THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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Read All About It...

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Perspectives on Kitchen Renovation

by Natalie Mehta, Chair, Rockridge Kitchen Tour

Do you love your kitchen? Does it serve your every need? Is there nothing you would change about it? Is it your favorite space in the house? If so, we would love to hear about it and consider it for inclusion in the 2011 Rockridge Kitchen Tour, planned for Sunday, October 2.



A redesigned Rockridge kitchen featured on a previous tour. *Ken Rice*

However, if you are one of the many who dream about a kitchen renovation, we are here for you. We are planning another incredible tour showcasing recently renovated or remodeled Rockridge kitchens that promises to give you plenty of ideas and resources for your own project.

In addition, we are developing a series of articles that discuss Rockridge kitchen renovations from a variety of perspectives. Architects and designers will share their insights about the importance of design details and maximizing the value and impact of a renovation budget. Contractors will share their experiences about the

▶ 2011 Kitchen Tour, page 6

Oakland Tech Auction: "This is It!"

Wonderful food and entertainment and the chance to bid on an alluring array of auction items await you at "This is It!," Oakland Technical High School's 2011 Auction, the school's main fundraising event.

Sponsored by the school's

▶ Tech Auction, page 13

Council to Act on Zoning Recommendations

Final approval of citywide zoning changes previously recommended by the Council's Community and Economic Development Committee will be considered by the City Council at its meeting March 15. See Land Use Committee Update, page 3.

Update: Rockridge News Reader Survey

Responses to the newsletter reader survey are coming in from every corner of the neighborhood, from Avon to Woolsey and Mendocino to Ayala. Responses are being tabulated, and there is still time to get your observations recorded.

Go to RCPC's website at rockridge.org and complete the online survey. Watch for a report on the results in the April issue.

AGENDA: March RCPC Town Hall Meeting

17

- **Primer on General Plan and Zoning**
- **Forum: RCPC Board Candidates for April 2011 Election**

■ **A Brief Primer on the General Plan and Zoning**

- **Land use has always been an important subject for RCPC and the Rockridge neighborhood**. Unfortunately, it's usually thought of as too complicated and technical to understand. RCPC Chair and land use attorney Stuart Flashman will give the first of a series of talks on basic land use for the just-plain citizen. By its end, terms like setback and FAR won't feel like a foreign language.

■ **Forum: RCPC Board Candidates**

- **A public forum with the candidates** for RCPC's April election to the board of directors will provide residents the opportunity to hear candidates' thoughts about Rockridge and Oakland issues. Bring your questions. Candidates are:
  - Cesar Angobaldo
  - Andy Charman
  - Michael Kan
  - Bill Kaufner
  - Ronnie Spitzer
  - Ann Winterman

Thursday, March 17 | 7:30-9 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue at Manila, Community Room (Upstairs)

During its enduring publication life, The Rockridge News has been guided by different editors and contributors. Former contributor Trish West developed the Neighborhood Merchant column and filled it, issue after issue, with tantalizing descriptions of the rich variety of College Avenue merchants and their wares. Trish and her husband moved away from Rockridge a number of years ago, but as the following reminiscence shows, she holds enduring ties to the neighborhood. **— *Editor***

Hello, College Avenue!

by Trish West

When my husband Charlie and I moved away from Rockridge in 2000, we left behind some wonderful neighbors (Hi, Margaret and Chris, Patte and Steve), fellow workers for the new library (Hi, Nancy), and the staff of The Rockridge News (Hi, Don!)

In the late '80s, I had fun originating the "Neighborhood Merchant" column in The Rockridge News (now so ably written by Theresa Nelson). Other, more tangible reminders of our former community accompanied us to Mendocino and later to Ashland, Oregon. Those mementoes came from several College Avenue shops. Just a brief glance around our home reveals many of those items.



