THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

VOL. 25 ■ NO. 9 ■ ISSUE NO. 271 ■ October 2, 2010 ■ CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council • 4123 Broadway, PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94611 • 869-4200

College Avenue Celebrates "Out & About"



PHOTOS: D. KINKEAD

Just In: Community Meeting to Review Caldecott Tunnel Settlement Projects– November 8, 7 p.m. ▸ Page 5

Halloween Parade is On!



Continuing our neighborhood's great, ghoulish tradition, the Rockridge Business Improvement District (BID) and the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) invite you to celebrate a spoooky Halloween

▸ **Halloween, page 10**

Councilmember Q&A at September Town Hall

How much trouble is Oakland actually in? Meeting report, page 8



Jane Brunner answers residents' questions at the RCPC September Town Hall meeting. PHOTO: D. KINKEAD

Keeping Rockridge Healthy

What does it take to maintain Rockridge? Time and Money? Yes, and you have choices...



A wonderful characteristic of Rockridge residents is that they readily step up when the community needs help and support. This characteristic is responsible for building a branch library on a vacant lot and creating a community park on a moribund creek bed, two community amenities enjoyed today.

Other needs are now pressing: the community must respond effectively to development pressures and must maintain its library, its park and its schools.

Everyone can help in one, or more ways:

■ Safeway is proposing a controversial redesign of its College Avenue store. This proposal must be thoroughly studied, a costly process. See page 2 for details and how you can contribute.

■ FROG Park play structures are showing their age, needing labor and time to remedy. Page 9 reports on work done and describes coming projects.

■ The Rockridge library has an opportunity to double its DVD collection, and needs funding for shelving costs. See page 2 to learn how you can help bring a vast and free video resource to the Rockridge community.

■ Underfunded public schools are holding fundraisers. Pages 6 and 7 have details.

INFO: Voting

14 October RCPC Town Hall Meeting
AGENDA: Mayoral Candidates
Co-Sponsor: League of Women Voters

Note Location

October 14, 2010 | 7-9 p.m.
College Preparatory School Auditorium
6100 Broadway (past Brookside Avenue)

Mayoral Forum Previews November Candidates

The Rockridge Community Planning Council is sponsoring a mayoral candidate forum Thursday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m. at the College Preparatory School. Representatives of the League of Women Voters (LWV)

▸ **Mayoral Forum, page 8**

21 RCPC and the League of Women Voters Present: November Ballot Preview

October 21, 2010 | 7:30-9 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue at Manila, Community Room (Upstairs)

The November ballot is crowded with propositions and measures deserving our attention. The League of Women Voters and RCPC present a program to review and familiarize ourselves with what we will find on our ballots on November 2.

▸ ***New Address* for Newsletter: The Rockridge News, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA, 94611**

Helping Hands for Rockridge

Your Help Needed With College Safeway EIR Review

Funds sought to meet EIR matching grant

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC chair



College on Safeway Website

Contributions to RCPC's drive to match a grant for the cost of the Safeway on College EIR (Environmental Impact Review) have begun coming in. The pending Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on Safeway's proposed 62,000 sq. ft. College Avenue shopping center project will look at the ways the City believes the proposal, almost tripling the size of the current 22,500 sq. ft. store, will affect the surrounding community. Traffic, bicycle and pedestrian safety, air and water quality, noise, aesthetics, are all being studied. Following a comment and response period, a final EIR will be issued, which the Planning Commission, and potentially the City Council, will use in deciding whether to approve Safeway's project.

An EIR is a technical document, usually requiring special expertise to determine whether its analysis is accurate. RCPC received a $10,000 matching grant from the Rose Foundation (Rockridge News, January 2010) to pay the needed experts. RCPC can only use this money if it is matched by community donations. Your donations will help fund the experts who will assure that the project's impacts on Rockridge are fully and fairly disclosed, discussed, and, where possible, mitigated.

Matching the grant will require additional donations. Make your contribution by credit card or by PayPal at the RCPC website: http://rockridge.org/Safewayfunds.html. Donations can also be made by mail, using the coupon on page 10.

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

Library DVD Project Garners Community Support

An article in the September issue of The Rockridge News announced the beginning of a fund drive to meet the costs of shelving an expanded DVD collection at the Rockridge Branch library. Donations have begun, and the community's continued support will help DVD Project discs reach Rockridge Branch Library shelves. Each DVD costs about $11 to put on a library shelf, including purchase, library cases and cataloging. Because the cataloging company can most efficiently process all the DVDs at once, funds need to be collected in advance for all the DVDs before any can be made available to the library.

Visit the DVD Project Web Site



Make your tax-deductible donation and see the list of DVDs that you will be supporting by visiting www.RockridgeDVDProject.org and clicking on the "Donate" button. Browse the lists of adult, teen and children's titles that your donation will help add to the library.

Thank you for your help expanding the Rockridge Branch's DVD collection.

Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Federal Tax ID no.: 94-3011284. Donations will be handled through RCPC, which is lending the use of its tax ID to the project.

Portions of the above articles are reprinted from the September issue of The Rockridge News. — Editor

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Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
***CLOSED**: Sunday and Monday; also Saturday, 10/9.*
Library program details: See Calendar, page 15.

The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded in 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly in Oakland and is sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), a nonprofit public benefit organization founded to: preserve and enhance the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood; promote the health, safety and quality of life of its residents; furnish a forum for community involvement, and provide leadership and representation of neighborhood interests.

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

Contact us at one of the following:
Editor: editor@rockridge.org
www.rockridge.org
The Rockridge News, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611
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
☛ **November 6, 2010**
☛ **November deadline is October 21, 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 fourth Wednesday of the month. Next meeting: October 27. Rockridge Branch Library, Upstairs Meeting Room: 7:30 p.m.

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair

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

Some of the plans for this very large project have been released and are available on RCPC's website at http://rockridge.org/safewayRockCent.html. Safeway's complete slide presentation of the project is available at: http://www.flickr.com/photos/walkingsf/sets/72157620291939311/with/4973406664/

Safeway is continuing to modify the plans in response to public comments. One proposal has been to improve the project's transit connections by placing an AC Transit bus station within the project site. AC Transit staff's initial reaction was less than receptive, but according to Safeway Property Development Center CEO David Zylstra, AC is still considering its feasibility. An EIR is in preparation.

