It is unclear if RDA Treasurer, Hank Levy, himself a CPA, or a member of his firm, is eligible to meet the requirement in Brunner's memo to the CED committee.

The addition of online financial reports will allow all assessed business owners easy access to see how their money is spent. This has been an issue of major concern raised in letters to the CED committee.

The right of an assessee or his/her designated agent to review the RDA financials on an individual basis has always existed, but in a recent example, it took two months, from early November to mid-January, for the requested information to be provided.

Notification Changes

The RDA has an annual obligation to provide a formal notification of renewal to assessees. This notice explains that the assessees have the right to protest the assessment district and to disband it, following a specific course of action. Previous notices, however, failed to indicate where to send protests. While there have apparently been past protests submitted, there are none on file with the City, presumably because they weren't sent to the right place.

The new requirement on annual notification clarifies that such protests should go to an address at the City of Oakland, not to the RDA. The protests would then become public information.

LOOKING FOR DIRECTION IN THIS VOLATILE MARKET? LET'S TALK.

Lan J Shaw
Financial Advisor
2161 Allston Way Suite A
Berkeley, CA 94704
510-704-8854

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC
Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

りきゅう
Authentic Japanese Cuisine
Rikyu
JAPANESE RESTAURANT

After 25 years of preparing authentic Japanese cuisine for exceptional restaurants such as Kiku of Tokyo, Mikaku San Francisco, Kirala, and We Be Sushi, Chef **Tatsuya Koyake** decides to have his own space to share his passion for cooking. Come join him for a taste of Japan.

ADDRESS 5335 College Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618
TEL 510 595 7388

GRUBBCO.COM
510.652.2133
3070 Claremont Avenue • Berkeley
510.339.0400
1960 Mountain Boulevard • Oakland

In and Around Rockridge, There's Only One #1
Find Out Why!

Homes SOLD in 2009 by Ron Kriss


List Price $695,000
Sale Price $745,000
www.331-63rdSt.com
SOLD


List Price $739,000
Sale Price $742,500
www.331Clifton.com
SOLD


List Price $519,000
Sale Price $514,000
www.367-49thStreet.com
SOLD


List Price $750,000
Sale Price $720,000
www.492-58thSt.com
SOLD


List Price $869,000
Sale Price $902,000
www.5241Manila.com
SOLD


List Price $719,000
Sale Price $724,500
www.5616Kales.com
SOLD


List Price $1,195,00
Sale Price $1,200,000
www.5677OceanView.com
SOLD


List Price $839,000
Sale Price $840,000
www.5906Colby.com
SOLD


List Price $1,160,000
Sale Price $1,160,000
www.2902Hillegass.com
SOLD


List Price $1,395,000
Sale Price $1,300,000
www.3040Benvenue.com
SOLD


List Price $784,000
Sale Price $755,000
www.5247Locksley.com
SOLD


List Price $899,000
Sale Price $855,000
www.5336Locksley.com
SOLD

Ron Kriss, Broker
510-547-5970 Ext. 55

Lawton Associates
ronkriss@jps.net

LAWTON ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

Ambience. In Rockridge?

Ambience: atmosphere; a particular environment or surrounding influence; the feeling or mood evoked by an environment.

Has someone told you lately how much they enjoy Rockridge's *ambience*? Were they talking about the restaurants? The bookstores? The coffee shops? Market Hall? Surely they were. And did they mention the unique shops, the lively watering holes, the good humor of other pedestrians? Of course.