Trish West
Chris Wahlberg

For example, in the garage rests my mountain bike from Hank & Frank, ready for a spin along Ashland's Bear Creek bike trail. Our library shelves contain hundreds of volumes purchased from two great College Avenue bookstores, Pendragon and Diesel Books. Several pictures gracing our walls were framed at Bosko's. In my closet hang fashions from Agatha Rainford, Zip Mama's (now, sadly, departed) and, of course, Rockridge Rags, my favorite clothes-budget stretcher. The purple ring on my finger at the moment came from the late, lamented Bizarre Bazaar (Biz Baz to aficionados). And some of the avoirdupois indicated by the bathroom scale is undoubtedly the result of frequent visits to wonderful College Avenue restaurants, especially Oliveto, Café Rustica, various incarnations of frozen yogurt shops, and Barclay's Pub, where Charlie's name is inscribed as a member of the House of Parliament.

"I had a great time getting to know the proprietors of College Avenue shops. They affirmed my belief that shopping local was the way to go."

As I researched my columns, I had a great time getting to know the proprietors of College Avenue shops. They affirmed my belief that shopping local was the way to go. First of all, it's just plain fun to shop where you live. The merchants know their immediate market and can cater to the taste of the locals. They also know their merchandise and are happy to give advice. And they have a stake in making customers happy, since they'll be seeing the same faces around the neighborhood and they thrive on repeat business.

Attractive storefronts are a boon even to non-shoppers. Window-shopping is a great pastime and enlivens a stroll enroute to errands. Bright, colorful windows lend cheer to a street scene.

There are also solid economic reasons for patronizing your local merchants. Statistics garnered via Google indicate that spending $100 at a locally-owned business keeps $73 in the local economy versus $43 for non-locally-owned

▸ **Trish West, page 11**

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Tues: 12:30 – 8 p.m.
Weds, Thurs, Sat: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
***CLOSED**: Sundays and Mondays; also Mar 31 & Apr 1*
Library program details: See Calendar, page 15.

The Rockridge News

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

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

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

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

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

Contact us at one of the following:
Editor: editor@rockridge.org
www.rockridge.org
The Rockridge News, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611
RCPC Voice-mail: 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
☛ **April 2, 2011**
☛ **April deadline is March 17, 2011.**
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.)*

Rockridge Community Planning Council

2010 Financial Statement
Fiscal Year January 1 – December 31, 2010

RCPC P&L	All as of 12/31/10
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributions	22,356
Rockridge News	38,726
Total Income	61,082
Expense	
Rockridge News	34,557
Office Expenses	1,248
Contractors	5,874
Misc Expenses	1,444
Taxes, Licenses, Fees	150
Utilities	946
Total Expense	44,219
Net Income	**16,863**
FORL (Friends of the Rockridge Library) P&L	
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributions	14,311
Earned	0
Total Income	14,311
Expense	
Subscriptions	3,020
Bank Charges	-15
Office Expenses	467
Grants\Scholarships	2,444
Misc Expenses	694
Utilities	83
Taxes, Licenses, Fees & Fines	134
Total Expense	6,827
Net Ordinary Income	7,484
Net Income	**7,484**
FROG (Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt) P&L	
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributions	672
Earned	113
Total Income	784
Expense	
Bank Charges	-258
Maintenance\Cleaning	6,350
Misc expenses	3,674
Program Expense	109
Utilities	613
Total Expense	9,875
Net Ordinary Income	-9,091
Net Income	**-9,091**
RCPC, FROG, FORL Balance Sheet	
ASSETS	
CDs	
FORL	30,000
FROG	10,353
RCPC	36,816
TOTAL CDs	**77,168**
Checking/Savings	
FORL	21,287
FROG	34,479
RCPC	45,563
Whistlestop	442
Locksley Gardens	499
Total Checking/Savings	**102,270**
Other Current Assets	
FROG: Bal of Paygo-de la Fuent	26,607
Inventory Asset - FORL	4,346
Inventory Asset - RCPC DVDs	12,850
Total Current Assets	43,803
TOTAL ASSETS	**223,241**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Sales Tax	388
Total Liabilities	**388**
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	193,172
Unrestrict (retained earnings)	14,014
Net Income	15,668
Total Equity	222,853
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**223,241**

RCPC tax records are on file at the Rockridge Branch Library for public review.

