The Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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

18 **RCPC Town Hall Meeting**
November 18, 2010
7:30-9 p.m.

AGENDA:
New at the Rockridge Branch Library

Rockridge Branch Library Prepares New Resources and Opportunities for Patrons

The November Town Hall meeting is all about the Rockridge Branch Library. First, Head Librarian Pat Lichter and Teen Specialist Librarian Susy Moorhead will discuss the construction slated to start early next year, which will create a Teen Center. There will also be more shelves for DVDs and a new computer area. Then, Annette Floystrup and Jon Gabel, co-chairs of the Rockridge DVD Project, will give an update on the status of this project to fill the coming increased DVD shelf space.

Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue at Manila, Community Room (Upstairs)



More Halloween, pg 13.

Halloween on College Avenue shows us a bit more about who we are and who we might wish to be. At left, from top, photos by Shona Armstrong, Yeda Altes and Ashley Etling.

November 8 – Notice of Public Meeting
4th Bore Mitigations

Caltrans did not directly mitigate any construction or long-term environmental impacts along Hwy. 24 stemming from construction of the added tunnel. The Oakland settlement agreement includes what Caltrans should have done in Rockridge. These projects will be reviewed and discussed at a public meeting November 8. See details, page 2.

City Discusses Rockridge Bore Mitigation Projects



On the east end of the Caldecott Tunnel, the mouth of the fourth bore begins to take shape. Traffic continues to flow west through the existing tunnel at left of photo. See full story and meeting details, page 2. Photo: Don Kinkead

DVD Project Info Stand Set Up in Library Lobby



Jon Gabel and Annette Floystrup, Rockridge DVD project co-chairs, left, and Rockridge Branch Library Manager Pat Lichter join in solid support of the project that will supply 2,800 DVDs for circulation to library patrons when the project is complete. The easel pictured with them in the library lobby presents patrons with project information and holds brochures describing how donations may be made to support DVD acquisitions.

- Learn more about the DVD project: Visit www.rockridgedvdproject.org
- Learn more about the Rockridge Branch and Oakland's Library system at http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/Branches/rockridge.htm
- Join others who support the Rockridge Branch Library: http://www.friendsofrockridgelibrary.org

Photo: Don Kinkead

Safeway EIR Matching Grant Still Open: Page 3



College on Safeway Website

Fourth Bore Mitigation Funding Meeting
Monday, November 8, 7:00 p.m., Kaiser Elementary School,
25 South Hill Court (Hiller Highlands Neighborhood).
For carpool information from Rockridge BART,
e-mail: info@rockridge.org.

Tunnel Mitigation Money to Fund Many Rockridge Projects: Please Comment!

Rockridge residents are invited to a public meeting to discuss a proposed list of transportation projects along Highway 24 west of Caltrans' Caldecott Tunnel Project.

The city of Oakland received an $8 million settlement when it negotiated with Caltrans on the construction of the tunnel's 4th bore. The projects serve to mitigate the impacts of the new bore and to enhance pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the area that includes the Rockridge and Temescal districts.

The goal of the meeting is for residents and merchants in the North Oakland Hills, Rockridge and Temescal neighborhoods to learn about the list of proposed projects, and for the City to hear meeting participants' perspectives. This input will be used to generate a final project list. Meeting participants will be introduced to the process that led to this list and will hear a presentation on the projects themselves.

Plan to attend this important meeting Monday, November 8, 7 p.m. at Kaiser Elementary School, 25 South Hill Court (Hiller Highlands Neighborhood). For carpool information from Rockridge BART, email info@rockridge.org.

To help inform participants, the City's draft project list and links to project fact sheets and location maps are available at www.fourthbore.org and on the RCPC Web site: www.rockridge.org.

Many worthwhile Rockridge projects will potentially be funded within the $8 million settlement. They include:

- Broadway Bike Lanes from Brookside Ave. to Caldecott Sports Field; $410,000
- Broadway Walking Path from Golden Gate Ave. to Lake Temescal; $275,000
- Soundwall study: Eastbound between Vicente Road and Broadway; $554,000
- Soundwall study: Westbound between Ross Street and Ayala Avenue; $487,000
- Broadway/Keith Intersection Improvements; $840,000
- College/Keith Intersection Improvements; $95,000
- Bike Route Signage at Rockridge BART; $20,000
- Broadway/Lawton Intersection Improvements; $400,000
- Broadway/SR 24 On-ramp Intersection Improvements; $295,000
- Rockridge BART Bicycle Parking; $100,000
- On-street Bicycle Parking in Commercial Areas; $30,000
- Telegraph/Claremont/52nd Intersection Improvements; $240,000

Worthy projects not currently funded:

- Soundwall studies: additional Rockridge locations not meeting ACTC criteria
- College/Claremont Intersection Improvements; $225,000
- Broadway/Manila Intersection Improvements; $257,000
- Claremont/Hudson/SR 24 On-ramp Intersection Improvements; $180,000
- AC Transit Route 51 Service Improvement; $920,000

The public comment period extends until November 22. Submit comments to Iris Starr via e-mail: istarr@oaklandnet.com, phone: 510/238-1725; fax: 238-7415. Letters may be mailed to: Iris Starr, Division Manager, Infrastructure Plans and Programming, City of Oakland Public Works Agency, 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4344, Oakland, CA 94612.