■ **College Avenue Safeway Shopping Center (Corner of College & Claremont Avenues)**

The City is still working on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for this 62,000 sq.ft. project that would replace the current 22,500 sq.ft. Safeway store. RCPC, in collaboration with FANS (Friends and Neighbors of College Avenue) is hiring professional consultants to review the DEIR's analysis and to assure the City fully understands this large project's impacts.

■ **Kumon Math & Reading Learning Center (6019 College, former location of Synergy)**

At its September meeting, the RCPC board accepted the recommendation of the Land Use Committee and voted to oppose the application to locate a Kumon Math and Reading Learning Center at the former site of Synergy along College Avenue just south of Claremont Avenue. While the board appreciated the potential value of the center to local students, it felt the removal of a street-level retail storefront space on College Avenue, and the precedent that would be set, necessitated RCPC's opposition. The applicant was encouraged to look at other less prominent locations in the area.

■ **Land Use Meeting Agendas**

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

City Announces Public Meeting: Zoning Update Committee (ZUC)

Wednesday, October 13 | 4:00 p.m.
Hearing Room 1, City Hall

The public is invited to discuss the City's proposed changes to the zoning text and maps in Oakland's commercial and residential areas at a meeting set for October 13 by city planning staff.

On the agenda are changes to the text and zoning maps made since the previous four public meetings, and to address any outstanding issues, before the Planning Commission begins its public hearings on the Citywide Zoning Update in November.

Visit the zoning update webpage www.oaklandnet.com/zoningupdate to

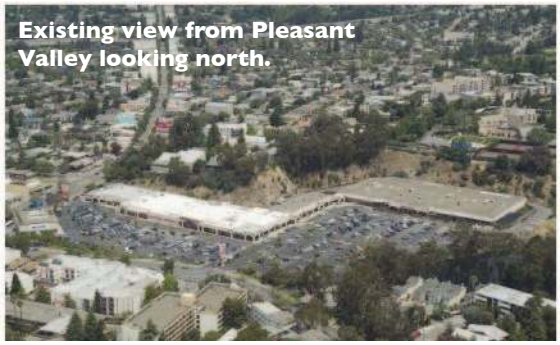
Meeting: Zoning Update, page 5

Rockridge Center Safeway Development Views: Present and Proposed

These images, selected from a PowerPoint presentation created by Property Development Centers, Safeway's Rockridge Center development arm, show the existing shopping center site (top views) and changes proposed for the center (bottom views). Additional views and more information are available at the RCPC website (http://www.rockridge.org/safewayRockCent.html).

Identifying captions added by The Rockridge News, based on developer information. Representational only. Images dated July 9, 2010.









Mayoral Candidate Statements

RCPC's October Town Hall meeting, sponsored jointly with the League of Women Voters of Oakland, features moderated discussion by Oakland's Mayoral candidates of the steps each would take to redirect Oakland's future, if elected in the November balloting. Each was asked to submit a 100-word platform statement to be printed in The Rockridge News for residents to review prior to the meeting. — Editor

Terence Candell

My people of the Rockridge area,

I have the oratory skills to be Mayor of Oakland. My competitors do not. I have successfully run multiple businesses with multi-million-dollar budgets and know to think outside the box. I can walk, speak and demand action in every part of Oakland. No other candidate can. My actions at KMEL, after the Oscar Grant verdict, proved that I can deliver peace on our streets. Can anyone else? Please, look beyond skin color and see the mayor with the best ideas, the ability to implement them and the best track record of accomplishments. I am Terence Candell.

[Terence Candell is not participating in the forum, but submitted a statement.]

Arnie Fields

[No statement submitted]

Greg Harland

This November the city will face some significant challenges. The consensus even among current Councilmembers is that the November tax proposals will fail. As Mayor, I plan to balance the budget by cutting city employee compensation, while setting up a second tier of new employees at a lower pay scale to restore normal basic services, including increasing the police force to 1,050. Then, I intend to raise employment by using Oakland's status as an Enterprise Zone. Finally, I want to improve the business environment in Oakland by reducing parking fees and business tax rates. For more information, go to www.harland4mayor.com

Marcie Hodge

As a two-term Peralta Community College Trustee and a PhD candidate in Organizational Psychology, I understand how to implement system-wide change. The quality of jobs, safety, and education in our city simply must be improved. I promise to put an emphasis on 'quality of life crimes,' crimes that inhibit the revitalization of communities. I will also fight for an innovative tax structure that will invite new businesses that support economic growth.

As your Mayor, I will take my experience as a Peralta Community College Trustee and bring innovative thinking, deep community involvement and strong accountability to Oakland Schools.

Rebecca Kaplan

I am running for Mayor to create a new direction for Oakland, with fresh ideas and the energy to lead effectively. I will build a City that creates jobs, strengthens public safety, provides education and opportunity, and delivers services well. I will tackle our toughest challenges while balancing the budget for the long-term without raising taxes on residents.

I bring my experience representing all Oaklanders at AC Transit and now on the Council, and my education and training from MIT, Tufts, and Stanford Law School. Please see www.KaplanForMayor.org for my vision and plan to build Oakland's Renaissance.

Don Macleay

The Oakland I promote is growing around us in the community groups working to keep our schools up, our crime down and our neighborhoods vibrant. Volunteers are replacing the vicious circle of blame with circles of community. I will lead an administration that supports and trusts our grassroots and reforms our council districts and elections. I will convene a review of our budget structure and bring a reformed progressive tax and budget system to the voters. I am for whole community support for our schools, community policing, restorative justice, and job growth that chooses the path of mutual assistance. http://macleay4mayor.org/

Don Perata

City Hall is a mess. The mayor and council have failed Oakland. The budget teeters on insolvency, core services diminish and massive police layoffs make residents less safe.

I believe in Oakland and that the next four years can be better than the last four. We need decisive leadership and hands-on management. I've served Oakland for three decades. I got results.

City Hall must:

- Bring OPD to full strength;
- Reorganize public services;
- Require strict fiscal controls and mandate long-term budget plans;
- Promote local business and hiring Oakland residents;
- Embrace our children and schools.