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: March 23.
Subject to change. Check Rockridge.org for meeting updates.

Land Use Committee Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair

■ Citywide Zoning Update

The City Council's Community and Economic Development Committee held a hearing February 22 on the proposed citywide revisions to Oakland's zoning. Several committee members proposed "tweaks" to the Planning Commission-approved plans. In particular, Councilmember Jane Brunner, responding to community concerns, proposed lowering heights along upper Telegraph Avenue (north of SR 24) and the 5200 block of Broadway from 60 feet back to 45 feet. She also asked that the eastern portions of Birch Court and neighboring areas on Chabot Road, which had been proposed for upzoning, be dropped back down to RM-1 zoning. The rezoning, including all the proposed changes, was approved by the committee and forwarded on to the full Council for adoption. The first reading was held March 1, the second reading and final adoption will be on March 15.

Council meetings begin at 6 p.m. The rezoning item will likely not be heard earlier then 6:30 p.m., but check the city's website (http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CityCouncil/s/councilmeetings/index.htm) for updated time information. To speak at the hearing, you may fill out a speaker card in advance on-line at http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CityCouncil/s/SpeakCouncilMeeting/index.htm, or at the meeting.

Note: To receive the RCPC E-news Bulletin with periodic updates on city meetings, planning activities and Rockridge information, e-mail info@rockridge.org stating your interest to subscribe.

■ 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.

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

Following up on the Planning Commission design review committee's 2-1 vote approving Safeway's plans for rebuilding and expanding this 50-year-old shopping center (The Rockridge News, February 2011), RCPC's Land Use Committee and

Land Use Update, page 11

Save the Date: North Oakland Town Hall with Mayor Jean Quan, April 2

Just two months into her term, Mayor Jean Quan has arguably had more direct contact with the public than any of her recent predecessors, and she intends to keep it up. Mayor Quan, who formerly represented District 4 on City Council, has requested to meet with constituents in every council district so that she can learn of the issues particular to their neighborhoods.

The District 1 Town Hall will be held on Saturday, April 2, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way (enter parking lot through the automatic gate on 58th Street). It will be held in partnership with Councilmember Jane Brunner and will be in lieu of Brunner's bimonthly Community Advisory Meeting. All District 1 (North Oakland) residents are invited. Morning bagels and rolls, juices and coffee will be served, and childcare will be available on-site.

The mayor and Brunner will open the program, followed by breakout groups led by city staff and local experts. Each group will draw up a list of priorities around its issue area and report back to the whole group and the mayor. There will also be an open mic for those whose concerns are not addressed in their group sessions.

If you would like to help with planning for the town hall, attend a planning meeting Wednesday, March 9, 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge Library. To volunteer to help on the day of the event, contact Chris Waters at christopher@gypsyspiritmission.com.

Visit http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/Mayor/index.htm for a list of the Mayor's meetings

Ride for a Reason 2011, Saturday, May 7

Cyclers Ride for Claremont and Tech Funds: Sign Up Now

by Mike Napolitano, vice-president, Claremont PTA

Ride for a Reason is a bike ride to the state Capitol to draw attention to the crisis in funding for public schools in California, and to raise badly needed funds for enrichment programs in Oakland. This year, our goals are to have 100 riders who will raise a total of $30,000 to provide $15,000 each for Claremont Middle School and Oakland Tech.

The ride takes place Saturday, May 7. We are now recruiting riders, soliciting donations, and recruiting volunteers to support the event. There are 10-mile, 60-mile, and 100-mile options. The event is fully supported, including "sag wagons," rest stops and water along the route and a lunch stop; arrangements for transportation home from Sacramento; group leaders to guide and assist all riders (riders are grouped by ability level); two planned practice rides to help participants get ready; and a t-shirt and water bottle for all participants.



A rider in the 2010 Ride for a Reason in front of the state Capitol. The ride to Sacramento ended with a rally of riders, friends, family and school supporters who met with California Legislators to discuss the need for increased schools funding.