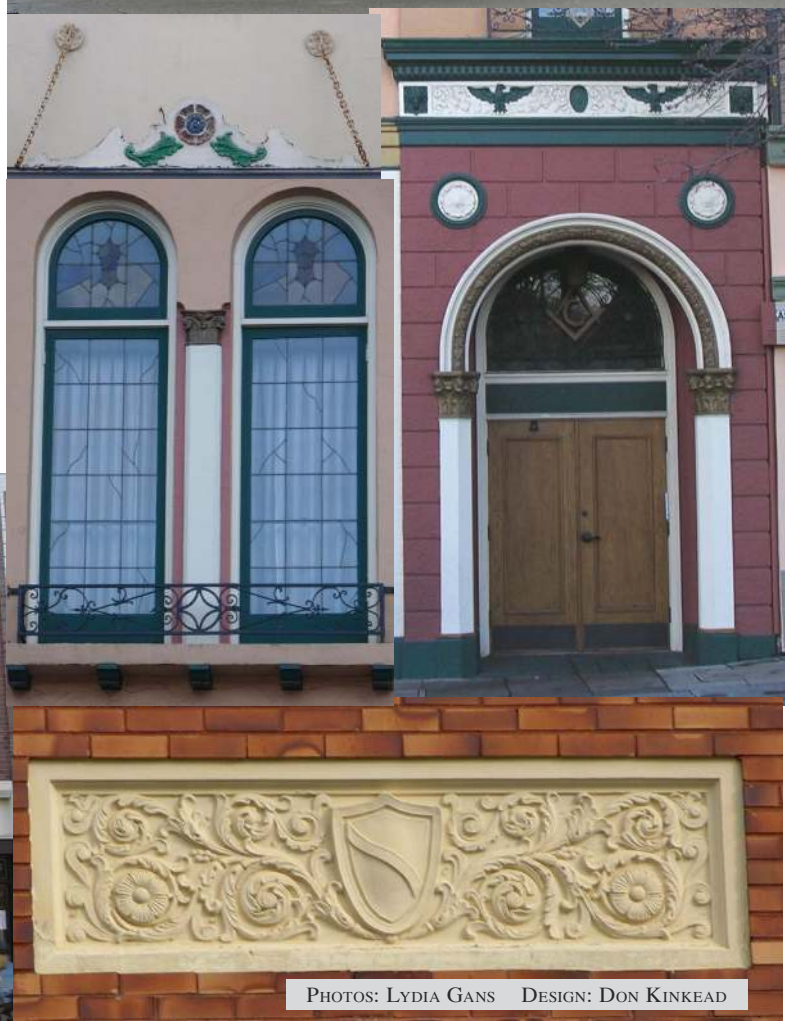
Perhaps without realizing it, they were also talking about "the mood evoked by an environment," a part of the very definition of ambience. In these views of College Avenue buildings, photographer Lydia Gans shows us some of the wealth of architectural embellishments that evoke that part of Rockridge's ambience.

But one person's ambience can be another's opportunity, which can sometimes lead to unnerving change. In the wrong hands, the result can be outsized, slab-sided, featureless buildings heralded as worthy additions to our otherwise pleasing ambience. They are not!

Change will come; we must continue to demand that change be channeled into coherance with the existing evoked mood of Rockridge. Rockridge must be enhanced by change, not eroded by mediocrity.

— Don Kinkead, Editor







Photos: Lydia Gans Design: Don Kinkead

BEYOND the PALE
COLOR AND INTERIOR CONSULTATION
JODY STEVENS
w. 510.595.1587 m. 510.681.6035

Curves
Rockridge
Located on Market Hall's Lower Level
Entry on Shafter Avenue
510-655-8808
Open 7 Days
Mon- Fri 6:00 -7:30
Sat & Sun 8:00 - Noon
www.curvesrockridge.com
Free Parking!
Across from BART

COLLINS ROOFING
Family Owned & Operated
482-2227 Seamus
www.collinsroofing.com
Quality Work • Free Estimates
Lic # 695711

RN classifieds

Your Message Could Be Here

Your 36-word message is $22. (Phone number counts as one word). Mail to: **RN Classifieds**, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618. *March deadline is February 18. For information:* smontauk@gmail.com

Home Repair Expert

Carpentry, remodeling. Doors and windows, glass and locks, small electrical, plumbing jobs, drywall, painting, fences, decks and other odd jobs. Good rates. Rick 510/761-7168.