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***CLOSED**: Sunday and Monday; also 11/11, 12, 25, 26, 30*
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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Contact us at one of the following:
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Articles submitted for publication may be e-mailed to the above address. Submissions are limited to 600 words; must include the author's name, phone number, e-mail address, and city or neighborhood of residence; and are subject to editing. To reprint a *Rockridge News* article, please contact the editor.

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Publication date of the next issue is
☛ **December 4, 2010**
☛ **December deadline is November 18, 2010.**
Advertising rates are $26/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or e-mail joellis1@hotmail.com. *RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate. (Classified ad contact, page 14.)*

RCPC Land Use Committee

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

■ **TOAST Wine Bar**
5900 College Avenue – former San Francisco Dancewear location

Local photographer and resident Kristen Policy proposes to establish a wine bar at this location, vacated by San Francisco Dancewear when it moved across the street to the Dreyers Building and larger quarters. While called a wine bar, TOAST would also be a restaurant serving light Continental cuisine. Proposed hours are from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The Land Use Committee discussed this project in October but took no action. The RCPC board of directors will consider the proposal at its November meeting.

■ **Rockridge Shopping Center**
Corner of Broadway and Pleasant Valley Road

The Land Use Committee discussed design aspects of this very large project at its October meeting. The committee expressed concerns about the large amount of surface parking being proposed, the location of the Safeway at the rear of the center and far removed from transit stops, the ineffective use of the project's frontage on the adjoining quarry pond, and the relative inactivity of the design's Broadway and Pleasant Valley street frontage. The Planning Commission's design review committee will discuss this project, as well as the College Avenue Safeway Shopping Center project (see following item) in the near future. Check the RCPC Web site (http://rockridge.org) and sign up for the RCPC e-news to find out when the hearing will be. Some of the design documents have also been posted on the RCPC site and the full set is available from the City (see below). An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is in preparation. The Oakland planner assigned to the project is Darin Ranelletti; tel: 238-3663; DRanelletti@oaklandnet.com.

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

Design aspects of this large proposed project on College Avenue were another topic at the committee's October meeting. Other than the project's large size and failure to fit into the surrounding commercial district, specific concerns included the project's large barren area along Claremont Avenue, the disruptive effect of the four-lane garage entrance/exit on College Avenue pedestrian movement, the monolithic appearance of the second-story College Avenue frontage, the problematic nature of the second-floor café area at College and Claremont and the lack of any easily accessible public space within the project.

This project will also be discussed soon by the Planning Commission's design review committee. RCPC has posted most of the project plans on its Web site. Friends and Neighbors of College Avenue (FANS), of which RCPC is a member, also has its own Web site at http://www.fansco.org.

An EIR in preparation for about the last six months may be released for public comment within the next month or two. RCPC is raising funds for professional review of the adequacy of the EIR's technical analyses. (See separate progress report below on that campaign.) The assigned Oakland planner is Peterson Vollmann; tel: 238-6167; pvollman@oaklandnet.com.

■ **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.

Update on College Avenue Safeway EIR Matching Grant Fundraising

RCPC has received a generous $10,000 matching grant from the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment to fund professional consultants to review and critique the environmental report for the College Avenue Safeway Shopping Center project. We are progressing towards meeting our $10,000 goal of matching donations. As of October 27, RCPC had received donations totaling $6,500. The release of the Draft EIR has been put off until December at the earliest, giving a little more time to meet our goal and bring in a full slate of consultants for the Draft EIR's 45-day public review and comment period. You can contribute via PayPal or credit card at RCPC's Web site, http://rockridge.org/Safewayfunds.html, or you can complete the coupon below and mail it with your check, made out to RCPC/Safeway EIR Fund, to: RCPC, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



GRAPHIC: STUART FLASHMAN

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 $ _____.**

Name _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **ZIP** _____

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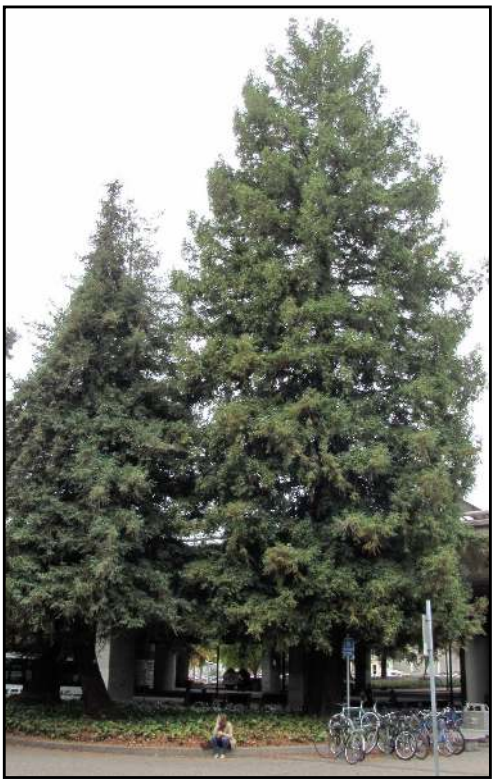
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Rockridge BART Plaza Plans Progressing

by Ann Winterman, RCPC boardmember

BART is ready for a visual upgrade. After years of difficulty gaining consensus on design, representatives from BART, the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), and the Rockridge District Association (RDA) have developed a plan to remodel the plaza area of the BART station at College and Keith. The design calls for the creation of a sense of place and a public square, where people can enjoy this central aspect of our neighborhood, meet arriving BART passengers with ease, find their way with distinctive directional signage, and appreciate the three tall redwoods that grace the square.