Photo: Sarah Mages

All riders are encouraged to raise $200 or more in pledges to help us achieve our fundraising goal.

To register, donate, or volunteer, go to: http://rideforareason.dojiggy.com. The next scheduled group practice ride is Sunday, March 20 at 8:30 a.m., departing from Claremont Middle School, 5750 College Avenue.

Overall, volunteers are needed to help with registration, lunch, and the rally at the Capitol, all on May 7. For more information about volunteer needs, please contact Mike Napolitano at 510/655-4725 or Mike Mages at 510/703-1239 or go to the ride's website at http://rideforareason.dojiggy.com, where volunteer tasks are described in detail on the "volunteers needed" page.

We are off to a great start so far, with 35 riders registered three weeks after opening registration. Your support will help make the event a success.



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Black & White Ball Oakland Style

Chabot School Auction Returns: 'Black & White Ball... Oakland Style'

by Jennifer James Alper, Chabot parent

The Chabot Elementary School community is gearing up for the annual Chabot auction, the school's biggest and most exciting fundraiser of the year.

"Black & White Ball… Oakland Style," this year's soiree, will dazzle guests with an amazing array of items available for bidding, delicious food, scintillating cocktails, entertainment and dancing. Let San Francisco have its formal, staid Black & White Ball with symphony, taffeta gowns and long white gloves. Ours, set at the beautiful Scottish Rite Center at the shores of Lake Merritt, will be done our way: a more casual, more laid back affair. And, a whole lot more fun.

Money raised through the auction and gala allows the PTA to fund a variety of enrichment programs at Chabot, including library, music, media, art, Spanish, and garden. Through the collective generosity of parents and local businesses, the PTA raised $120,000 at the auction in 2010. Our goal this year is $130,000 and we hope you can help us reach it.

As in past years, the event happens in two phases:

First, the online auction of teacher donations/gifts, gift certificates, travel experiences and other wonderful items takes place Sunday, March 20 through Thursday, March 31. Find the link to our event on Chabot's website at www.chabotelementary.org to view the auction catalog as it's being built: see sponsorship and advertising opportunities; donate funds; and buy tickets to the event.

Second, the gala, live auction and silent auction (including parent-hosted parties and classroom art projects) takes place Saturday, April 2 at the Scottish Rite Center in Oakland. The event kicks off at 6 p.m.; festivities will continue well into the evening hours.

There are many ways to contribute: time and effort; donations; and, of course, enthusiastic bidding. Join us April 2 to celebrate our amazing school community.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Claremont Middle School Mathletes Shine at Regionals

by Claremont Middle School staff

It's all adding up for Claremont Middle School. The Claremont Math Team placed first among Alameda County public middle schools at the recent East Bay Regional Mathcounts Competition.

The annual competition included public and private schools from around the region. Claremont mathletes tied with The Academy, a private school in Berkeley, for fifth overall. Claremont's Cameron Cowles finished in the top eight and will advance to the state competition March 19 at Stanford.

Mathcounts is a national enrichment club and competition program, somewhat like the national spelling bee. Each year eight national finalists go to Washington, D.C. to meet the president.

The Claremont Math Club was restarted by Claremont and Chabot School parent volunteer Rick Prime in 2009, seeded with just a handful of students. The club now has 20 mathletes representing the school. Students meet after school once a week to work on advanced math problems, train for competitions and have fun. The club is open to all Claremont students, sixth through eighth grade, who are interested in advancing their math skills.

According to Coach Prime, "In just a short time, these kids have become fierce mathletes with bright futures. You need algebra in middle school to be on the college track. Claremont has a strong math program, and is one of the few schools offering geometry at the middle school level. The math teachers and administration are incredibly supportive."

Claremont and math achievements go way back. In 1980, Claremont student E. Frey placed second at the California state competition and went on to the Nationals.

"I would love some day for one of our students to shake President Obama's hand at the Oval Office," says Prime.