High Quality Gardening

Skilled maintenance, clean-ups, aesthetic pruning, irrigation, design and installations. Ecologically-minded since 1995 in the East Bay. Personal attention, local refs, free estimates. Green's Gardens. 510/593-3490.

Stimulus Package, Penelope's Aesthetics

Professional Skin Care offering a full custom facial with massage and eyebrow wax for $44. Gift certificates available. www.penelopecalef.com 510/594-1552.

Repairs

Carpentry, electrical, kitchen, bath, decks, fences, drainage, tile, windows, walls, dry rot, termite damage, foundation. Lic# 458473. Don 510/812-0310.

Non-Toxic House Cleaning

Lotus Cleaning Services provides excellent service while protecting your health and the planet. Licensed, bonded and insured. Experienced, reliable cleaners. Great for households with allergies, asthma, small children. Reasonable rates. 510/452-0755, lotusclean@comcast.net

$1699, 3/1 BR

3242 Linden St., Oakland. In 4-plex, close to BART, JLS, shopping and more. $1699 deposit. $42 application fee. Open house Feb. 15, 3-5 pm. Contact M. Parker at 510/879-7217.

Aesthetic Pruning.

I specialize in pruning trees & shrubs under 20 feet tall. I work with trees to enhance their natural beauty. Specialties: maples, camellias, fruit trees, & focal points. Pruning instructor Merritt College. Bruce Thompson 510/428-4964.

Electrical Repairs & Remodels

From doorbell repair to whole-house rewiring, we've been doing electrical work in Oakland and Berkeley for over 30 years. Sutorik & Company, www.sutorikandco.com, lic#397149. 510/655-3677.

Rockridge Bungalow Vacation Rental.

Fully outfitted with style! Best location. Steps to College Avenue shopping, restaurants & cafes. Home away from home. www.rockridgebungalow.com

Design, Construction

Victorian, Edwardian, and Craftsman rehabs. Interior, exterior, big, small. Many local references. Lic. #813074, insured. See www.catconstruction.biz Craig. 510/232-5978.

Reduced Commissions!

Why pay 6% to sell your home when Hal Feiger with Realty Advocates offers the same full service as other companies for 4%? Call me today. 510/428-0757 or check us out on the web. www.realtyadvocates.com

8 Weeks to Look & Feel Your Absolute Best

Enhance your fitness or weight loss program just in time for the holidays! Classes-Tuesdays/Thursdays, 6-7 pm at Danspace, 473 Hudson St. Visit: www.fit4livingnow.com E-mail Geneva@fit4livingnow.com. Call 510/918-7108.

Sitcom Furniture Outlet

Visit furniture designer and manufacturer Sitcom's outlet in Oakland featuring affordable high quality, contemporary designs on super discount. Store hours are M,T,W,Th, Sat 10am-5pm and Fridays from 10am-4pm. 850 42nd Avenue, Oakland. www.sitcomfurnitureoutlet.com

Therapist's Office

$600, utilities included. Sunny and light, new paint and carpet, lobby buzzer system. Located at corner of Claremont (#6097) and College. For info or to see, contact Mike Mee. 707/785-3999. meemike@yahoo.com

Have Baby Boomers Given Up?

Do you know Baby Boomers who have given up on love? What I do is get them out of the house and into a satisfying and meaningful relationship. 15-20 minutes free consultation. Barbara. 510/917-0299.

Spectacular Service Housekeeping

We provide excellent housecleaning services with the greatest attention to detail. Let us create free time for you. Call today! FREE ESTIMATE Ask for Olivia. 510/228-5704.

Record your Music in Rockridge

Comfortable music production studio. Experienced Producer/Engineer/Multi-instrumentalist. Vintage and modern gear. Professional, affordable rates. Contact Ben Bernstein for more information. 415/531-4671. www.benbernsteinmusic.com

Quality Tutoring with a Conscience

Achieve learning. Local non-profit founded by UC Berkeley professor Dr. Sanchez offers: exceptional quality, convenience, and rates starting at $15/hour. CALL 510/903-2224 or visit us at www.achievelearning.org today

Gardener

Over 15 years of service to the Rockridge area. Maintenance and garden restoration. Reasonable rates and excellent references. Please call Chris: 510/655-0157.



