THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

VOL. 25 ■ NO. 6 ■ ISSUE NO. 268 ■ June 5, 2010 ■ CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

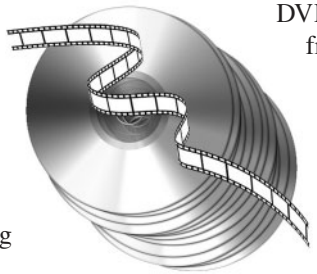
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Rockridge DVD Project Launches Fund Drive to Fill Library DVD Shelves

by Annette Floystrup, DVD Project co-chair

DVDs are the highest circulation collection at the Rockridge Library, with over half the collection checked out at any given time.

The Rockridge DVD Project is kicking off its fundraising drive to raise $33,000 to place over 2,800 DVDs into the collections at the Rockridge Branch Library. A $1,000 challenge grant has been donated, which will be matched by the donor's employer. This gift, together with the $500 towards security cases from Friends of the Rockridge Library, gets the fundraising drive off to a flying start.



To see which documentaries, PBS series and specials, TV series, and classic and contemporary films for adults and young people your donations will add to the library collections, a complete database of the DVD titles has been made using a free download tool, DVD Profiler by Invelos Software (www.invelos.com). To browse the database, download the free tool from www.rockridge.org and follow the instructions on the Rockridge DVD Project Web page at www.rockridge.org. Using the Invelos software, you will be able to view the project database on their site and see a synopsis, cast, cover art and many more details for each title. A link to an Excel spreadsheet is also available on the Web site which shows all the available titles but includes no additional information.

Donations can be made through the rockridge.org Web site via PayPal and by check. Checks should be made out to:

▸ **DVD Fund Drive, page 5**

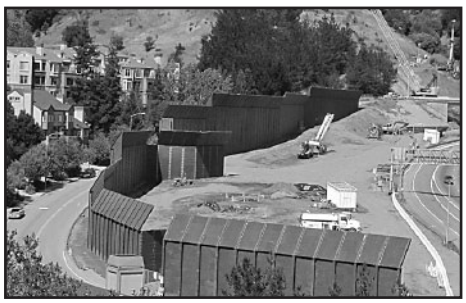
What Were They Thinking?



An unexpected effect of AC Transit's split of the 51 line at the Rockridge BART station was that buses would travel on Keith and Miles avenues to position for their return trips. New stops were created so passengers could transfer to the next bus to continue their trip.

At the new Miles stop, above, the bus blocks the narrow right turn lane to let passengers off. Turning cars must wait for the bus to move on, further jamming College Avenue traffic. — ***Editor***

4th Bore Work Gets Under Way



A new, temporary, CalTrans soundwall will help shield Parkwoods residents from coming tunnel construction noise. More, page 11. PHOTO: DON KINKEAD

The Rockridge News is changing its mailing address July 1. The new address will be posted in the July Issue.

RCPC Town Hall Meeting
AGENDA: Safeway
June 2010

June 17, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library
5366 College at Manila
Community Room (Upstairs)

College Avenue Safeway Environmental Report Coming Soon: How to Make Your Comments Count

The draft environmental impact report (DEIR) for Safeway's College Avenue shopping center will be released shortly. Rockridge residents will then have 45 days to submit comments to the City. At the June RCPC Town Hall meeting, RCPC chair and environmental attorney Stuart Flashman will explain how to make your comments meaningful, so that the City must respond with more than just "Comment noted." There will also be an update on the project's status, as well as on Safeway's new proposal for the Rockridge Shopping Center, corner of Broadway and Pleasant Valley Road.

Nuisance Abatement — Many Ways for Residents to Respond to Noise

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC chair

Residents who live on or near College Avenue have frequently had to put up with noise and other problems from their business neighbors. RCPC has occasionally helped to mediate disputes between residents and businesses, as has Council President Jane Brunner's office. The city of Oakland offers several different pathways for dealing with such problems.

Nuisance Abatement

The newest and perhaps the most effective way of dealing with a business nuisance problem is through the nuisance abatement program run through the city manager's office. Program administrator Arturo Sanchez (238-7542, e-mail: asanchez@oaklandnet.com) explained that it takes two residents' complaints to initiate action against a business. Once the complaint has been investigated, the business owner and property owner each receive a letter from the city. Failure to abate the problem can lead to daily fines against the business and/or property owner. Sanchez said that the program can provide relatively quick relief. That program was recently at least partly responsible for the closure of the Water bar and restaurant in the 5600 block of College Avenue.

ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Commission) License

Most places with live music serve alcohol, which means they have a liquor license from the ABC. However, the ABC license often comes with restrictions (e.g., no live music). Checking the details of the ABC license is often a good place to start an investigation of a neighborhood problem spot. Filing a complaint with the ABC will also often get the business owner's attention, since a liquor license can be revoked or suspended.

Code Enforcement

In Rockridge, restaurants and clubs generally need a conditional use permit. The conditions, called conditions of approval, must be followed. Otherwise, the permit is subject to revocation. It's a good idea to check with the planning department to learn what the conditions are.

However, getting a use permit revoked is neither fast nor easy. A use permit is an entitlement, i.e., a property right, and is protected by the Constitution's due process clause. The holder is entitled to a hearing before a permit can be revoked. The hearing process can take a long time.