Claremont Mathletes before Mathcounts Regional Competition (left to right): Cameron Cowles, Kevin Garcia, Devondre Spears, Gary Fredericks, Nicolas Zak-Lee, Connor Prime, Karl Keck, Dagmawai Fasil, Adrian Napolitano and Coach Rick Prime.

Photo courtesy of Rick Prime

April Yard Sale to Benefit Peralta Elementary and Claremont Middle Schools

by Nicole Aruda

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Lower Rockridge Parents Group (LRPG) fundraising and community-building yard sale. Over the last ten years, LRPG has raised close to $30,000 dollars for Peralta; last year, the Yard Sale raised a record breaking $6,000. Organizers expect this year's sale will be no less of a success, attracting volunteers and bargain hunters from all over the East Bay.

First held on the front lawn of a neighbor's home, it is now one of the East Bay's largest yard sales, attended by hundreds of buyers and staffed by a team of dedicated volunteers who sort and price thousands of donated treasures. If you are looking for something in particular, the odds are that you will find it at the LRPG Yard Sale.

The sale will be held April 9, 9-1 p.m., on

Yard Sale Funds Schools, page 9

Oakland Marathon to Beat Feet Through Rockridge

The Oakland Running Festival returns for year two Sunday, March 27. First held in 2010, the event is an opportunity to publicize Oakland, but it will also affect homes and businesses along the course. Race organizers supplied the following link to a map of the race at www.oaklandmarathon.com/Assets/Oakland+Marathon/MarathonCourse.pdf.

Below is the timeline from that map for when runners will pass through the Rockridge area. See the map excerpt at right for mileage indicators described below:

Mile	First Runner	Last Runner
Mile 4	7:50 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
Mile 5	7:55 a.m.	8:45 a.m.
Mile 6	8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.

Race organizers have also provided a detailed list of neighborhood detours on their website at www.oaklandmarathon.com to assist residents who may need to get in or out of a neighborhood affected by the race.





Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Have you picked out your recipe yet? There's still time, but none to waste!

Creating a Community Cookbook

Last month, I wrote about how wonderful I thought it would be to create a Rockridge Community Cookbook. Many of you share this vision to showcase the unique character of the Rockridge community through your treasured family recipes and have already started sending me your recipes and stories, but I still need a lot more in every category. Because I hope to have the book ready for publication by summer, I am reprinting the article again this month to encourage everyone who is considering a contribution to send me your recipe as soon as you can. It's possible that some of you may have recycled the newsletter or perhaps were too busy to read it all last month, so here is the format again to use as a guide. I can't wait to hear your stories about the dinner you made using recipes from our own Rockridge cookbook.

Throughout the 12 years I've been writing Rockridge Cornucopia, I've had street conversations with neighbors and received numerous phone calls and e-mails commenting on the recipes. Neighbors have shared memories of how their parents and grandparents prepared these dishes. Now, I invite you to share a family favorite recipe to be compiled with others in "Rockridge Cornucopia: A Community Cookbook." Our treasured culinary memories will add to the ever-evolving Rockridge community.

Think about a family recipe you would like to contribute to the cookbook; it should hold a special place in your family culinary history. Use the following as a format for your contribution:

1. Title: A pithy and inviting title, something like: Aunt Jenny's Thanksgiving Leftover Turkey Hash

2. Dining category: appetizer, soups, salads, vegetables, side dishes, seafood, poultry, meat, desserts and beverages

3. Number of servings

4. A recipe header: Headers are short introductions to a recipe. For our cookbook, give some historical and cultural/ethnic background and why the dish is important to your family. Or tell something about the special character of the ingredients that gives meaning to the recipe

5. The recipe: Recipes generally have two parts:

- ***Ingredients with measurements and preparation instructions*:** Be specific with measurements and preparation. Include where to get hard-to-find or specialty ingredients.
- ***Cooking instructions*:** Include preheated oven temperature, type of cookware used, and timing (or signal that the cooking is done). For example, you can say "sauté chopped onions for 5 minutes" or "sauté onions until soft." You might also want to include some special tips or substitutions. It also adds a nice touch to mention the type of plate or bowl suggested for presentation of the meal.