Candidates, page 5



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Candidates

from page 4

Jean Quan

We need an ethical mayor with a record of getting things done in Oakland. On the School Board, I led efforts to: retrofit, build schools; reduce class and school size; restore arts and music; and raise graduation standards. As Councilmember, I organized block by block to: co-author Measure Y, funding 63 new beat officers and violence prevention programs; stop library closures; reform budget/pension policies; establish the Wildfire District; expand recycling; preserve open space; and close the crime-ridden Hillcrest Motel, revitalizing the Dimond and Laurel districts. As the first woman mayor, I will fight for honest accessible government, community policing, school and youth programs, jobs, affordable housing, retail, and a greener city. www.jeanquanforoakland.org

Joe Tuman

As your Mayor, I will:

*Return neighborhood policing by hiring, not firing, more officers without raising taxes;

*Increase retail opportunities, ensuring Oakland dollars are spent in Oakland; and

*Attract private-sector employers with hiring preference for Oaklanders, while utilizing our community colleges to train those workers.

The ill-conceived, neglectful policies of our elected officials have so devastated Oakland that, without immediate action, the damage will burden us for decades. It is simply not realistic to believe that the same career politicians who created this crisis will now resolve it. This is why I am running for Mayor. — Joe Tuman

Larry Lionel Young, Jr.

I won a National planning project award for the city of Emeryville in 2007 while serving as a Toastmasters International Governor. I plan to use my leadership ability as I did as a star quarterback, entrepreneur, youth leader and as a teacher for five years to accomplish my vision which is to promote oakland's image as being one of the best cities in the World to live, work and vacation. I will provide solutions by improving relationships with residents of Oakland and the business community. I will provide solutions to our budget deficit, public safety and increase our educational rankings expeditiously. As a man with a personal belief in the power of faith, and truth, I will fertilize Oakland's good roots to harvest. Vote LL and Oakland will be well. Success Only Option!

Meeting: Zoning Updtate

from page 4

read the staff report (posting on October 6, 2010), including highlights of the proposal, click on "Schedule and Upcoming Meetings http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CEDA/o/PlanningZoning/s/LUC/DOWD009036." To view the proposed zoning maps and text, click on "Proposals http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CEDA/o/PlanningZoning/s/GeneralPlan/DOWD009051."

— *Planning/Zoning Dept. Press Release*

New Members for RCPC Board, Land Use Committee, and Kitchen Tour

There has been some membership turnover on the RCPC board of directors and on the Land Use Committee.

On the board, Melinda Frey, elected last April, has resigned. Her position and remaining vacancies were filled when the board appointed Ashley Etling, Matthew Edling and Robert Orenstein.

On the Land Use Committee, Arden Hearing has decided to step down and the board appointed Alex Sinunu, a builder specializing in green projects, to fill that seat.

Kitchen Tour 2011

We are pleased to announce that we have two co-chairs to head up preparations for the 2011 Rockridge Kitchen Tour. They are Natalie Mehta, who also serves on the Land Use Committee, and Rachel Gardunio.

You can expect to hear more from them in the coming months as the kitchen tour begins to gear up for next fall.

— *Stuart Flashman, RCPC chair*

Public Meeting: City's Caldecott Settlement Agreement

Councilmember Jane Brunner is hosting a community meeting Monday, November 8 at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Elementary School, 25 South Hill Court (Hiller Highlands) to review and discuss projects proposed for the City of Oakland Caldecott Settlement Agreement. Please attend! This might be your only public opportunity to make your voice heard on these crucial projects.

In November 2008, the City of Oakland concluded a settlement agreement with Caltrans that included $8 million of "enhancement" projects located in the North Oakland Hills, Rockridge, and Temescal. A complete list can be found at www.rockridge.org.

The intent was to ameliorate the operational impacts of adding a fourth bore to the Caldecott Tunnel. Two major proposed projects in Rockridge are improved pedestrian crossings at the Broadway/Keith extended intersection and at the Broadway/

Caldecott Settlement, page 8

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Tech Talk

News from Oakland Technical High School

Compiled by Ronnie Spitzer, RCPC boardmember

Tech is a-bustling. Tech's student population continues to grow, with a larger than projected enrollment. Additional teachers are being hired and classes have been added to accommodate students who selected Tech as their "school of choice."

Lawrence Evans: OUSD Teacher of the Year

Chemistry teacher Lawrence Evans has been selected as one of two OUSD teachers of the year. Mr. Evans works tirelessly with Tech students and colleagues to ensure that he is preparing students to succeed in his classes. He now moves on as a candidate for Alameda County Teacher of the Year.

Tech's 2009-10 Academic Performance Index (API)

Tech's 2010 API score is 686, a growth of 41 points over 2009! API is a point-in-time state metric and is one indicator of student achievement. Teachers and students are to be commended for exceeding Tech's statewide goal of 8 points, and continuing to focus on standards and academic proficiency.

Booster Club Paints the Bleachers:

Fall sport season's begun so the bleachers just got a new coat of paint, courtesy of the Booster Club. More than 25 enthusiastic, hard-working Bulldogs turned out Sept. 12th and 25th to scrape, sweep, sand, prime, and paint the beautiful purple and gold luxury bleachers. Stop by Tech to cheer on one of its teams or just admire the bleachers.

OakTechRep a Hit at the Fringe

Tech's students performed in Scotland this summer at the Fringe Festival, a by-invitation event showcasing outstanding high

Tech Talk, page 10

Praying - Serving - Growing

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Memories Continue to be Created at the Chabot Elementary Annual Fall Carnival

The Chabot Elementary Fall Carnival has been a Rockridge tradition for years, and this year the tradition continues Sunday, October 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Excitement is building ahead of the event, which will be held on the NEW Chabot campus this year, after being held offsite for the past few years due to construction. Chabot has brand new school buildings, a new multi-purpose building, and two remodeled school yards for the community to enjoy, complete with new play structures. Chabot is at 6686 Chabot Road at Patton Street.



Prize winners gather around the prize booth to claim their winnings in this photo from the 2009 Chabot Fall Carnival.

PHOTO: CHABOT PTA

Traditionally this carnival is looked upon as the community event kicking off the 2010-2011 school year. Each year, new families with school-age children enter the school and are greeted by this fun-filled day. Little brothers and sisters enjoy participating; there are games for all ages.

The carnival is enhanced this year with the **addition of a rock climbing wall and dunking booth** – come dunk Principal Mayer or your favorite (or not so favorite) teacher!

Back by popular demand is the petting zoo, with live animals! Critters include goats, rabbits, chickens, ducks, geese, pot belly pig, sheep and turkeys. They are put in child-sized pens to be pet, loved and adored.