Noise Ordinance

Oakland's planning code includes a noise ordinance (Section 17.120.050) that sets specific enforceable noise standards. However, a violation of the standards requires a noise measurement using a calibrated noise meter. Enforcement is through the city's planning and zoning department or the police.

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Weds, Thurs, Sat: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
***CLOSED**: Sunday and Monday:*
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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For information: info@rockridge.org

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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
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
☛ July 3, 2010
☛ July deadline is June 17, 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.)*

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.

5687 Miles Avenue

Proposal: To install a wireless communication facility consisting of 4 concealed antennas inside the existing utility penthouse located on the building rooftop, and 1 ground equipment cabinet located on the northeast corner of the property rear yard.

Applicant: Michelle Weller/Clear Wire

Phone: 925/997-1312

Owner: Judith White

Planning Permits Required: Minor Conditional Use Permit to operate a Mini Telecommunication Facility in the C-31 Zone; Regular Design Review to install a total of 4 concealed antennas, and 1 ground equipment cabinet

Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property (PDHP);

Survey Rating C3X (Secondary Importance)

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

6012 Contra Costa Road

Proposal: To subdivide an existing 31,605 s.f. parcel containing one single-family dwelling into three parcels averaging more than 10,000 s.f. each. (NOTE: This constitutes a re-notice from the notice sent April 23, 2010, to add reference to the required Minor Conditional Use Permit for a Shared Access Facility)

Applicant: Gary Chan

Phone: 415/378-3699

Owner: Gary Chan

Planning Permits Required: Tentative Parcel Map to subdivide an existing parcel into three parcels; Minor Conditional Use Permit for a Shared Access Facility (driveway) serving the three parcels

Case Planner: Ann Clevenger at 510/238-6980 or aclevenger@oaklandnet.com



RCPC Land Use Committee

The RCPC Land Use Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Next meeting: June 23. Rockridge Branch Library, Upstairs Meeting Room: 7:30 p.m.

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair

■ Rockridge Montessori School (6516 Broadway)

RCPC continues to have concerns about whether this expansion project (resulting in a 200-student facility) will create traffic problems along Broadway, particularly once the city's bicycle master plan is implemented in the next year or two. The master plan calls for reducing Broadway auto travel lanes from two to one in each direction (with a center turn lane) and adding striped bicycle lanes.

While bicycle lanes generally increase rider safety, they also increase bicycle traffic, and the extra turning movements the expansion will generate, along with the new drop-off/pick-up zone on Broadway, could put bike riders and pedestrians at risk. There are also questions about whether so large a commercial project belongs in a residentially zoned area. The RCPC board will discuss the project with the applicant at its June meeting. The city planner handling the case is Ulla Britt-Jonsson (238-3322, ujonsson@oaklandnet.com).

■ Rockridge Shopping Center (Corner of Broadway and Pleasant Valley)

Safeway will present its revised plans for this large (over 300,000 sq.ft.) remodel and expansion project to the RCPC board in June. The Rockridge Shopping Center is the one major shopping center for Rockridge and North Oakland. RCPC hopes that the revised project will better suit the urban character of North Oakland than did Safeway's prior suburban-oriented proposal. RCPC hopes to arrange an area-wide community presentation of the new plans for some time in July. Watch for details.

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.

New City Contract for Rockridge BID

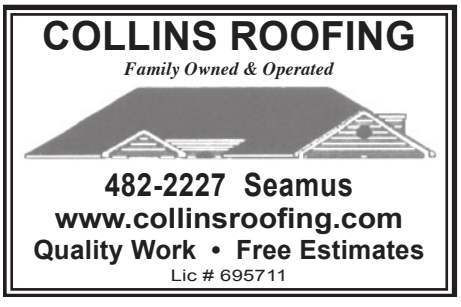
by Annette Floystrup, RCPC boardmember

The Rockridge District Association (RDA) is expected to sign a new contract with the city of Oakland by mid-June to manage the Rockridge Business Improvement District (BID). The current interim agreement between the city and the Rockridge BID expires on June 15, and will be replaced with an agreement accurately reflecting the Rockridge BID as a business-based assessment district.

The City originally proposed the RDA sign a city-wide blanket contract which applies more specifically to the property-based assessment districts known as Community Benefit Districts (CBDs).

Oakland has nine special business assessment districts, seven based on property assessments and two, Montclair and Rockridge, based on assessments of the income of individual businesses.





Scourged by Vandals and Thieves, Battered Newsracks Blight Rockridge

by Don Kinkead, editor

Described at their installation in 1997 as an attractive solution to the clutter of individual news racks, many modular newsrack assemblies on College Avenue have long since gone to rack and ruin.

Beset by declining newspaper sales, and by vandals and thieves, the neglected boxes are a blight on the Rockridge neighborhood.

A recent informal survey of 130 news vending boxes on 22 modular racks on College Avenue between Alcatraz and Hudson avenues found that 99 have significant damage. Most others suffer from rough treatent and lack of maintenance.

Oakland Municipal Code section 12.50.010 establishes city-wide newsrack controls, setting standards of repair and public notice. Titled "Maintenance Required," code section 12.50.110 states that newsrack assemblies are to be kept "in a neat and clean condition and in good repair at all times" including no broken structural parts or cracked plastic or glass parts.