I will edit the recipes to conform to publication style. Rockridge News editor Don Kinkead will design the publication. The cookbooks will be sold at local businesses at a price to cover production expenses. The cookbook may also be included as a bonus for those who join in the Rockridge Kitchen Tour to be held this fall.

I'm excited about this project and look forward to receiving your family's culinary treasures. Please e-mail your contributions to kaufman42@earthlink.net or mail Barry Kaufman, 5699 Oak Grove Avenue, 94618. I'm looking toward a spring/summer publication and need your recipes submitted by mid-April. Also, let me know your thoughts on how to make this project a success.

Barry Kaufman is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. Barry is available for cooking classes and tours of Bay Area ethnic markets. His e-mail is kaufman42@earthlink.net



2011 Kitchen Tour

from page 1

most common issues and unique considerations that arise in Rockridge kitchen renovations. Realtors will shed light on what kitchen features improve resale value and how project budgets should consider local market values. And homeowners will share the stories behind their projects, their favorite resources, and lessons learned after living through a renovation.

We look forward to working with local experienced talent to gather this information and share it with you. So, if you have a fabulous kitchen, a burning question, or an insight to share, please contact Natalie at 415/279-5148 or natalie.mehta@yahoo.com.

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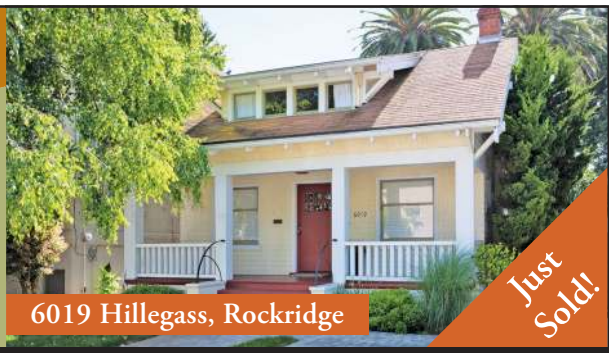
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Letters to the Editor

The Rockridge News welcomes letters to the editor. Your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and city/neighborhood must be included for verification. Only your name will appear with your letter. Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity.

City: Custom Work, Staffing Challenges Slowed FROG Park Repairs

Editor:

In response to Bethany's letter to the editor [The Rockridge News, February, 2011], I want to offer the city's explanation for delays in repairing FROG Park.

First, the wooden play structure is one-of-a-kind and was assembled like a large, intricate puzzle. To repair the dry rot-damaged lumber, the entire section was carefully disassembled. Replacement pieces were custom cut to fit, then reassembled. This required three city carpenters working five days to complete. Five carpenters are budgeted throughout the city; this repair job significantly impacted the work schedule of "high priority" jobs like roofing repairs. Weather also played a factor: the carpenters could only work on the play structure between rain showers, and after higher priority work orders were completed.

Second, the Southern Pine and synthetic lumber were specialty orders requiring longer than normal delivery lead times. Two orders of Southern Pine lumber were required due to additional dry rot discovered when the structure was disassembled.

Third, the amount of Fibar that needed to be removed exceeded everyone's labor estimates. Hundreds of volunteer hours were required to remove the Fibar by individual wheelbarrow loads. At Redondo, nobody anticipated the extensive redwood trees' root invasion into the Fibar. Volunteers and city staff spent countless hours chopping away at the roots. Gardeners were reassigned from other city parks to help remove the remaining Fibar and install the ground level geotechnical fabric. Completing this job cut into service levels at those other parks.

This project would not have been possible without the strong community support and the organizational skills to mobilize volunteers to haul away the Fibar. The city's delays were due to limited staffing; everyone must recognize the budget challenges and the resulting impacts on public services.

— Jim Ryugo
Building Services Manager, City of Oakland

Merchant Alert: Parking Ticket Kills Shopping Desire

Editor:

I lived in Rockridge for six years and loved it. I now live in Marin, but come back to the East Bay frequently. I love(d) coming over to Rockridge for breakfast at the Rockridge Café or other fine establishments or to peruse the books at Diesel Books or shop at the many fine stores. But, that's all done now.