BART passengers and College Avenue pedestrians could shelter more comfortably than the passerby perched on a coping in the photo when the area under the redwoods is reborn as a plaza/public square, marking the importance of the space in identifying Rockridge. PHOTO: D. KINKEAD

The collaboration of the organizations gained momentum in April following the generous contributions of two long-term area residents: local landscape designer Greer Alley created a smart and beautiful plan, and hills resident Gordon Piper contributed his great knowledge of plants and outdoor elements.

In a meeting with Chief BART Architect Tian Feng last month, the coalition gained design approval, and BART is preparing to submit plans to bid.

Project representatives are now inviting one or more artist/designers interested in working on the project in a pro bono capacity to develop a Rockridge logo in the form of a metal compass rose paving element, and a three-dimensional "Rockridge" sign.

In addition, individuals and organizations wanting to help sponsor this important aesthetic upgrade are invited to contribute. RCPC has already pledged $20,000 for the project and RDA has pledged a matching $20,000. BART is putting up the bulk of the funding of this nearly quarter-million-dollar project, in the works since BART District 3 board member Bob Franklin helped to earmark parking money for it years ago.

For more information, to adopt a design element set forth in the plan or to make contributions in kind, contact Ann Winterman, RCPC board member and RCPC Parks Committee chair, at annwinterman@gmail.com/, or phone 510/757-3334.

You may contribute via PayPal or credit card at RCPC's Web site, http://rockridge.org/rockridgeplaza.html. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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OPD Chief: Police and Public Share Responsibility for Public Safety

by Karen Ivy, NCPC secretary

When Oakland Chief of Police Anthony Batts spoke with federal law enforcement agencies about their help after recent officer layoffs in the city, he heard, "Oakland doesn't seem to think public safety is important." The agencies then said, "So why should we put resources into it?"

Batts now seeks to do more with less. At the Community Policing Reorganization meeting held October 25, the Chief and his area captains appealed to the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) officers and Neighborhood Watch block captains for ideas on how to manage community policing in Oakland with a skeleton crew of eight Neighborhood Service Coordinators (down from 17), and the possibility of more officer layoffs in January.

Chief Batts opened the evening with an impassioned speech on the mutual responsibility of police and citizens to maintain public safety in Oakland, and to protect Oakland's youth from incidents like the bullet which struck 6-year-old Leslie Ramirez as she slept in her bedroom. "We can't hang up our guns and walk away from 6-year-old kids," the Chief said, asking how OPD and Oakland citizens can work together better to improve public safety and reduce crime.

Batts said he thinks the community policing structure in Oakland is excellent. Composed of Neighborhood Watch, NCPC groups, and the Community Policing Advisory Board, it could be a model to other cities, but the citizen groups and the police often don't cooperate well.

Recent layoffs have hampered the police. According to Batts, if the city loses more officers in January, OPD will be reduced to answering 911 calls, and won't be able to do the proactive work which can prevent crime and the need for 911 calls. The Chief asked his audience — "35 people who aren't on my staff" — to tell him what they want him to do, and to work with him. He has reached out to churches with success and he wants more neighborhood groups to organize and walk their neighborhoods for safety.

The Chief invited the public to his CompStat (Computer Statistics data collection for law enforcement) meetings, where OPD leadership decides how to deal with crime in the three police beat areas. Data show that crime in Oakland is not pervasive, but is localized. When OPD concentrates on the "hot spots," he said, crime goes down everywhere. But once the hot spot is doused, there is a need to sustain and heal the community, and the police can't do that alone.

After Batts' speech, the audience formed into three groups and met with Area Commanders to develop responses to several questions:

- *With only 8 Neighborhood Service Coordinators for all Oakland, what are the 3 most important things the NSCs can do for the NCPCs?* • Agreed critical NSC functions were facilitating communication, and managing ongoing problems by coordinating with city departments.
- *What can the NCPC do to strengthen relationships among individuals, community groups and organizations in the beat?* • Push Neighborhood Watch, get more groups involved, and get block captains regularly in touch with the NCPC and with each other. The biggest obstacle here is people's rooted habits and unwillingness to get involved.
- *How will the patrol areas deal with the NSC shortage? Combine beats? Meet quarterly?* • The group discussed some alternate meeting arrangements but came to no specific conclusion.
- *Can we arrange dates and standing agenda items for the Area Captain and the NCPC officers to meet quarterly?* • Some NCPC chairs noted that the previous Area Captain had met with them bimonthly. New Area Captain Allison agreed to that.

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Review: October Town Hall Meetings

RCPC & League of Women Voters Present Election Forums

by Don Kinkead, Rockridge News editor

This campaign season was one in which candidate mailings received by voters could be quantified by weight as much as by the positions of the candidates and the issues.

Knowing that Rockridge area voters were to choose from among 10 mayoral candidates, nine State propositions and five Oakland ballot measures, RCPC and the Oakland League of Women Voters (LWV) collaborated to present two non-partisan forums where voters could hear from candidates and discuss ballot measures.

Candidates Forum

At the mayoral candidate's forum held October 14, Theresa Nelson, LWV representative and Rockridge resident, deftly guided the candidates through opening platform statements and on to specific electoral questions including: how City pension reform might best be achieved; what budget restructuring steps could restore the City to profitability; what considerations would be important in hiring a new city administrator; and how many police officers would be necessary to provide adequately for public safety.