The publisher or distributor using the newsrack is responsible for its maintenance, according to the code. Joint users have joint responsibility.

Identification of those responsible for maintaining the racks is required by code to be posted on the rack and be readily visible. Few racks on College Avenue have that information posted. Notable for prominant postings of service call contact numbers were Bay Area News Group boxes.

The code declares (section 12.50.145) that wrecked or inoperative newsracks promote blight and deterioration and are therefore a public nuisance to be abated.

The chief of building services of the Community and Economic Development Agency (CEDA) is responsible for abatement. On the agency's Web site, that person is Interim Chief of Building Services Ray Derania, (rderania@oaklandnet.com, 238-4780).





PHOTOS: DON KINKEAD

Examples of vandalized news racks on College Avenue, above. Oakland's Municipal Code sets requirements for maintenance and repair of newsracks, and calls for visible notices of responsibility to be displayed on the racks. Most College Avenue racks lack such notice.

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FORL Changes Mailing Address

Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) has changed its mailing address to: PO Box 3723, Oakland, CA 94609

DVD Fund Drive

from page 1

"RCPC/Rockridge DVD Project" and sent to: RCPC/Rockridge DVD Project, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618, with a completed donation form (at right).

Contributions will be gratefully and publicly acknowledged in the following categories:

Producer's Guild	$2,500 to $5,000
Director's Guild	$1,000 to $2,499
Actor's Guild	$500 to $999
Writer's Guild	$250 to $499
Craft Guild	$100 to $249
Film Critics	$50 to $99
Movie Buffs	$49 and under

Anonymous donations are welcome and will be designated in all categories as "Silent Film Stars."

All money donated to the Rockridge DVD Project is a tax-deductible charitable donation, and will be handled through RCPC, which is lending the use of its tax ID to the project.

Money collected in excess of the need to complete the Rockridge DVD Project will be dedicated to benefit the future purchase of DVDs for the Rockridge Branch Library.

For more information, or if you have any questions, contact Annette Floystrup at RockridgeDVD@rockridge.org

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Why the Rockidge DVD Project?

DVDs are the highest-circulation collection at the Rockridge Library, with over half the collection checked out at any given time.

The May Rockridge News included a story of how the Rockridge DVD Project began. Videots, the specialty video store in the Elmwood, recently had closed. The project began with an agreement with the owner to buy some of his 10,000 DVDs at only $4 each. To expedite the purchase, RCPC agreed to provide a short-term loan to the Rockridge DVD Project to acquire almost 3,000 DVDs plus a professional DVD polishing machine to maintain the collection. It will cost about $7 per DVD for library-approved security cases and professional cataloging. The DVDs have been selected by library staff and will double the existing collection.

RCPC/Rockridge DVD Project Donation Form

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ City, Zip _____

Company or family name (for acknowledgment): _____

Enclosed is my check for: $_____. Please enroll me as a donor as checked below.

❑ Producer's Guild $2,500 to $5,000	❑ Actor's Guild $500 to $999	❑ Craft Guild $100 to $299	❑ Movie Buffs $49 and under
❑ Director's Guild $1,000 to $2,499	❑ Writer's Guild $250 to $499	❑ Film Critics $50 to $99	

❑ Please indicate my donation as Anonymous

✻ *Donate online at www.rockridge.org using your credit card or Paypal account – OR –*
✻ *Donate by check payable to RCPC/Rockridge DVD Project and mail to:*

RCPC/Rockridge DVD Project, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, 94618
***After July 1*, mail to 4123 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94611**

Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Federal Tax ID No.: 94-3011284

Foxtails and Canines

A Bad Match



A serious hazard for dogs is the hard seeds of a grass, often called "foxtails." These seeds have sharp points at one end, and microscopic barbs, so they "work in," but they don't "work out." The most troublesome is the actual "foxtail" or "wild barley" (*Hordeum murinum*). This grass is common all over California, including our Rockridge neighborhood. It is an annual, and is soft and green from January through April. This year, the plant is just now turning brown since we have had such a long rainy season.

As the seed heads dry, they become dangerous, and if not removed by pulling out the whole plant, they continue to be dangerous to dogs throughout the summer and early fall.

The seeds can become embedded in a dog's fur, especially the paws and ears, and in nostrils or even eyes. Check your dog's paws daily, and brush them frequently to keep the seeds from becoming embedded. If the foxtails are not removed before they work their way in, they may cause infection and require treatment that can be very expensive. If not treated, the infection can sometimes be fatal to the animal.

It would be wonderful if you would pull the foxtails out of your sidewalk and tree wells to help protect our local dogs. If you see me out front pulling a few of your weeds, I'm not looking for a gardening job, only hoping to avoid a big vet bill.

– Margaret Pinter

June Is East Bay Open Studios Month

The first two weekends of June are traditionally dedicated to Open Studios in the East Bay, and this year is no exception. It's been that way for the past 30 years, and we hope that it will be here with us for another 30 years. It's part of what makes the East Bay so livable for us.