Norman H. Burg, DDS
General Dentistry
(510) 652-1517
5700 Broadway, Oakland
A Prevention Oriented Practice


REALTY ADVOCATES
23 Years in Rockridge
Highest Sales Prices + Lowest Commissions
(510) 428-0757 realtyadvocates.com

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

Council President Brunner's Community Advisory Meeting

Saturday Feb. 20, 10am to noon. Peralta Elementary School: 460 63rd St. (parking on Alcatraz, east of Telegraph).**Meeting topic: Oakland's Energy and Climate Action Plan**. Info: 238-7001, or view Brunner Report at www.oaklandnet.com (the site for all City-related information).

Community Workshop

School Board Director Jody London invites you to discuss **Parent Empowerment: Building Mutually Satisfying Home-School Partnerships**. Sat., 2/27, 9am to 12pm, Emerson Elem. School, 4803 Lawton Ave. Refreshments and childcare provided. For more info and to RSVP: Jody.London@ousd.k12.ca.us or 459-0667. **See Article page 9**.

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

Residents and business members of NCPC's 12Y and 13X areas are invited to voice their concerns about crime and public safety, 2nd Thursday each month, 7pm. 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:

- Toddler Story Time: Every Saturday, 10:30am.
- Pre-School Story Time: 1st and 3rd Wed., 10:30am.
- Baby and Toddler Story Time: 1st and 3rd Wed., 10:30am, **upstairs**.
- Pajama Time (stories and crafts): 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm. Kids invited to come in pajamas.
  - African American Folktales: with coloring fun. 2/9, 7pm.
  - Tigers for the Chinese New Year: making a dodecahedron ball with zodiac animals. 2/23, 7pm.

Special Event: Shadow Puppet Workshop with **Cheryl Perko** from the Oakland Museum. Celebrate the Chinese New Year with a story and shadow puppet play, then learn to make your own shadow puppet. All ages welcome. Kids under 8 please bring an adult. Saturday, 2/13, 2 to 3pm.

FOR TEENS:

- **Rockridge Ninjas (Anime Club): Teens 13 and up**, watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation). Second Tues. each month, 5 to 6:30pm, upstairs meeting rm. Susy: 597-5017.

FOR ADULTS

- Writers' Support/Critique Group: All writers welcome. Bring 15 copies of up to 5 double-spaced pages of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (you're also welcome to come empty-handed). Meets 3rd Saturday each month, 1 to 5pm. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch (www.berkeleywriters-club.org.) Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Lawyers in the Library**: **Free** legal advice. First Tuesday each month from 6 to 8pm (call to confirm). Advance sign-up starts 5pm. More info: 597-5017.

ART EXHIBITS: (Call 597-5017 to get details).

Gallery:

- Feb.: **Richard Vannucci** photographs.

Lobby Display Case:

- TBA (Call for info).

LIBRARY HOURS

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.

Wed., Thurs. and Sat. 10am to 5:30pm.

Fri., 12 to 5:30pm. **Closed Sundays and Mondays (Library branches no longer open on Mondays). Also closed: Fri. 2/12, Mon. 2/15 and Tues. 2/16**.

Diesel Book/Poetry and Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Mon., 2/8 (and 3/8), 7pm. **Amnesty International Meeting**: All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Tues., 2/16, 7pm. **Rachel Venning**: *Moregasm: Babeland's Guide to Mind-Blowing Sex*.
- Thurs., 2/18, 7pm. **Greil Marcus**: *A New Literary History of America*.
- Sun., 2/21, 3pm. **Poetry Flash with Molly Bendall, Gail Wronsky** and **Karen Kevorkian**.
- Thurs., 2/25, 7pm. **Zachary Mason**: *The Lost Books of the Odyssey*.
- Thurs., 3/4, 7pm. **Kathleen Norris**: *Acedia and Me*.
- Sun., 3/7, 3pm. Local authors **Kyle Kurpinski** and **Terry D. Johnson**: *How to Defeat Your Own Clone*.
- Wed., 3/10, 7pm. **Mary Gaitskill**: *Don't Cry*.