Toward the end of the forum, candidates were asked a "lightning round" series of questions to which each could answer only "yes" or "no." No candidate supported higher density along College Avenue or around the Rockridge BART station, or abolishing the city's Ethics Commission, however, questions such as supporting a tax holiday and cutting city programs to pay for more police officers drew mixed responses. It was difficult for several candidates to stick to the finality of the yes/no format. Many hedged on some questions, falling back on, "it depends!"

The forum closed with final statements from the candidates stating why each deserved voters' support.

More than 150 people attended the candidate's forum, according to an unofficial count.

Ballot Preview Forum

The RCPC-LWV ballot preview held October 21 was led by LWV representatives Megan Chenoweth and Earl Hamlin, who took turns describing the ballot measures and pointing out that, in some cases, a vote on one proposition could affect the outcome of another proposition, e.g. Prop 27 and Prop 20.

Chenoweth and Hamlin noted that specific evaluative steps for ballot propositions include examining the goals of the measure, learning who is sponsoring the measure, and learning how the measure is to be funded. They encouraged audience members to examine the LWV publication Pros & Cons, which was available at the meeting and could be found on-line, as well.

RCPC thanks the League of Women Voters of Oakland for its support and assistance in these presentations to Rockridge residents. The League's Web site has additional information about the organization and on general election issues. Visit http://www.lwvoakland.org/. A related site, http://www.smartvoter.org/, provides specific ballot information based on particular residence addresses. Additional information about RCPC and its activities is available at http://www.rockridge.org.

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College Avenue Presbyterian Church Has New Pastor

by the CAPC Pastoral Committee

After several years of searching, the congregation of College Avenue Presbyterian Church (CAPC) welcomed a new installed pastor this fall: Monte McClain. Monte and his family are long-time Oaklanders. He served as pastor to Fruitvale Presbyterian Church in the Dimond District for seven years before leaving to pastor a congregation of the French Reformed Church in the town of Poissy, just outside of Paris, France.

Monte comes to the church with a love for the cultural diversity of Oakland, good coffee, foodie tastes, urban farming dreams and a fascination in how faith is lived out communally in an urban context, and an ironic sense of humor.

In the chaos and speed of modern urban life, he finds he is intrigued by what gives us a center and shapes not only our world-view but our daily life. He has been wrestling for several months with a sentence uttered by Rabbi Brad Hirschfield: "Answers make life manageable, but it's our questions that make it meaningful."

Come meet Pastor Monte McClain at the church, encounter his blog at www.monteskewed.blogspot.com or look for him in the cafés in Rockridge in the mornings.



Pastor Monte McClain in his office at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church. Photo: D. Kinkead

College Avenue Presbyterian Church Community Hosts Thanksgiving Day Meal

by Monte McClain, Pastor, College Avenue Presbyterian Church

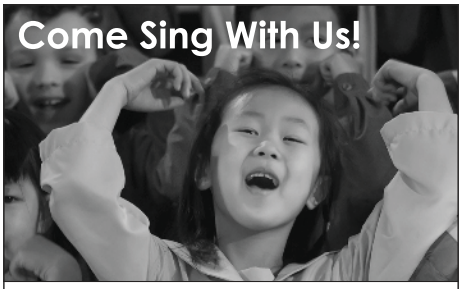
For more than 20 years, the College Avenue Presbyterian Church community has hosted a Thanksgiving Day Community Meal.

Initially begun to build a deeper sense of community in our neighborhood and to respond to concrete needs, the meal continues year in and year out to work towards those goals. A church member active in most of the meals recalls that her involvement began because of a comment made by her young daughter. Relocated in a hotel while their home was being rebuilt after a fire, this little girl asked, "Why don't the homeless people just order room service when they get hungry?" It was with an earnest desire to empower her daughter to see the bigger picture beyond her own experience that first brought this woman and her family to help at the meal, which continues to be an annual practice for their now-grown family.

This Thanksgiving, the church hosts its annual community meal on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 5951 College Avenue.

The meal is a joint project with diverse members of our Rockridge community, involving congregational members, local merchants and residents. It is an opportunity to gather as a community to respond to those struggling with hunger, solitude and joblessness. The meal generally serves between 200-300 people with more than 50 volunteers gathered in the shared desire to make this event possible.

The meal is open and free for everyone. Donations of money and food are gratefully accepted. You can also give of your time: Help is needed starting Monday, November 22 through Wednesday, November 24 to prepare, set-up and decorate the church gym for the meal. On the day of the event, significant help will be needed to complete the set-up, and to cook, serve and clean up after the meal. To volunteer or for more information, contact the church office at 510/638-3665 or capc1@sbcglobal.net, or volunteer coordinator Mike Castner at 510/658-3487 or look for the Thanksgiving section on the church Web site at www.capcchurg.org.



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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Comings and Goings: New (and Old) Places to Eat, Drink and Shop

Oakland is HOT!!

The New York Times, cooking and lifestyle magazines, and social networking sites are calling Oakland the new culinary Brooklyn.* When it comes to food, there is certainly a "there" here. Oakland's Uptown, Temescal, and Rockridge neighborhoods are bringing national notoriety to Oaktown and an endless array of dining and shopping opportunities for those of us lucky enough to live here.

As the seasons change, our Rockridge culinary landscape keeps evolving. I was saddened to see that long-time destination restaurant Citron has closed. However, its sister restaurant, À Côté, continues to thrive and recently received a 3-star rating from SF Chronicle food critic Michael Bauer – congratulations Matt, Jeff and the two Mikes behind the bar.