Change Is Good

This year, in an effort to serve the communities of the East Bay better, participating artists have been grouped around not just one but three different hubs. The main event still takes place at Oakland's **Pro Arts Gallery** (150 Frank Ogawa Plaza (City Hall), 14th Street and Broadway, Oakland, 510/763-4361). The **Berkeley Art Center** in Berkeley's Live Oak Park (1301 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, 510/981-6690), hosts Berkeley artists and the **Richmond Art Center** (2540 Barrett Avenue, Richmond, 510/620-6772) will host the artists who live further north. Everyone is very excited to see the network expand like this.

Artists will also exhibit predominantly in studio clusters, making it easier for visitors to reach many more exhibitors. It makes so much sense when there are over 460 participating artists. Even some of our Rockridge artists are showing their work elsewhere. Not Liz Maxwell, though. Be sure to visit her on Chabot Road as always.

The Beat Goes On

Since man or woman cannot live by art alone, a bevy of restaurants, cafes and music venues will be participating as well. That's on top of all the receptions and after-hour parties given by the artists. In addition, the **East Bay Express** has also organized **Open Studios Happy Hours** in Berkeley, Oakland and Emeryville during these weekends. And the **Uptown arts scene** is certainly going to be in top form. To ratchet up the heat even more, don't forget the **First Friday's art murmur** events, which will be playing right along with Open Studios.

Creative energy is out there in abundance! Go to **Facebook**, the **East Bay Express** or www.proartsgallery.org (click on **East Bay Open Studios Events**) for full information. You can also

Muse, page 7

THE ROCKRIDGE MUSE

by Ortrun Niesar

Ortrun Niesar can be reached at oniesar@sbcglobal.net, or by calling 510/326-2161.

East Bay Open Studios

June 5 & 6 and 12 & 13, 11 – 6 p.m.

During the first two weekends in June, June 5-6 and June 12-13, and throughout the year by appointment, East Bay Open Studios connects the public with over 400 artists in 14 cities in the East Bay.

How to plan your studio tour:

- Pick up a copy of the **Directory of East Bay Arts** that profiles artists and includes maps, an East Bay Arts Index of local arts organizations, galleries, and more Directories are available at Pro Arts and are distributed in the East Bay Express, first week in June.
- Go to the **Preview Exhibition** of artwork from over 400 participating artists.
- Attend **Open Studios Events**.
- Take a **Curator's Tour**.
- Log on to the **Pro Arts Online Gallery** for all your 2010 East Bay Open Studios information.



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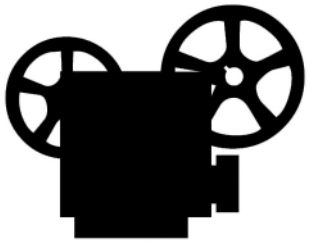
pick up the **Open Studios Directory** at the Library, Diesel Books, Spasso's and other venues. The comprehensive directory also includes information on many more artists, restaurants, galleries and events. It's a good reference tool to keep handy.

Oakland's Art Scene

According to the Chamber of Commerce, Oakland has the most numerous and diverse groups of practicing artists in the country, outside of Manhattan. Sadly, the thriving arts and culture scene that one could expect to accompany this status has been rather slow in coming. There are many reasons for this, but it appears that we have finally turned the corner. Talent and artistic life are happening here and people are beginning to flock to Oakland to experience it. Oakland's art scene even garnered national attention recently in a New York Times article. In an odd way, the hardships the city of Oakland has endured in recent times have galvanized and nurtured this new, culturally rich, environment. What I love about it all is that the arts are clearly playing a major role in revitalizing our downtown and they are bringing to life other neighborhoods such as West and North Oakland. It's like mushrooms appearing miraculously on the forest floor after a rain. Not sure that Rockridge is keeping up with all this, though. Could be that our rents are simply too high to let our garden grow. On the other hand, our neighbor Temescal is peddling mighty fast. (Love that banner spanning Telegraph Avenue.)

The Artist is Still Hungry

When it comes to art markets, the East Bay still has little to offer. You can count the galleries on College Avenue on the fingers of one hand. Our artists therefore rely heavily on alternative venues such as Open Studios to sell their works and make a living. Plan to make a purchase or several. There will be plenty of reasonably priced art out there. Not everything will be a masterpiece. It doesn't need to be. A lovely original postcard purchased for a few dollars can be framed. A handmade necklace will let you tell the story every time you wear it. We need to take seriosly the care and feeding of our artists. Support our artists. And enjoy the adventure.



Claremont Movie Night

Friday, June 11 at 8 p.m.

Thanks to the Temescal Business District, we will be showing *Invictus* on the wall of the Claremont Gym Friday, June 11. Bring a lawn chair, warm clothes, and join us for an old-fashioned outdoor movie. The PTA will provide homemade popcorn and sodas, and there will be a raffle for prizes beginning at 8 p.m. The movie starts at dusk, approximately 8:40 p.m., on June 11. The event is a fundraiser for the 2010-11 8th grade class trip to Washington, D.C. Donations are encouraged but not required. For more information, please contact Mike Napolitano at 655-4725.

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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Ramp It Up

Recently, while shopping at the neighborhood produce market, I overheard a young couple ask, "What's a ramp?" Trying to be helpful, I explained that ramps are wild leeks also known as baby leeks. I first had ramps in Viet Nam served with a stir-fried shrimp dish. A few days later at another produce market I again overheard two shoppers asking about how to prepare cardoons. Once again I chimed in that cardoons are an edible thistle and related to artichokes.