As always, entrance is free, with games for children of all ages, and PRIZES!

There will again be a live DJ all day and a cake walk hourly.

Bring out your best Halloween costume: also back by popular demand, the kid's costume contest at 1 p.m.

All proceeds benefit the Chabot Elementary PTA to fund enrichment programs like music, art, computers, the library and the garden; coordinate numerous after-school programs; help in the classrooms; and much more.



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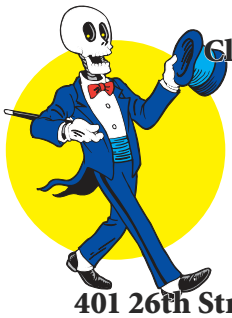
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Claremont Middle School Auction: Monster Cash



Claremont Auction:
October 30, 2010
6 - 10pm

Location:
Uptown Body and Fender,
401 26th Street, Oakland

Tickets: $15; $20 at the door. (Early purchase discount.)

(This is an adults-only event.)

Halloween costumes are optional but recommended....





Your Rockridge neighborhood middle school holds its annual auction October 30 at Uptown Body and Fender in Oakland.

Last year, we were "Scaring Up Some Change" but this year, due to budget cuts, we're looking for MONSTER CASH. Get out your costumes and join us for an evening of FUNdraising. We guarantee delicious food, fabulous items to bid on and a selection of tempting drinks at our no-host bar.

All event proceeds benefit the enrichment programs at Claremont. We invite the community to join in. Buy early and save by sending your payment directly to the school at 5750 College Avenue, Oakland, 94618. Make checks payable to Claremont PTA. You'll be on our preferred customer list and your tickets will be waiting for you at the door.

Our solicitation team is out there pounding the pavement and we can always use more offerings. If you can donate an item or service, contact fundraising chair Amy Vaughan at avaughan@stmaryscenter.org. Gift certificates from local businesses are a great way to support the neighborhood and our school! It really does take a village and Claremont is happy to be a part of such a wonderful community.

Be a Claremont Middle School Partner

by Julie Parker

Budget cuts have limited the ability of Oakland schools to provide the enrichment programs and support our students and teachers need. The Claremont PTA has gone into high gear with fundraising activities to support all students and teachers through our mini-grant program. We also sponsor enrichment activities including art, music, technology, library and garden, as well as educational field trips to the Marin headlands, Yosemite Valley, and Washington D.C.

Here are ways the Rockridge community can partner with us to make sure Claremont's enrichment programs are successful:

■ Come to our Annual Claremont Middle School Auction, announced in the article above. (For more information, or to donate an item or service, contact auction chair Amy Vaughan at avaughan@stmaryscenter.org.)

■ Purchase the Chinook Book ($20) from the school. It is filled with 300 valuable coupons for savings up to $3,000 at local businesses. To order, contact Julie Parker at juliepar@gmail.com.

■ Tell friends and family attending CAL home football games to park in the Claremont School yard ($15 all-day parking), then bus from College and Miles right to the game.

■ Check out the Claremont website often at www.claremontms.org, and keep up-to-date on our future events: Music Play-a-thon; Pancake Breakfast; Ride for a Reason; Spring Fling; and Outdoor Movie Nights, just to name a few.

Be our Partner in Education. Bring your family to our future events and have fun while you support our efforts to provide enrichment opportunities for all the children at Claremont Middle School.

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Council President Brunner Outlines City's Hopes, Risks

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC chair

At September's RCPC Town Hall Meeting, City Council President and Rockridge resident Jane Brunner decided that, rather than give a prepared talk, she'd just ask for questions from the audience. She got plenty. Public safety and Oakland's budget deficit dominated the discussion, but bus rapid transit, rezoning, and the future of the Oakland A's also came up.

Brunner noted that within the billion-dollar Oakland budget, almost $600 million of revenue comes from state and federal grants and programs and the City's redevelopment program. The City is limited in how that money can be used. Of the remaining $400 million in the general fund, roughly 80 per cent (not counting debt payments) goes for police and fire services, leaving only $28 million for all other programs. The recession has hit Oakland hard, costing $90 million in annual revenue since 2006. Major budget cuts in the last fiscal year and earlier this fiscal year left little that could easily be cut. Even if all discretionary programs, including parks, libraries, and senior centers, were ended, Brunner said, it still wouldn't be enough to avoid police layoffs without concessions that the Police Officers Association was unwilling to make.

Brunner noted that Oakland annual police salaries and benefits average about $180,000 per officer, higher than in surrounding cities because Oakland is a tough city to police. Also, it has been common for officers to be hired and trained in Oakland, then leave for other less stressful cities. She praised Police Chief Anthony Batts, saying he was the first chief who fully understood how to implement community policing. Brunner said she deeply regretted having to lay off



City Council President and District 1 Councilmember Jane Brunner
D. Kinkead

80 officers, inasmuch as Oakland really needs another 100 police officers beyond the 800 or so that it had prior to layoffs.

Brunner emphasized the importance of two November ballot measures. Measure BB would modify voter-approved Measure Y to temporarily remove the minimum officer baseline for the City. Unless Measure BB passes, she said, the City will lose its Measure Y revenue for police and crime prevention services, leading to another 120 police layoffs. Measure X, a $360 per homeowner parcel tax for the next four-and-a-half years would allow the City to hire back the 80 officers and the police would begin paying nine per cent of their salary into the pension fund. The City would promise there would be no future police layoffs until at least 2013.

Brunner was optimistic that Oakland could keep the A's with a new waterfront stadium proposal that would have a synergistic effect with the adjoining Oak to Ninth and Jack London Square areas, resulting in a more successful commercial area. She doubted that AC Transit's bus rapid transit proposal would be built as proposed, suggesting the more modest "rapid bus plus" option would improve service without the damaging removal of on-street parking in the Temescal area.

Considering the pending rezoning proposal, Brunner noted that the increase in density along major commercial corridors was mandated by the City's 1998 General Plan, and is affected by the unwillingness of more suburban Bay Area cities to increase their densities. Residents in the area east of Telegraph and north of Alcatraz told Brunner they feared being overshadowed by tall buildings along those two streets. Brunner suggested they lobby with residents further south along Telegraph for height limits more sensitive to the existing structural styles.