The folks at À Côté are branching out into Oakland and San Francisco. Their pan-Latino restaurant on Park Boulevard in the Glenview neighborhood is under construction and an exciting new project is underway in San Francisco's Mission neighborhood on Valencia Street in the beautiful historic building formally occupied by New College. It will become a venue for the New Orleans Preservation Hall Band and feature authentic Big Easy cuisine.

Big change at Market Hall

Long-time butcher Enzo's Meat and Poultry has been replaced by Marin Sun Farms, considered by in-the-know carnivores as one of the finest purveyors of beef, pork and poultry. Marin Sun Farms features top-grade grass fed and sustainably raised beef and pork products. The butchers are helpful and will cut and prepare to your exacting specification. I particularly like their gourmet preparations like the lamb roulade. They also carry hard-to-find cuts like flat-iron steaks.

Coffee... and More Coffee!

Do we have coffee? Count them – on College from Broadway to Alcatraz there are now over a dozen coffee-house cafés. Two new cafés recently opened: Tiny Bica Café at College and Shafter serves a unique Portuguese-style espresso. (While traveling in Portugal, we always started our day with a strong bica.) Bica Café opens at 6:30 a.m. for the early BART rush and features a real time BART schedule. The other new venue is Café Zoe at College and Chabot. Café Zoe features the usual espresso fare and specialty teas, and carries a good assortment of European style pastries. For the coffee elites, Blue Bottle Coffee will soon open its own store on College Avenue and is the featured brew at Miam.Miam.

Openings

Miam.Miam ("yum-yum" in French) is a new hip and "in" gourmet frozen yogurt shop and bakery at 5856 College Avenue. Miam.Miam is self-serve, featuring locally made gelatos and freshly brewed Blue Bottle coffee. Toppings include a wide variety of fresh fruit, specialty cookies and candies and artisanal sauces. The free tasting is a must.

Powell's Sweet Shoppe will soon open on College near Alcatraz. Powell's describes itself as a nostalgic re-creation of an old-time candy store. Think "kid in the candy store."

Finally, a big mazel tov shout-out to Rebecca and Richard Wood of Wood Tavern on the birth of the newest College Avenue gourmand. Reilly Celeste came into the world over the summer. Always listed on the Bay Area's top 100 restaurants, Wood Tavern is a treasure for our Rockridge neighborhood. Be sure to stop by to wish Reilly, Rebecca and Richard the best with their newest "project." Work has started on their other project, next door to Wood Tavern – stay tuned for more details.

In line with celebrating the "comings and goings" with "the new and old," this month's recipe is a new twist on an old time favorite:

Shrimp and "Barbecue" Sauce
(a New Orleans standby)

(4 servings)
4 tablespoons unsalted butter
1-½ pounds shrimp, unpeeled
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
Salt and pepper to taste
Juice of 1 lemon

- Melt butter in a sauté pan over high heat.
- When butter is foaming, add the shrimp and Worcestershire sauce.
- Cook, stirring occasionally, for about 5 minutes, until the sauce is glossy and thick and the shrimp turn pink. (Do not over-cook or the shrimp will get tough.)
- Add salt and pepper and stir in the lemon juice.

Eat out of hand with lots of napkins, or just lick your fingers.

Barry Kaufman is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. Barry is available for cooking classes and leads culinary tours of local ethnic markets. His email is kaufman42@earthlink.net.

* See: http://sf.curbed.com/archives/2009/09/16/oakland_is_the_new_brooklyn.php

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FROG Park Corner



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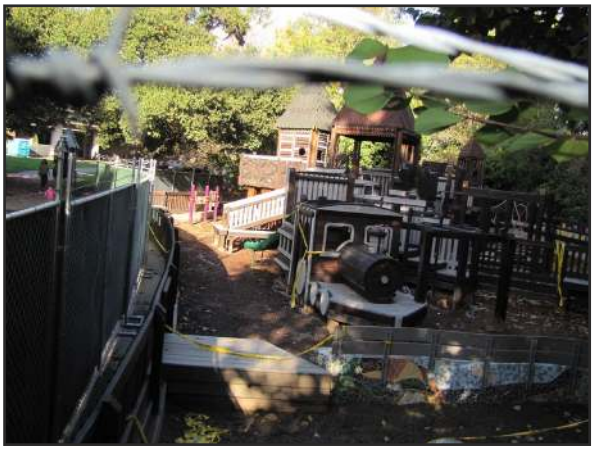
Concern Over FROG Park Facilities Closure

Editor's Note: A question recently posted on the Temescal Families Yahoo group (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/temescalfamilies/) decried the temporary closing of FROG Park facilities. The posting and a reply from the FROG Park steering committee follow:

Question: My family is pretty devastated about the closing of both of our community parks. There just isn't much to do in our neighborhood for toddlers, and now my three-year-old has nowhere to play for three months. She isn't yet school age, so this is a huge inconvenience. Does anyone know exactly what is being done for renovations, and why? Is there any possible way to expedite the upgrades?

Answer: Having the play structures closed for repairs is something we on the FROG Park steering committee are unhappy about, but the work must be done to keep the structures safe. When the cushioning fibar was removed, more extensive dry rot was found than expected. Much of the damage to the train structure resulted from accumulated sand moved by children from the sandbox to other parts of the park which mixed with the fibar and retained moisture. To prevent future sand problems, the City is considering relocating the sandbox entrance to the path area.