As I returned home I began thinking about how many new and exotic vegetables and fruits are beginning to appear in our local produce and farmer's markets. Long popular in Europe and Asia, many new vegetables and fruits are now being grown in California and sold in local farmer's markets. As with all produce, the key is to know how to identify, select and prepare them

Ramps are native to North America and are very popular and considered a delicacy in the Southern states. Like California with its Gilroy garlic festival, West Virginia has its spring ramp celebrations at county fairs. The flavor of ramps is stronger than that of its cousins in the lily family, leeks, scallions, and onions. Ramps are usually sautéed or fried. Ramps fried with bacon and potatoes is a traditional Appalachian dish known as "ramps 'n taters" (this month's recipe).

A word of warning— If you are storing ramps, store them in a double layer of plastic wrap to prevent their odor from permeating everything in your refrigerator.

Cardoons look like a giant flat celery stalk and are, like artichokes, in the thistle family. This delicious vegetable is very popular in France and Italy. L ike artichokes, cardoons can be boiled, braised, or baked. Before cooking, remove and discard the tough outer stalks. Separate the individual stalks and heart and cut them up. Boil stalks for 30 minutes or until tender and serve with a hot olive oil, garlic and anchovy dipping sauce as part of an Italian appetizer plate.

I recently read an article about cherimoyas, a tropical fruit grown in South America. I have yet to try a cherimoya, but they sound delicious. The skin is described as scaly, even reptilian looking. Inside the green skin is a sweet, smooth custard-like flesh that is supposed to taste like a combination of banana, pineapple, and papaya. The cherimoya can be eaten out of hand with a spoon or pureed and folded into ice cream or smoothies. I can't wait to try one. Let me know if you have had a cherimoya – was it good?

As you explore our neighborhood produce and farmer's markets, keep an eye out for ramps, cardoons, and cherimoyas. Remember, who would have thought an artichoke could be so good to eat?

Barry Kaufman is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. Barry is available for private cooking classes. Email: kaufman42@earthlink.net.



Ramps 'n Taters

1 pound bacon
4 or 5 large potatoes, diced
1-1/2 pounds ramps, cleaned and cut up
6 eggs (optional)
Salt and pepper to taste

1. Fry bacon in skillet until crisp, remove from pan and set aside. Pour off all but a few tablespoons of bacon grease.
2. Fry diced potatoes in bacon grease for 3 to 4 minutes.
3. Add chopped ramps and continue frying until potatoes are well done.
4. If you want your ramps 'n taters with scrambled eggs, add lightly beaten eggs, seasoned with salt and pepper to taste, and scramble with the ramps and potatoes.
5. Crumble bacon on top. Simmer about two minutes to heat through. (If omitting eggs, crumble bacon on top after pototatoes are well done.)

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Letter 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.

Editor:

I enjoyed the positive approach that Jennifer Edmister took in her article on preschool options in Rockridge. What was missing was a mention of an agency right in/near Rockridge which can give parents many choices of preschool and other child care options – BANANAS. This agency has all the licensed child care programs in its files along with a large listing of in-home caregivers/nannies.

It might be time to acquaint or reacquaint your readers with its extensive free services to parents and child care providers.

— Jo-Ellen Spencer, Bananas

Visit Bananas' Web site at www.bananasinc.org for more information on the organization. *– Editor*

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Route # Description

21N,O Block Captain: Both sides of 6300 Hillegass then along Alcatraz, odd numbers from Colby to College

07 District Captain: 6 bundle drops on blocks off Broadway


The Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

Rockridge DVD Project Launches Fund Drive to Fill Library DVD Shelves

What Were They Thinking?

4th Bore Work Gets Under Way

College Avenue Safeway Environmental Report Coming Soon: How to Make Your Comments Count

RCPC Town Hall Meeting AGENDA: Safeway June 2010

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5/8/2010	3	1	6330 Telegraph Avenue	$499,000	$499,000	13	$525,000
5/10/2010	3	2	5340 Broadway Terrace	$575,000	$499,000	86	$495,000
5/18/2010	2	1	6322 Colby Street	$849,000	$839,000	49	$797,050
5/20/2010	2	1	5340 Broadway Terrace	$439,000	$439,000	40	$420,000

** Rockridge closed 60% more closings this last month, than a year ago this time*
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** Between last year at this time and this year, there has been a 1% increase in the list to sell price*

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Ask A Cop

by PSO Officer Chew and PSO Officer Gerrans

The "Ask a Cop" column provides a question-and-answer format for Rockridge Problem Solving Officers (PSO) to answer residents' law enforcement and crime-related questions. PSOs Chew and Gerrans hope the column will improve communications and involve residents in the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) activities. Send your questions to editor@rockridge.org. Please include your name and address. Only your name will be printed.

Dear Officers Chew and Gerrans:

In the March Rockridge News, there was this response in the "Ask A Cop" column: "If another person wants to make a report, we cannot take the report from that person because they are not the victim or complainant."

I confess I can't make sense of this. If I know of a crime but am not the victim, I should not attempt "to make a report"?

This reasoning, taken to extreme, would seem to cause problems with a murder investigation, since only the victim would be allowed to make a report of the crime.

I am curious about this policy and where it comes from.