Asked about updating the now 12-year-old General Plan, Brunner just laughed.

Caldecott Settlement

from page 5

Lawton intersection, with additional projects identified during June's Walking Tours.

When finalized, fact sheets will be posted online at www.rockridge.org prior to the meeting. Carpools to Kaiser will depart from the Rockridge BART station starting at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact info@rockridge.org. Check www.rockridge.org for updates.

Mayoral Forum

from page 1

will lead and moderate the discussion. All mayoral candidates slated for the November ballot have been invited to the forum.

Join your friends and neighbors for the informed and lively presentation. This is an opportunity to meet the candidates in a non-partisan environment and to learn their platforms. You may also read candidates' statements beginning on page 4. Looking forward to seeing you October 14.

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FROG Park Corner



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Update: FROG Park Fix Up

Maintenance Days

We had successful Fall Maintenance Days on September 11 and 18, completing many important tasks: The fibar was completely removed from Hardy Park, and partially removed at Redondo; wood play structures at Redondo and Hardy Parks were cleaned and sealed to protect against the elements.

Thanks to all community members who devoted time and energy to preparing the park for its City inspection. We especially acknowledge the freshman, juniors and seniors of College Preparatory School, who have supported the Greenbelt since its inception in 2001, and tirelessly removed the fibar. Rockridge has benefitted from their hard work and dedication. Thanks also to Jim Ryugo of Oakland Public Works and his staff, who supplied the wheelbarrows, tools and labor.

Play structures CLOSED for renovation

Both Redondo and Hardy Parks' play structures will be closed until November or December for renovation. Decisions on work to be performed at the park, including its scope and time frame, are the responsibility of City staff. Some non-critical below-grade play structure pieces need replacement due to dry rot. The community will not perform the repairs, although the FROG Steering Committee has agreed to purchase a new tot slide (to be installed near the train) and special wood needed for repairs.



Community volunteer maintenance coordinator Howard Ferrier aloft to seal the towers on the FROG play structures. Photo: Theresa Nelson

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are still needed to finish removing Redondo's fibar. Any landscapers or landscape architects able to donate a few hours would be extremely helpful.

Rot was found in parts of the FROG Park play structures and will be repaired. The structures are closed during the repair period.





Community and College Preparatory School volunteers joined forces to spruce up the Park and remove the fibar.

Photos: Ronnie Spitzer

Another work day will be organized in October. Check the FROG Steering Committee website at www.frogpark.org for time and date or contact hwferrier@sbcglobal.net to help.

FROG is a group of community members who care about the park. We welcome anyone interested in being a part of our efforts to steward this community resource. Visit our website, www.frogpark.org and see "Contact Us," or send an email to info@frogpark.org. FROG also distributes a Constant Contact e-newsletter, which provides up-to-date information on the Park status and workdays. Send an email to parknews@frogpark.org to signup.

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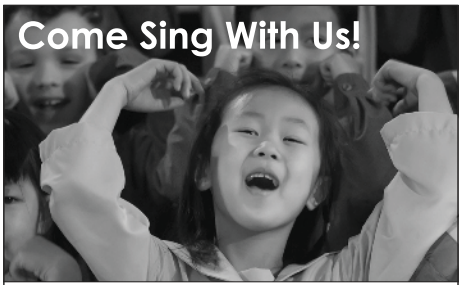


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Tech Talk

from page 6

school drama arts departments. The students performed for sold-out audiences, attended workshops at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, were interviewed on NPR's Fresh Air, and blogged about their adventures. Check it out at calshakes.org or oaklandtech.com (Performing Arts tab).

Auditorium Renovation Project:

Oakland Tech has Music! Drama! Dance! and an auditorium that doesn't come close to being worthy of the performances it houses. Built in the early 1960s, the 927-seat space remains virtually unchanged. While the space itself is excellent, it has inadequate sound systems, mismatched and partially damaged seating, and terrible acoustics.

The Oakland Tech Performing Arts Committee has embarked on a capital campaign to raise $1.2 million in three phases. Please contact Pat Williams at prwillia@pacbell.net, or phone 510/444-1640, to learn about our plans and find out how you can help!

Get involved!

The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) welcomes community members to its meetings, the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Oakland Tech Library.

Want to join the PTSA and/or donate to Tech? There are many ways to give during the Tech Fund Drive. For more information: http://tinyurl.com/2flb3a3

Halloween

from page 1

on College Avenue on Sunday, October 31, from noon to 2 p.m.

To join the costumed procession for kids of all ages, meet at Halloween Central at the grassy area's sidewalk in front of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue, at 11:45 a.m.

At precisely noon, we'll kick off the parade, leading the first group of costumed kids along College Avenue where participating merchants wll host trick-or-treating along both sides of the street from Alcatraz to Broadway. Then, at 1 p.m., we'll return to Halloween Central for spooky storytelling and silly, scary sing-alongs.



Use the coupon below for donations to help meet the matching grant made to RCPCfrom the Rose Foundation for the Safeway on College EIR review. See story, page 2, and in the September issue of The Rockridge News. Donations may also be made online via PayPal at RCPC's website, www.rockridge.org

YES! **I want to help RCPC protect Rockridge by making sure the EIR for the College Avenue Safeway Project is complete and accurate. Here is my contribution of $ _____.**

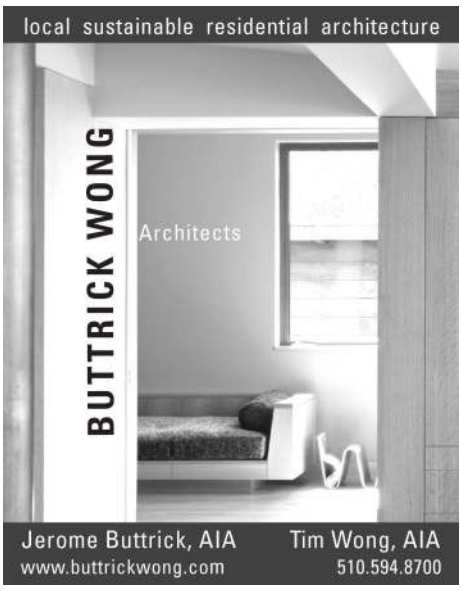
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Peralta Board Appoints Interim Chancellor to Clean House

by Cy Gulassa, Peralta boardmember

A new chapter in the sometimes turbulent leadership of Peralta Community College's district office has begun. Gone is Chancellor Elihu Harris. The district's board last June declined to renew his contract because of gross mismanagement during his tenure and his failure to inform the board that the recipient of a million dollar no-bid contract was his business partner.