The City has done an exceptional job surveying the damage and proposing solutions but the repair work will take time.



Hardy Park play structures are temporarily fenced off for repairs. PHOTO: D. KINKEAD

Here's how you can help:

1. **Join the FROG (Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt) Steering Committee** and get involved in finding solutions, monitoring park issues and problems, volunteering for maintenance, and helping to ensure this is a wonderful, safe place for children. Come to our next meeting November 16, 7 p.m., at the Rockridge Library. If you can't attend, contact info@frogpark.org so we can help you get involved. Sign up for the FROG e-Newsletter via parknews@frogpark.org to keep informed.



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

2. **Volunteer for FROG workdays**. The City faces a budget shortfall, so some work must be done by the community. FROG needs community members to help remove the redwood roots from Redondo Park immediately and reopen the park. When the Hardy structure repairs are complete, FROG will clean and replace the drainage system. Contact info@frogpark.org to sign up.

3. **Contact City Council President Jane Brunner's office** at 238-7001, or e-mail jbrunner@oaklandnet.com. Tell them how important this is to the community and urge them to speed the repairs. Also contact the Public Works department, which is responsible for doing the work: Interim Director Vitaly B. Troyan, 510/238-3961, or e-mail vtroyan@oaklandnet.com, and deliver the same message.

4. **Make a contribution to FROG to help cover these repair costs.** Click on http://www.frogpark.org/donate/. The City's intricate purchasing procedures take months; FROG has offered to pay for materials to help speed the repairs. Your contribution will help replenish the FROG fund for maintenance and repairs.

Many of us on the FROG Steering Commitee have children who grew up here when there was no park. This is why we worked so hard and raised so much money and recruited so many volunteers — over 1,300 — to build the play structures in 2001.

The next FROG Steering Committee meeting is November 16, 7 p.m., at the Rockridge Branch Library. If you can't attend, e-mail info@frogpark.org to learn how you can get involved.

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Chabot's Fall Carnival Comes, Rain or Shine

by Jennifer Vetter, Chabot Elementary School parent

For the first time ever, Chabot Elementary School's annual Fall Carnival on the Sunday before Halloween nearly got rained out. But co-chairs Suzanne Skipper and Hope Broderick refused to blink, snatching victory from the jaws of defeat and moving forward with this popular event that brought an impressive number of families out for fun and fundraising, even in the rain. Sales of 11,725 tickets for games and food netted $10,000 for the PTA to support art, the garden, music, library, science, and Spanish at Chabot.



PHOTO: HTTP://WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/CHABOTELEMENTARY/

When rain threatened Chabot School's fundraising Fall Carnival, organizers moved the activities inside the new multi-purpose auditorium, where attendees purchased more than 11,000 tickets for games and food.

Claremont Middle School generously allowed Chabot to use their campus for the Fall Carnival in 2008 and 2009, while Chabot's campus was undergoing major construction. This year, everyone was excited about having the Carnival back home at Chabot, and on the newly landscaped upper yard with the cool new play structure that just opened September 24th, no less. But then it RAINED. HARD. ALL WEEKEND LONG.

As the dire weather predictions came in, the intrepid organizers put out the word, "We're still on, rain or shine," and moved most of the booths and activities into the new Multi-Purpose Room, the large one-year-old auditorium designed to hold the entire student body for assemblies. The prize table and the costume contest were on the stage, while contestants danced the cakewalk around the circle formed by haybales in the center of the floor. The adjoining kitchen where school lunches are served worked tolerably well for parent and alumni volunteers serving food donated by Chu Restaurant, Red Buffalo, and Safeway.

The hotdog grill, the dunk tank, the game booths that involved throwing balls, and the petting zoo were set up outside, for obvious reasons. The big garage-style doors were kept open throughout the event and everyone was grateful to the architects for providing the long sheltering eaves – designed for shade, but great for keeping the rain off, too.

The Really Fun Part

Responses of a few Chabot 1st and 2nd graders when asked, "What was your favorite part of the Carnival?":

Charlie Perl: Painting a sugar skull.

Xiomara Tilghman: The Haunted House.

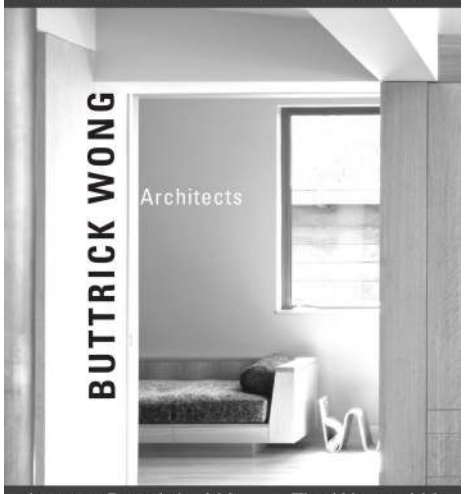
Grayson Broderick: The jumpy. No, the prizes AND the jumpy. I went about 15 times.

Cybele Bourelly: The Haunted House.

Mika Tway: The henna [showing the beautiful design on her hand].

Caroline Pers: The dunking booth. I dunked Mr. Mayer!