– Edward Sutorik

Officer's Reply:

Let me try to clarify. I was speaking more specifically to the question referencing "How can a citizen who hears of such crimes know if OPD is aware of the similarities so as not to make extra reports?" I believe this question was posed in light of recent burglaries that had been occurring. If a person sees a crime in progress or that a crime has occurred, they should absolutely phone the Police Department. But a report will not be filed until the owner of the property is on scene to make the report and describe any items that were taken during the burglary. Since only one report is taken from the victim, there are no duplicate reports made, so residents should not feel hesitant in phoning in a crime that is occurring or has occurred.

This is especially important because it can provide the Police Department with witnesses to the crime of whose existence we may have been unaware.

If there is a crime that is not against a person or their property, but is an offense against the public, then reports can be made on behalf of the city/state by witnesses to the crime (e.g., breaking into parking meters on public streets).

— PSO Officer Chew

Rockridge Crime Report

Rockridge is covered by parts of police beats 12Y and 13X. The following is a list of crime data published May 25 for crimes that occurred in beat 12Y during the week of May 17-23. No reports were listed for Beat 13X. Police crime techs explain that some crimes may not have been recorded because of confidentiality or because a report was not ready for filing in the report period.

Commercial Robbery:
Gas/Service Station at
Claremont and College Aves.

Auto Burglary:
5200 block of Claremont Ave.
5800 block of Broadway
5800 block of Howell St.

Auto Theft:
5300 block of Boyd Ave.
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Bore Mitigation Projects to be Rated

by Ronnie Spitzer, vice chair, Fourth Bore Coalition, and Victoria Eisen, city of Oakland transportation consultant

The Fourth Bore Coalition (FBC) filed a lawsuit against Caltrans over its plans to add a fourth bore to the Caldecott Tunnel. The FBC settled its lawsuit under threat by Governor Schwarzenegger in January 2009. The settlement included $3 million for air quality and noise mitigation for two Rockridge public schools immediately adjacent to Hwy. 24, Claremont Middle School and Chabot Elementary.

Of the settlement funds, $2 million comes from the state Air Resources Board for upgrades to the ventilation systems of all buildings and classrooms at both schools. An additional $1 million grant was provided by CalFire's Urban Forestry Program for landscape barriers to mitigate noise and air quality impacts from increased traffic expected to occur after construction of the new tunnel bore.

The FBC is a coalition of local community groups in Oakland and Berkeley centered around Highway 24, including RCPC and FROG.

Separately, the city of Oakland signed a Settlement Agreement with Caltrans over the environmental assessment of the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel project, in June 2008, ending months of negotiations. The settlement called on Caltrans to fund "enhancement" projects meant to: "Improve pedestrian, bicycle, transit and local streets; create barriers to noise; and include projects that support the use of transit (and thus reduction of single-occupant motorized vehicles), such as transit signal coordination and amenities for the greater community in the Highway 24 corridor between I-580 and the Caldecott Tunnel."

More than 20 higher priority Phase I projects, estimated to cost $8.2 million (2008 dollars), were listed in the settlement. An additional $4 million in Phase II projects was partially developed in case any Phase I projects drop off the list, e.g., infeasible; funded by another source; or in case Phase I project costs turned out to be less than initially estimated.

See the rockridge.org and fourthbore.org Web sites for the full lists.

The process to identify Phase II projects and prioritize all the projects to be funded with this money is now underway. A series of walk audits to tour potential improvement projects with neighborhood leaders occurred in early June. Next, one-page sheets will be created, describing the location, purpose and estimated cost of each. These sheets will draw heavily on data provided by the Fourth Bore Coalition as well as information conveyed during the walk audits and collision and traffic data for each location.

Using criteria developed in conjunction with Council President Jane Brunner's office, the public, including Rockridge residents, will be asked to help create the final, prioritized list of all projects in Fall 2010.

Phase I projects in the Rockridge area include:

- Broadway/Lawton: New signal.
- Broadway/Keith intersection, College/Keith. College/Miles, Telegraph on/offramps: Signal upgrades.
- Install sidewalks along Broadway between Golden Gate Avenue and Kay Overcrossing.
- Soundwalls: At priority locations, to be identified.

Phase II projects include:

- On/off ramp improvements for pedestrians/bicycles/vehicles safety and access.
- Bicycle safety and access improvements at the Rockridge BART.
- Traffic Signal Transit Coordination and Synchronization Program: along Claremont, College, and Broadway.

Watch the Rockridge News for a Town Hall meeting announcement.

Consulting firm, Eisen|Letunic, with the technical assistance of Fehr & Peers, is leading this effort on behalf of the city of Oakland. Please contact Victoria Eisen of the consultant team at victoria@eisenletunic.com, or call 510/525-0220 if you have any questions about this process.

To express support or concerns about any Phase I or Phase II project, or Fourth Bore-related transportation issues, contact Ronnie Spitzer at fourthbore@rockridge.org, or phone 510/869-4200.