To end conflicts of interest like this, the board rewrote its code of ethics and key policies and mandated that all managers and staff take a biennial course in ethics. The board also formed a committee to conduct a national search for a new chancellor.

Gone also is chief financial officer Tom Smith, fired not for fraud but for accounting so bungled that the board refused to adopt his budget last fall, even at the risk of violating law and jeopardizing bond ratings. "I cannot vote for a budget that I know is grossly inaccurate," said Trustee Withrow, the chair of the board's finance committee.

The board invited in a top fiscal team, which is now validating data, streamlining procedures and producing accurate budgets that pass audits. The errors occurred when Peralta attempted to migrate from its unreliable legacy accounting system in 2004 to PeopleSoft, an enterprise system so complex it still challenges programmers. "It's the difference between driving a Ford and a Boeing 747," said Board President Abel Guillen. Of significance: After thorough scrubbing, there is no evidence of fraud.

It's one thing to fire a leader, another to find a trustworthy interim manager who can help the board clean house and provide a smooth transition for a permanent replacement. The board has persuaded Dr. Wise Allen, a former Berkeley city manager, president of Merritt College and vice chancellor of student services, to postpone retirement for a year and serve as interim chancellor until next June.

With strong board support, Dr. Allen has taken full responsibility for restoring confidence in district management, meeting all accreditation standards, putting to rest grand jury inquiries and steering the colleges through California's worst financial storm in decades. He has reorganized staff, imposed strict accountability, and begun cost-saving measures, among them a 12-day annual furlough for all managers. His overriding goal is to ensure Peralta students continue to have affordable access to basic skills and workforce and transfer programs that rival those of the state's best colleges and universities.

Despite the problems at the district office and cutbacks forced by a shrinking state budget, the presidents and faculty of Peralta's four colleges – Berkeley City, Laney, Alameda and Merritt – maintain their commitment to academic integrity and student learning, not just through teaching excellence, but through support services like tutoring, financial aid and grants, a bus pass that cuts student transportation costs almost to pennies, and health care at Laney and child care at Alameda.

Thanks to community approval of a $390 million bond measure in 2006, College facilities have been upgraded and are in superb shape. One of the best examples is Berkeley City College, a new six-story downtown learning center outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment, innovative programs and an ambassador program run by students that helps newcomers register and navigate the college system. Since the facility's opening in 2006, enrollment has skyrocketed. This is no surprise considering that annual community college tuition for a resident enrolled fulltime is $700 compared with $12,460 at UC Berkeley or $5,091 at East Bay University in Hayward. Furthermore, tuition waivers are available for low-income students.

The recession has forced reductions in the number of class sections but early enrollees are most likely to get all the classes they need. For enrollment details and class schedules, visit www.peralta.cc.ca.us/.

Rockridge resident Cy Gulassa represents Area 6 (North Oakland and Berkeley hills) on the Peralta board and was recently elected to the state board of trustees.



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.

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Local News 94618

We're excited and proud to announce that McGuire Real Estate has acquired Elmwood Realty & Investment Co.

ERI, located at 2991 College Avenue in Berkeley's Elmwood neighborhood, will serve as McGuire's 9th Bay Area office. This acquisition allows McGuire to reinforce its presence in the East Bay and extend its services to Berkeley, Albany and other surrounding communities. This is McGuire's 4th acquisition in 2 years. As a result, the company has increased its ranking in the Bay Area from 8th to 5th, all while delivering a high level of service to our clients and providing a luxury experience at all price points.

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Help Rockridge with a gift of your time

The Rockridge News Needs Your Help

Two blocks of Claremont Avenue are losing their block captain. Michele Beaudoin has been delivering the Rockridge News to the 5900 and 6000 blocks of Claremont for several years. And, Marge Pryle is resigning her Auburn route. Many thanks to both community volunteers.

The Rockridge News strives to cover every block in Rockridge within the RCPC boundaries so that no one is deprived of the valuable local news we provide. We hope that volunteers will step forward to take over the routes listed below.

Call 510/547-3855 or e-mail smontauk@gmail.com and refer to the route number.

Route # and Area

04G Both sides of 6000 Auburn and odd numbers of Florio from Auburn to Ross

20A On Claremont from 5900 even numbers up Claremont to Shell station

21G Along the odd numbers of 6000 Claremont

Margarido Path Rehab Nears Completion

by Bill Kaufner, RCPC boardmember

Rehabilitative construction on the stairs of Margarido Path has been underway since August and is expected to end some time in October, according to a notice from Oakland's Public Works Agency.

The path's stairs begin near the end of Rockridge Boulevard and connect to Margarido Drive. It is possible to continue climbing the next two sets of steps and emerge on upper Ocean View Avenue with a fabulous view of the Bay and bridges.

Most of Oakland's paths and steps are located in older neighborhoods and were built between 1906 and 1940 to allow people easier access to the Key Route Trolley System. With the post-war spread of the automobile, many of these paths began to fall in disuse and disrepair.

Throughout 2009, more than 50 volunteers recruited by the Oakland Urban Paths and Walk Oakland Bike Oakland (WOBO) organizations teamed with the city to walk the more than 300 pathways throughout Oakland and record their physical condition.

In January 2010, the inventory of stairs and paths was submitted to the city for analysis. A five-year prioritized improvement plan has been drawn up. Stairs must be brought up to 2007 building standards, which could dramatically increase costs. The major source of funds is (rapidly depleting) Measure B monies. Thus, projections are that only one or two paths can be rehabilitated each year over the near term. Costs can range from $200,000-$300,000 per path. One additional path, Eucalyptus Path off Alvarado Road, will also be rehabilitated this year.

For questions concerning this project, call Building Inspector Kathy Tran at 238-3544.

For more information on Oakland's paths: www.OaklandUrbanPaths.org and www.WalkOaklandBikeOakland.org.