DIESEL, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave. Info about other events and book discussion groups: 653-9965 or events@dieselbookstore.com.

Wisteria Ways House Concert Series

Cindy Kallet and **Grey Larsen**: Acoustic Folk Duo performing original songs and traditional and contemporary music from around the world on a variety of instruments, including guitar, Irish flutes and whistles, fiddles, harmoniums and more. Sunday, 2/14 (Valentine's Day), 3pm (house opens 2:30pm). $15-20 donation for musicians (cash only at the door).383 61st Street (inside venue, not wheelchair accessible). For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

Singers Wanted

The Distaff Singers, the Bay Area's longest-running women's choral group, is seeking new members. No auditions necessary, just ability to match pitch. Practice Tuesdays, 7:15 to 9pm at Bishop O'Dowd HS, 9500 Stearns Ave. A benefit concert in the fall supports local K-12 music programs. Info: Carola Ingram, 547-1191 or carolaingram@mac.com.

Christensen Heller Gallery

Exhibit of paintings by **Kim Bach**. Show runs through Mar.28. Galley hrs: Wed–Sat., 11am to 6pm; Sun. noon to 5pm. 5829 College Ave. Info: 655-5952, baird@christensenheller.com or www.christensenheller.com.

Calif. College Of The Arts (CCA)

5212 Broadway (near College Avenue). **Events are free and open to the public**.

- **A Paper + Cloth Dream Exhibition**: print works on paper and cloth by students at CCA and its sister school, Osaka Univ. of Arts in Japan. Feb. 8 – 19. Hrs: Mon. – Fri. 8:30am to noon and 1 – 4:30pm (closed Wed. morning). Reception: Thurs. 2/18, 5:30 – 7:30pm. Oliver Art Center. Info: nobanion@cca.edu.
- **Lecture by Donna Billick**, sculptor of fantastical and whimsical forms (e.g. the cow fountain and dancing pigs in Davis, CA), Feb 9, 6pm. At Treadwell Ceramics Art Center. Presented as part of CCA's Ceramics Lecture Series. Info: 594-3617.
- **Reading by poet Joseph Lease**: Feb. 16, 7:30pm in Nahl Hall. Presented as part of CCA's Hearsay Reading Series. Info: 597-3708 or humblepie@cca.edu.
- **Reading by Cooley Windsor** from his latest fiction collection, *Visit me in California*. Mar 9, 7:30pm on Nahl Hall. Presented as part of CCA's Hearsay Reading Series. Info: 597-3708 or humblepie@cca.edu.

Wanted: Rockridge Artists and Art Enthusiasts

- **The deadline to register for Pro Arts East Bay Open Studios is Saturday, Feb 20**. The event dates are Sat. and Sun. 6/5 and 6/6 and 6/12 and 6/13. Get more information and register online now at www.proartsgallery.org.
- **Volunteer Opportunities at Pro Arts**: Be part of an extraordinary team. Pro Arts provides critical access to contemporary art in Oakland and the East Bay through its independent curated exhibitions, artist services, open studios and juried programs. We are currently looking for Curatorial interns, Publicity interns, Publicity/Communications Manager, East Bay Open Studios Committee Members, and Strategic Planning Partners. Email Vicky Chen, Gallery Administrative Coordinator for details, info@proartsgallery.org or check online: www.proartsgallery.org/proarts/intern.php.

Donate Your Party Dresses to the Princess Project

Clean out your closets of new and nearly-new fashionable dresses, formal gowns, party dresses and cocktail dresses (all lengths, sizes, fabrics and colors) and make a young girl's dream come true. The Princess Project provides free prom dresses and accessories to high school girls who could not otherwise afford to go to the prom. The 2010 collection drive is between February 8-19. In Rockridge, dresses will be collected (clean and on hangers) at Tootsies, 5525 College Ave. To find other drop-off sites and to learn more about the Princess Project, visit www.princessproject.org.