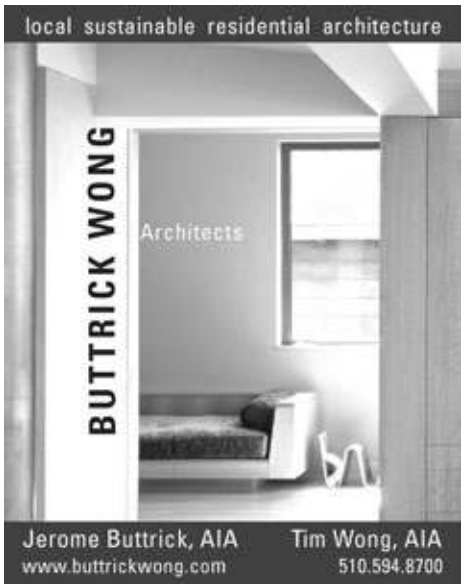
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Claremont Teacher Parking Dilemma



by Annette Floystrup, RCPC boardmember and Birch Court resident

The 60 teachers and staff at Claremont Middle School (CMS) have been getting parking tickets – a lot of them. The situation is so bad that some have indicated they want to transfer away to escape the problem, which has become an economic burden for some and an issue for all.

The parking dilemma became evident during meetings held to decide how to use a grant approved by the Legislature to mitigate noise and air quality effects upon CMS and Chabot elementary from the Caldecott 4th Bore constructon. The grant, totaling $800,000 for Claremont MS alone, is for environmental and noise mitigation from increased traffic generated by the expanded Caldecott tunnels. Two plans were submitted for consideration, and one included 14 parking spaces on a portion of the schoolyard facing Miles Avenue. Parents, neighbors and, most importantly, the 4th Bore Coalition, opposed this plan. The consensus was that using air quality mitigation funds for a parking lot was inappropriate. An alternate plan to replace the lawn behind the gym on Birch Court with a similar mini parking lot met with unanimous opposition from Birch Court neighbors.

Parents, neighbors, RCPC and representatives of the 4th Bore Coalition approached City Councilmember Jane Brunner, District 1 School Board Director Jody London and Assembly Member Nancy Skinner to alert them to the problem and secure their aid. They testified before the OUSD Facilities Committee, which includes London, that they were committed to finding a solution working together with both the City and OUSD that did not create a new parking lot, but would find a creative way to allow teachers to do what they already do – park on the street, but without getting tickets.

The need has always existed. For years, the City issued special parking stickers for teachers, but stopped the practice in 2000.

Residential Permit Parking (RPP) on Birch Court was designed to exclude 27 parking spaces for teachers along the length of the schoolyard. But teachers who have errands midday, or counselors whose job takes them from school to school, can't find parking during the day. As BART parking pressure has increased on the neighborhood, Rockridge neighbors have responded by petitioning for expanded RPP zones on their streets, and teachers who park in four-hour RPP zones must use their lunch hours to move their cars. In some cases, teacher development and class instruction time have been adversely affected.

At this writing, city and OUSD staff, Council President Jane Brunner and School Board Director Jody London are working on a solution that won't require use of valuable CMS land as a parking lot.

Help Cook up Next RCPC Kitchen Tour

One of RCPC's most valued and anticipated events is the biennial Rockridge Kitchen Tour. It's also RCPC's main fundraiser. RCPC is now starting planning for the 2011 kitchen tour, but we need your help to make the tour happen. Anyone can help, but we especially need people with event planning or publicity experience and two or three people willing to commit a significant amount of time as event coordinators. If you're interested, please send us a letter or e-mail (chair@rockridge.org) or call us and leave a message.



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Ride for a Reason Finds 17 Large Ones

by Mike Napolitano, Claremont PTA vice president

On Saturday, May 8, the fundraising Ride for a Reason took place. Forty parents, teachers, and community members rode their bikes 100 miles from Oakland to the State Capitol to show their support for more funding for California schools. Another 20 students and parents joined in for the final five miles.

Perhaps the biggest challenge of the day was crossing the Antioch Bridge, where riders encountered strong, gusty winds that made the crossing stressful. We had excellent support from volunteers who drove support vehicles, and who prepared a wonderful lunch consumed near the halfway point in Isleton. After lunch, we enjoyed some truly beautiful scenery and quiet back roads along the Sacramento River, before reaching the Capitol, where Assemblyman Sandré Swanson, a wonderful host, received us.

Kenton Lee, who has two kids at Chabot and was one of the 100-mile riders, said "This ride has been life-changing for me in many ways. Ttraining for the event, I have had the opportunity to reflect on how important it is to make small gestures, such as participating on this ride. Last year, four riders made a 'small gesture,' this in turn inspired 40 of us to do the same thing this year."

Many participants were novice cyclists including Aileen Chang and Jessie Thaler, both teachers at Claremont. On top of the demands of teaching, preparing lesson plans, and grading work, these two took the time to train for the event and solicit donations. "I don't consider myself an athlete," says Thaler, who teaches 8th grade English. "Training for this ride has been an inspirational journey. I've experienced first-hand the type of struggle many of my students go through every year: setting a goal that seems unattainable, progressing toward it more slowly than expected, overcoming setbacks and obstacles, and persevering when it would be much easier to give up."

Through your support, and the hard work of the participants and volunteers, we raised public awareness and approximately $17,000 for academic enrichment programs at Claremont Middle School and Oakland Tech. This year's ride would not have been possible without the hard work and knowledge of Mike Mages, who planned the day of the ride. Special thanks also to: Kristofer Brekke, who convinced state assembly members Nancy Skinner and Sandré Swanson, and Oakland Superintendent Tony Smith, to participate in a school assembly at Claremont early in May to kick off the event; Cliff Rechtschaffen, Paul Vetter, and Kenton Lee, our top fundraisers; Kathleen McNulty, Jan Newberry, and Nelson Black, who provided food and provisions; and Daniel Brekke, Chris Vernon, Jacob Lubarsky, and Katherine Williams, who drove the support vehicles.