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8/20/2010	1	1	5301 Broadway Terr	$535,000	$505,000	46	$460,000
9/8/2010	2	1	5528 Kales Ave	$737,000	$737,000	11	$750,000
9/17/2010	1	1	5362 Manila Ave	$399,000	$399,000	18	$397,600
9/17/2010	3	2	12 Buena Vista Pl	$825,000	$785,000	43	$775,000
9/17/2010	1	1	5364 Manila Ave	$399,000	$399,000	17	$397,600
9/17/2010	4	3.5	5550 Maxwelton Rd	$1,595,000	$1,295,000	168	$1,295,000

• Rockridge currently has a 1.2 month supply of inventory • Only 14% of listings sold in Rockridge in the last 30 days sold for over the original asking price • Average market time in Rockridge has increased by a mere 6% compared to a year ago • Between last year at this time and this year, there has been a 2% decrease in the list to sell price •
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October Leaves

It may not be much, but there is something to be said, in a silver lining sort of way, for a ho-hum summer and a recession that keeps dragging on.

Given a boring summer, by the time fall rolls around we are all going stir-crazy looking for something uplifting to engage us. And recessions? Well, they can sharpen the focus on creative activity closer to home, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

As I checked around, I found that all kinds of arts classes and programs are suddenly oversubscribed this fall. I am hoping, too, that our local performers will find lots of new faces in the audience this season. Tickets for local events are inexpensive and often even free. So, go and enjoy a concert or two, try a new venue, experience something different, meet new people. It's good for our local economy. It's good for the soul.

Avonova

Like the wonderful raspberries that Jimmy Pedersen grows in his backyard, Jimmy's musical soirees have really matured into an excellent crop of performances this fall. He has an exhaustive schedule of instrumental and vocal jazz performers lined up every weekend between October 16 and December 18. Go to www.AvonovaMusic.com. Or contact Jimmy@jazzberries.LMI.net.

Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra (BCCO)

Rehearsals have begun, but the group is still looking for a few good basses. Rehearsals are Monday nights, 7-10 p.m. For more information, go to www.bcco.org or call 510/301-2247. Concerts featuring choral music by Haydn, Bach and Handel will be performed Dec 4-5 and Dec 19.

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The Rockridge Muse

by Ortrun Niesar

Florio Street Concerts

Florio Street Concerts would like you to know that after 15 years of continuous performances, there will be no formal program sent in the mail this year. Please e-mail Kathy Westine at kwestine@earthlink.net if you would like to be on her e- list for upcoming programs.

Rockridge Community Photography Show

The annual exhibit will be at the Rockridge Library October 1-30, with a reception for the artists planned for Tuesday, October 12, 5-8 p.m. Participants are Chuck Fisher, Robert Hofmann, Charles Lucke, Jamie Pillers, Martha Snider, Irving Wiltshire. Would you believe, this annual event is now in its 15th year!

Pro Arts Annual ARTBOX Benefit Auction 2010

This event takes place Saturday, November 6, 6-9 p.m. Bid on artworks created by 100 local artists specifically for this fundraiser, the proceeds of which go to support Pro Arts youth initiatives. All artworks will be on display beginning Tuesday, November 2, during gallery hours. Auctioneer will be Tom Vacar of KTVU Channel 2. Come join the fun, become a sponsor. Call 510/763-4361 for more information . **Note:** *a Juried Annual Call for Entries is happening right now. Deadline is October 22*. Go to www.prartsgallery.org for information and registration.

Wisteria Ways

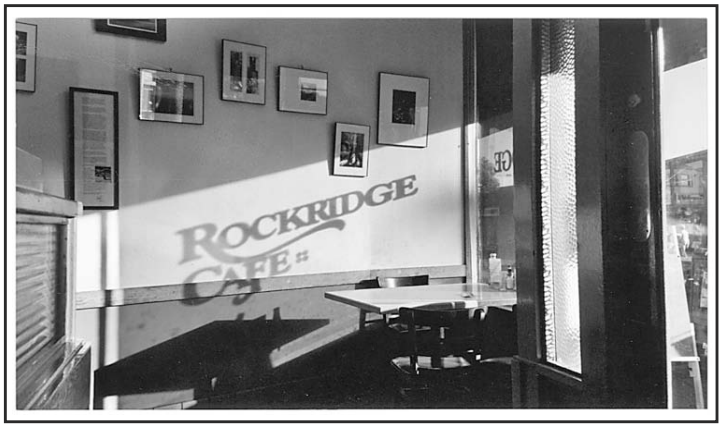
Here's another venue that has become an icon in the Rockridge community. Anne Emmerick hosts wonderful folk, blues and Americana music performances right in our neighborhood on 61st Street. She has been doing this since 2006. The next concert takes place November 6 at 8 p.m. and features Stephanie Bettman and Luke Halpin. Performers slated for the coming months include Caconier, Jamie Lavel, Hat Check Girl and California Honeydrops. E-mail Anne at info@wisteriaways.org.

Young People's Symphony Orchestra

Margaret Elson writes that the Bay Area Young People's Symphony Orchestra, YPSO, has been invited to play at Carnegie Hall, and in China, Australia and Alaska! Four young players hail from Rockridge: Akiro Duey, 13, cello; Jonathan Mei, 17, violin; Caleb O'Reilly, cello; and Sean Woodruff, 14, cello. Congratulations to all.

The YPSO gala concert season begins November 6 and 7 with performances at the Castro Valley Center for the Performing Arts. For further information and to get a glimpse at how your child can have the opportunity to participate, go to www.ypsomusic.net. You'll love what you see.

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



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RN classifieds

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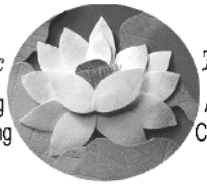
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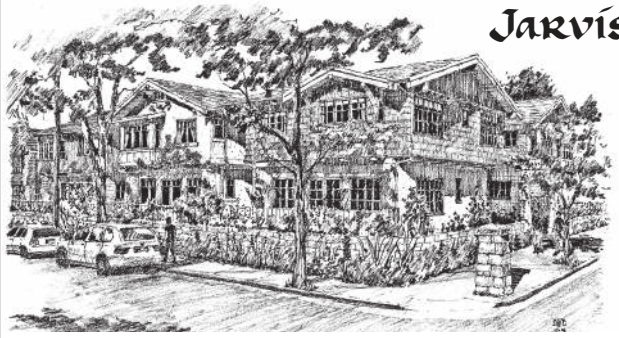
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E-mail *Rockridge News* Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210 (after noon), or mail to: *Rockridge News* Community Calendar, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the month.