North Oakland Senior Center

Program Highlights: Computer classes; health Insurance counseling and advocacy program; exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Groups and more.

Hrs: 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 monthly lunch menu ($2.25 to $4.). Info about events, membership, and opportunities to become a volunteer: 597-5085.

American Red Cross

- **Mobile Blood Drives: During Feb., there will be 4 weekly drawings for "Movies for a Year." Each winner will receive 12 pairs of movie tickets**. (not available at high school or college blood drives). Call 800/GIVE-LIFE (800/448-3543) or visit RedCrossBlood.org to find a location near you.
- **Volunteer Orientations**: 2/9, 2/17 and 2/23. Tour the Oakland Blood Center. Learn to assist blood donors, deliver blood, help with special projects. 6230 Claremont Avenue (across from College Ave. Safeway). To get training schedules and to sign up call Anne at 594-5165 or BlackstoneA@usa.redcross.org.

elizabeth H
The art of hair design

5431 College Ave Oakland Ca 94618
510.652.5431
www.elizabethh.net

Eco-friendly salon
Experienced Stylists
Organic & Sustainable products



With over 300 homes sold –
Experience Counts

Is there a move in your future?
Talk to me about featuring your home For Sale in this ad space as well as other creative marketing ideas

Terry Kulka 510/339-4789
terrykulka@att.net
http://www.terrykulka.com
COLDWELL BANKER

aboutface&body
dayspa oaklandberkeley
serving you since 1981

Specialists in
Brazilian waxing

3190 college avenue
at alcatraz
berkeley, ca 94705

p 510.428.2600
www.aboutfaceandbody.net

sun-tues 10:30-5:30
wed-sat 10:30-8:00

Mon – Fri 9:30 – 6:00
Sat 9:30 – 5:00
CHIMES PHARMACY
Serving Rockridge Since 1909
3210 College Avenue
Near Alcatraz
652-1990

OMNI
PAINTING & WATERPROOFING Inc.
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL
INTERIOR-EXTERIOR LEAD CERTIFIED PAINTERS
Professional preparation. Many local references. All work Guaranteed.
(510) 654-3339

ASHBY LUMBER
HARDWARE & BUILDING SUPPLIES

Sustainable Living Starts at Home

Sustainable Building Starts at Ashby Lumber

Looking for a Contractor?
Visit our Contractor Directory at ashbylumber.com

824 Ashby Avenue · Berkeley
Ph: 510.843.4832 Fax: 510.843.3840

Wonderful, ongoing, weekday classes for babies or toddlers
KINDERGYM
A Movement Program for ALL Families
Drop-ins or sign ups for ALL families: songs, slides, tunnels, parachute play, bubbles, a fab ball pit, rocking horses & more!
For 9 months up to 3 years with an adult
Dawn Margolin | 510.547.7726
Temple Beth Abraham
327 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland
(near the Grand Lake Theatre)
www.tbaoakland.org/kindergym

KEVIN BROWN
Broker
654-8707 or 593-4780

PROVIDING
Professional,
Full Service
Real Estate Brokerage
To Rockridge Clients
For Over 29 Years.

SPECIALIZING IN
- *Residential Sales*
- *Income Property*
- *Commercial*
- *Property Management*

Better Homes Realty
Better Homes Realty
5353 College Avenue
Oakland

Flush *with* Confidence
PIPE SPY®
License #754966
BETTER LIVING
through Modern Plumbing
(510) 465-3000
www.pipespy.com

ELITE | trade alliance
www.elitetradealliance.com
Mention Elite Trade Alliance (code ETA-RN) for your preferred 10% off rate and priority scheduling!
Painting & Electrical
Wooden Doors & Windows
Plumbing & Hydronics
Custom Wood Products