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10/12/2010	5	5	5950 Margarido Dr	$4,300,000	$3,395,000	99	$3,395,000
10/14/2010	4	2.5	5490 Kales Avenue	$995,000	$995,000	14	$1,150,000
10/22/2010	3	1.5	5232 Miles Avenue	$769,000	$769,000	14	$785,000

• Rockridge currently has just over a 2 month supply of inventory • Average list to sell in October of this year was only 89% - but 40% of the sales still sold over the original list price • Average market time is currently 33 days in Rockridge - an increase of 44% compared to a year ago • Median sales price has increase by nearly 2% over last year.

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Peralta Students Make Good... Public Art

by Laura Counts, Peralta Parent Teacher Group

Driving along Telegraph Avenue, you may have noticed the whimsical self-portraits that began appearing on transit boxes last spring—a sign that Peralta Elementary's art program had spilled beyond its mural-covered walls.

Even with the budget crisis that has forced California schools to cut programs to the bone, the arts are thriving at Peralta. The K-5 school at 460-63rd Street is in its third year of an ambitious Arts Stewardship Program, made possible by a patchwork of public and private funding.

"The idea of stewardship is to give kids a voice in building a world they want to grow up in," says Peralta artist-in-residence Ellen Oppenheimer, a noted textile artist.



"The problems they are facing are really terrifying. We want them to feel like they have power to make beneficial changes."

In one project, Oppenheimer and digital artist-in-residence Trena Noval led students on an investigation of paper, collecting all the waste paper the school used in a month. They weighed and measured, researched and graphed, delving into paper production, recycling, and disposal. They built sculptures, and told paper's tale in a video.

This year, students are making their own paper from Peralta's scraps, and even sewing it into books. Next up are plastic bottles: where they come from, and where they go. They'll collect bottles and use them to build a greenhouse—while learning about plastic's longevity in landfills (and the Pacific Ocean).

Another way students are becoming community stewards is through regular visits to the North Oakland Senior Center. Here, they connect with elders by working together on crafts, often with recycled materials. The simple projects are a direct bridge between the generations.

The Telegraph transit-box portraits are part of the stewardship program's public art component, linking the school to the neighborhood. Watch for more recycled vinyl transit-box art, this time focusing on the water cycle, scattered around Rockridge soon. New banners will also go up on Alcatraz Avenue.

All of this is the result of years of work by Oppenheimer, Noval, and Principal Rosette Costello—along with classroom teachers—to integrate the arts into the curriculum, top to bottom. They have won for Peralta designation as an Arts Learning Anchor School from the Alameda County Office of Education, as well as funding from the Altamont Education Advisory Board, Bechtel, the California Arts Council, and the City of Oakland.

Learn more about Peralta at www.peraltaschool.org.

Photo supplied by Laura Counts





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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Your Invitation to Join the Rockridge News Team


The Rockridge News

DVD Project Info Stand Set Up in Library Lobby

City Discusses Rockridge Bore Mitigation Projects

Safeway EIR Matching Grant Still Open: Page 3

The Rockridge News team is looking for a couple of block captains to deliver papers once a month on Claremont Avenue. If you live nearby and like to walk and meet neighbors give us a call and tell us which route you would like to take on:

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

21G: Along the odd numbers of 6000 Claremont

Call Susan at 547-3855 or e-mail her at smontauk@gmail.com to volunteer.

Oakland Technical High School Welcomes Future Students with Tours

Every year, prospective families tour high schools throughout the Bay Area seeking the right fit for their student. Oakland Tech offers prospective students the nationally renowned Paideia program, our rigorous "schools within a school" academies centered on different career fields, special academic programs, AP courses, the comprehensive Performing Arts program, athletics and more.

There are many ways for families considering Oakland Tech to learn more about the school. Oakland Tech offered the community a first introduction at its annual Information Night/Open House on November 3. A series of two-hour tours begining on November 9 offers interested prospective parents and students an opportunity to visit the facility and classrooms during a typical school day. Starting time is 9 a.m. on the following scheduled tour dates:

Tuesday, November 9
Tuesday, November 16
Thursday, November 18
Tuesday, December 7
Tuesday, December 14

"Shadow days" are available to 8th grade students whose families have already visited Oakland Tech (at Information Night, on a school tour, through having another child or family member who attended Tech, etc.) and who have decided they're interested in seeing more.

During a shadow visit, the visiting student spends a day or part of a day with a Tech student, following the Tech student host's schedule.

Sign-up for a Tour or Shadow Day on the Oakland Tech Web site at http://oaklandtech.com/staff/admissions/prospective-families

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Local News 94618
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Changes on College

by Theresa Nelson

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Dog Park Re-Opens as BART Finishes Retrofit



BART has completed earthquake retrofitting at Hardy Park and the dog run is open.

Construction supervisor Refugio Haro, right, welcomes park returnees to the like-new area. At left, Belle the Dog waits impatiently for a romp on the resurfaced field, while guardian Sam Abdnor counsels patience.



— D. Kinkead

Halloween on College Avenue



Photo: Shona Armstrong



Photo: Yeda Altes



Photo: Ashley Etling



Photo: Yeda Altes

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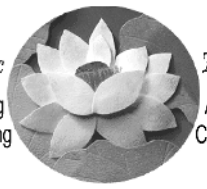
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E-mail *Rockridge News* Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210 (after noon), or mail to: *Rockridge News* Community Calendar, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the month.