Compiled by Jo Ellis

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Councilmember Brunner's Community Advisory Meeting

Peralta Elementary School: 460 63rd St. (parking on Alcatraz Ave, just east of Telegraph). Sat., Oct 9, 10am to noon. **Topic: The November Elections**. More info at the Brunner Report online or 238-7001.

Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

The residential and business community meets with OPD to discuss concerns about crime and public safety, 2nd Thurs. each month, 7pm. Rockridge Library, upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Ave. chair@rockridgencpc.com or www.rockridgencpc.com.

Public Forum on Violence

Learn about innovative programs to combat crime and violence in Oakland. The panel consists of OPD Chief Anthony Batts, the mayoral candidates, and participants from the program Lifelines (aka Ceasfire) that has successfully diverted high-risk youth from crime and incarceration. Also, learn more about Measure BB, (the "Measure Y Fix") which could restore funding for PSOs and Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils (NCPC). Friday, Oct 8, 7pm. Refreshments and discussion follow the panel presentation. Montclair Presb. Church 5701 Thornhill Drive. More info at 339-1131 or mpc-family@mpcfamily.org.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN

- **Toddler Story Time**: Every Saturday, 10:30am. (**Note: closed 10/9**)
- **Pre-School Story Time**: 1st and 3rd Wed., 10:30am.
- **Baby and Toddler Story Time**: 1st and 3rd Wed., 10:30am, **upstairs**.

Special Events:

- **Dia de los Muertos Simple Crafts**: Make masks and skeletons. Thurs., 10/14, 4pm.
- **MoChA Workshop**: Make art for the Annual Re-Create Art Contest. Fri., 10/22, 3:30pm.
- **Spooky & Not-So-Spooky Halloween Stories**: For kids of all ages. **Come in costume**. Tues., 10/26, 7pm.

FOR TEENS

Rockridge Ninjas Anime Club: Ages 13 and up, watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation). Second Tues. each month (10/12, 11/9), 5 to 6:30pm, upstairs meeting room.

Info about teen programs: Susy, 597- 5017.

FOR ADULTS

- **Writers Support/Critique Group**: All writers welcome. Bring 15 copies of up to 5 pgs. (double-spaced, manuscript margins) of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (you're also welcome to come empty-handed). Third Saturday each month (10/16), 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. Advance sign-up starts 5pm. **NOTE: Cancelled Nov. due to Election Day**.

Art Exhibits (call to confirm)

Gallery:

- Oct: **Rockridge Community Photography Group**: Annual exhibit. **Reception for the artists; Tues., 10/12, 5 to 8pm**. Info: Irving Wiltshire, iswirving@earthlink.net.
- Works by **Adele Crawford**.

Lobby Display Case:

- Oct.: Exhibit by **Martha Snyder**.
- Nov., Exhibit by **Adele Crawford**.

LIBRARY HOURS

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed., Thurs. and Sat. 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri., 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sundays and Mondays;
also Sat., 10/9 (city mandated furlough).

Diesel Book/Readings and Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Wed., 10/6, 7pm. **Mark Christensen**: *Acid Christ*: a biography of Ken Kesey
- Sun., 10/10, 3pm. **Michael Krasny**: *Spiritual Envy: An Agnostic's Quest*.
- Mon., 10/11, 7pm. **Amnesty International Meeting** (2nd Monday each month): All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Thurs., 10/14, 7pm. **Randy Shaw**: *Beyond the Fields: Cesar Chavez, the UFW, and the Struggle for Justice in the 21st Century*.
- Thurs., 10/21, 7pm. **Gemma Whelan**: *Fiona: Stolen Child*.
- Sun., 10/24, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Matthew Zapruder, Steve Healey** and **Michael Earl Craig**.
- Thurs., 11/4, 7pm. **Jeff Greenwald**: *Snake Lake*.
- Sun., 11/7, 3pm. **Daniel Pinchbeck**: *Notes From the Edge Times*.
- Mon., 11/8, 7pm. **Amnesty International Meeting** (2nd Monday each month): All invited to exchange ideas on action.

DIESEL, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave. More info about these authors/ books (and other events and discussion groups): 653-9965 or events@dieselbookstore.com.

Book Signing

Rosetta Costantino, author of *My Calabria: Rustic Family Cooking from Italy's Undiscovered South*. Discussion and recipe and ingredient tastings. Sat., 11/6, 1 to 3pm. The Pasta Shop, Rockridge Market Hall, 5655 College Ave. 250-6001.

Wisteria Ways House Concert Series

Stephanie Bettman and **Luke Halpin**: Original/folk/bluegrass/Americana music. Saturday, Nov. 6, 8pm. $15-20 donation for musicians (cash only at the door). 383 61st Street. inside venue (not wheelchair accessible). Reservations (highly recommended): RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771. More info: www.WisteriaWays.org.

Spooky Tales in the Redwoods

Join the Witches Four at UC Botanical Garden, Berkeley, on Halloween from 1 to 2:30 pm. Enjoy a parade, songs, riddles and stories with storytellers Bobbie Kinkead, Jean Ellisen, Karin Werner and Carol Nyhoff. Info: 510/643-2755.

Chabot Elem. School Fall Carnival

Sunday, Oct 24, 11am to 3pm. Activities for all ages; games and prizes; live band for dancing; petting zoo; rock climbing wall; dunking booth; delicious food and more. Proceeds benefit music, computer, art and garden programs and other school improvements. Chabot School, 6686 Chabot Road. (at Patton St.). More info at www.chabotelementary.org. **See article on page 6**.

Park Day School Benefit

Sunday, Oct 24, 10am to 5pm. A family day of do-it-yourself creativity, learning and fun at the **East Bay Mini Maker Faire**. Features rockets and robots, DIY science and technology; unique hand-made crafts; music, local food, educational workshops and more. Create comic books with Michael Chabon and artists from Marvel Comics; sew your Halloween costume; make jam. Sponsored by the parents of Park Day School, 360 42nd Street (at Opal). Tickets available now at ebmakerfaire.eventbrite.com/. More info at ebmakerfaire.wordpress.com/.t

Rockridge Holloween Parade

Join the costume procession for kids of all ages along College Avenue. Trick-or-treating; songs and stories from 11:45 a.m.to 2 p.m., Sunday, October 31. Details in story on page 1.





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