It is a pleasure to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped.

Next year we hope to have 100 riders.





Above: **Mike Mages, California State Assemblyman Sandré Swanson, and Mike Napolitano.**

Left: **On the road.**

Below: **Cyclists and their families with Sandré Swanson.**

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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

Greater Rockridge 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: chair@rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN:

Toddler Story Time: Every Sat., 10:30am.

- **Pre-School Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wed., 10:30am.
- **Baby and Toddler Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wed., 10:30am, **upstairs**.

Special Events:

- **"Make a Splash, Read!" Summer Reading Program** begins on Saturday, June 12 for kids up to age 13. Sign up, read or listen to another reader; **get prizes for completed hours**.
- **First Splash Reading Night:** Read with other readers and make a bookmark. Tues., 6/15, 7pm.
- **Bubble Lady:** Giant bubbles, bubble stories and more. Tues., 6/22, 7pm.
- **Jean Valjean:** Magic, juggling, comedy; variety show for all ages. Tues., 6/29, 7pm.
- **NOTE: Pick up a flyer for events in July and August**

☆☆**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:** Library enthusiasts **ages 11 to 16** needed for the **Summer Reading Program** which starts on June 12. Orientations will take place in early June. Contact Erica at 597-5017 or drop by to fill out a volunteer application.

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 room.
- **Teen Summer Program:** Pick up your Teen Summer Passport and get it stamped as you explore Bay Area Hot Spots. **Enter raffles to win great prizes.**
- **Book Buddies:** Ages 12 to 18 volunteer to read to kids on Wednesdays during the summer. Pick up an application.

FOR ADULTS:

- **Writers' Support/Critique Group:** All writers welcome. Bring at least 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). Third Saturday each month, 1 to 5pm. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch (www.berkeleywritersclub.org.) Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice and referrals.** First Tues. each month, 6 to 8pm (call to confirm). Advance sign-up starts 5pm.

ART EXHIBITS: (call to confirm)

Gallery:

- June: **Aya Harashima**: oil paintings
- July: **Lori Fisher:** handmade dolls

Lobby Display Case:

- June: **Barry Paul:** colored pencil drawings
- July: TBA

LIBRARY HOURS

Tues., 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed., Thurs. and Sat., 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri., 12 to 5:30pm. Closed Sundays and Mondays.

Diesel Book & Poetry Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Thurs., 6/10, 7pm.Local author **Bettina Rotenberg**: *I Dare to Stop the Wind: Challenging Children in the Public Schools Through the Arts and Poetry*. Sun.,
- 6/13, 3pm. Book Launch Party for local journalist and author **Laura Fraser**: *All Over the Map*.
- Mon., 6/14, 7pm. **Amnesty International Meeting** (2nd Monday each month): All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Wed., 6/16, 7pm. **Bill Morgan:** *The Typewriter is Holy: The Complete, Uncensored History of the Beat Generation*.
- Sunday, 6/27, 3pm. **Aimee Bender:** *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*.
- Thurs., 7/8, 6pm. **Bay Area Writers' Project Young Writers' Camp** will share their work.

DIESEL, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave. 653-9965 or www.dieselbookstore.com.

Christensen Heller Gallery

Exhibit of watercolors by local artist **Christina Schneck**. Show runs through August 15. Galley hrs: Wed—Sat., 11am to 6pm; Sun. noon to 5pm. 5829 College Ave. Info: 655-5952 or www.christensenheller.com.

Edible Art

The Women's Cancer Resource Center and *Edible East Bay* (food magazine) present 12 local artists whose work has appeared in the magazine. Show runs through June 25. JanRae Community Art Gallery, 5741 Teleg. Ave. Info: Margo, 601-4040 ext 111 or margo@wcrc.org.

Oakland Open Studios

Work of 11 local artists: paintings, prints, ceramics, jewelry, quilts and more. Sat. and Sun. 6/5, 6/6 and 6/12, 6/13, 11am to 6pm. Live jazz by **Shades of Gray**, Sat., June 12, 1 to 3pm. Alba Sudios & Gallery, 4219 MLK Way. Info: jen@jidowney.com or event website http://sites.google.com/site/albastudiosebos2010/ .

Girls High School Basketball Clinic

Open to girls of all skill levels entering grades 9 thru 12. June 21 – 23, noon to 3pm. College Preparatory School, 6100 B'way. More info for this and other summer sports clinics: Linda at 652-0111 ext 243 or linda_desimone@college-prep.org.

North Oakland Senior Center

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

- **Free Money Management Workshops:** Avoiding scams and identity theft; living on a fixed income; important papers and more. Refreshments served. Tuesdays, 6/8, 6/15, 6/22 from 10:30am to noon.

Hrs: Mon.–Fri., 8:45am to 4:45pm. **Note: closed Monday, 7/5.** 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Subscribe to "The North Oakland Senior Times," for a full schedule of classes/events, monthly lunch menu, membership, and opportunities to become a volunteer: 597-5085.

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