Compiled by Jo Ellis

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Public Mtg to Discuss Caldecott Fourth Bore Settlement Projects

Give your input on potential projects to be funded. Mon, Nov 8, 7pm. Kaiser Elem. School, 25 South Hill Ct. (Hiller Highlands N'hood). For **carpool info from Rockridge BART**, email info@rockridge.org. **See full story p. 2.**

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN

- **Toddler Story Time:** Every Saturday, 10:30am. **(Note: no story time 11/27)**
- **Pre-School Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wed., 10:30am.
- **Baby and Toddler Story Time:** 1st and 3rd Wed., 10:30am**, upstairs**.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **MoChA Workshop:** Make recycled art for the Annual Re-Create Art Contest. Thurs., 11/18, 4pm. All ages welcome

FOR TEENS

- **Rockridge Ninjas Anime Club: Ages 13 and up**, watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation). Second Tues. each month (11/9, 12/14), 5 to 6:30pm, upstairs meeting room.
- **Teen Advisory Board** (ages 14-18)**:** Help advise the library how to better serve teens. Get community service credit for school. **Snacks provided.** 1st Saturday each month from 4 to 5pm.
- **Soap Making Workshop:** Make gifts for the holidays. Create your own soaps from supplies provided by the presenter, **Masina Tillo.** Ages 12 to 18. **Sign up in advance**. Sat., 12/4, 1 to 2:30pm.

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 (11/21), 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.

ART EXHIBITS (call to confirm)

Gallery:

- Nov: **Rick** and **Tina Nelson:** Photographs and paintings.
- Dec: TBA

Lobby Display Case:

- Nov., Exhibit by **Adele Crawford.**
- Dec: 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; also Thurs, **11/11** for Veteran's Day; Fri, **11/12** (city-wide furlough); Thurs and Fri, **11/25** and **11/26** for Thanksgiving; and Tues, **11/30** (city-wide furlough).

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings, Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- 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.
- Wed., 11/10, 7pm. Local author **Thaisa Frank:** *Heidegger's Glasses.*
- Sun., 11/14, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Steven Nightingale,** and **Grace Marie Grafton.**
- Sat., 11/27, 3pm. Chronicle Books **Cookbook Extravaganza! Tom Hudgens:** *The Commonsense Kitchen: 500 Recipes Plus Lessons for a Hand-Crafted Life;* **Jennie Schact:** *Farmers' Market Desserts;* Local author **Vanessa Barrington:** *D.I.Y. Delicious: Recipes and Ideas for Simple Food from Scratch; and* **Amy Teadwell:** *Whoopie Pies.* **All will share samples from their cookbooks.**

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

Liz Maxwell, Rockridge Artist

Open Studio, Dec 4 and 5 from noon to 5pm. Paintings, prints and mixed media in wide range of sizes. Also, a chance to earn free artwork doing logic-puzzles. 5808 Chabot Road. lizmaxwell@prodigy.net.

Holiday Boutique & Tea

Sat. Nov. 13, 10am to 4 pm. Handmade holiday items: scarves, aprons, home-baked goods, jams and jellies. Tea served from 11am to 2pm. Hourly prize drawings. St. Peter's Anglican Church, 6013 Lawton (at B'way). Info: 655-4951 or www.SaintPetersOakland.com.

California College of the Arts (CCA) Holiday Fair

Saturday, Dec 4, 11am to 3pm. One-of-a-kind, handmade affordable gifts by students, alumni and staff. Paintings, drawings, jewelry, ceramics, blown glass, photography, textiles and more. **Live jazz and holiday treats**. CCA campus, 5212 Broadway, main walkway. Info 594-3678 or www.cca.edu/.

Annual Thanksgiving Day Community Meal

All welcome on Thurs., 11/25, 11am to 1pm. Free event but donations gratefully accepted. **Volunteers of all ages needed** for prep, set-up, serving and clean-up. Hosted by the College Ave. Presb. Church, 5951 College Ave. To volunteer, donate or for more info, call Mike: 658-3487 or www.capcchurch.org. **See full story p. 7.**

Support Claremont Middle School with Cal Football Parking

If you're driving to see **Cal play Oregon on Nov 13**, or **Washington on Nov 27**, park at Claremont Middle School to raise funds for the 6th, 7th and 8th grade class trips. 5750 College Avenue. More info: 654-7337.

North Oakland Senior Center

Programs include: Arts and crafts; health Insurance counseling; dancing and exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Groups and more.

- **Feather Falls Casino Trip:** Mon, Nov 8. 7:30am (meet in lobby) to 5:30pm. Cost: $25 (receive $10 casino slot play).
- **Holiday Gala:** Fri., Dec 3, 2pm to 6pm. Tickets: $10. More info: 597- 5085.

Hours: Mon. – Fri., 8:30am to 4pm (closed: Nov 11, 12, 25, 26, and 29). 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Subscribe to "The North Oakland Senior Times" for full schedule of classes/events, lunch menus, membership, and volunteer opportunities. Info: 597- 5085.

American Red Cross

- **Mobile Blood Drives:** In Nov., there will be 4 weekly drawings and 4 winners for **$100 Macy's gift cards** (not available at high school or college blood drives). Call 1-800/Red Cross (1-800/733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org to find a location near you.
- **Volunteer Orientations:** Tour the Oakland Blood Center. Learn to assist blood donors, deliver blood, help with special projects. Tuesdays, 11/9 and 11/16 from 6pm – 8pm. 6230 Claremont Avenue (across from College Ave. Safeway). Learn more or sign up: Anne at 594-5165 or BlackstoneA@usa.redcross.org.





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