I just got an $83 parking ticket while parked in a legal parking space on Forest Street. Why the ticket? Because my front bumper projected two inches into a red zone! Note that I was absolutely not blocking either the driveways in front of my car or behind my car. I tried to fight the ticket but it was upheld summarily.

So, from now on, my shopping dollars will be spent in Berkeley or elsewhere, and when my friends say where shall we meet, it's not going to be in Rockridge any more.

Talk about a city shooting itself in the foot! In disgust,

— Christopher Dworin

DMV Neighbors Set Date for Temescal Creek Cleaning

Join Your Neighbors at the Temescal Creek Clean-up!

Sunday March 20, 9 a.m. 'til noon

NOTE: we'll be meeting on Sunday during the Farmers Market for this clean-up

Meet at the DMV parking lot at the corner of Cavour and Redondo.

We will focus on the block along Redondo, between Cavour and Clarke, mostly removing litter, pulling weeds, pruning and clearing ivy. We can also start removing eucalyptus debris from the creek bed.

The DMV Neighbors Association will provide coffee and morning snacks at 9 a.m.

Come anytime between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

City of Oakland Public Works Environmental Services Division loans us the necessary tools. This includes garbage bags, loppers, rakes, hoes, brooms, litter pickup sticks, gloves, etc.

OK to bring your own favorite tools, well-identified as yours.

We can always use wheelbarrows.

Wear boots or shoes that you don't mind getting wet or muddy.

Rain cancels but heavy fog does not — some of our best winter clean ups have been on gray days.

Sponsored by the DMV Neighbors Association and the City of Oakland Environmental Services Division.

Please call Margaret if you have any questions: 510/655-1767.

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Rockridge Library Friends Group: Raising Funds, Spreading Cheer!

by Jennifer James Alper, Friends of Rockridge Library board member

Annual fundraising efforts launched during the holidays by the Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) have brought strong community support. We appreciate and thank the "friends" – both new names and our long-standing supporters – who donated to FORL. As state and city budgets continue to be tight, our Rockridge branch, like all the libraries in the Oakland system, must do more with less. FORL provides funding for many key programs and services at the library, including periodicals (The New York Times, among others) and the "hot picks" popular selections near the reference librarian's desk.

Rockridge Friends' dollars also fund the Summer Intern program, ensuring that we have an engaging children's summer reading program for our kids, while also giving an Oakland Tech student a paid internship and valuable work experience. Patron donations sponsor several popular teen programs at the library, and recently endorsed the formation of the Teen Advisory Board. FORL matched another donation to provide teens a forum for participating in the library and coordinating community service projects, and also funds after-school snacks and pizza parties to reward good behavior in the library. Finally, FORL dollars often fill in the budget gaps when funds are needed to repair or improve the facilities in our beautiful branch.



Trader Joe's manager helped FORL assemble holiday gift bags for the library staff.
Photo: Jane McDermott

The Friends have much to be thankful for this year – including many local businesses that have supported our efforts and the library. Jennifer Kaplan, owner of the nearby Rockridge Home boutique on College Avenue, has organized impromptu gatherings to help tend and tidy up the library plantings and street front areas. Sara Wilson, of Rockridge Market Hall, graciously donated the proceeds from a used cookbook sale to the Rockridge Friends. And in what has become a holiday tradition, Trader Joe's Captain George Yamashita helped make the FORL holiday gifts to our hardworking library staff extra sweet this season by adding special goodies to go along with our gift cards and then packaging them all up so festively (photo above).

Through the generosity of our donors, we are able to accomplish all that we do to support the Rockridge Branch – and you can see each and every name right on the donor roll in the library lobby. To add your name to the list, visit our new (and still in progress) website at www.friendsoftherockridgelibrary.org. We would love to have you among our "friends."

See you at the library!

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Yard Sale Funds Schools

from page 5

the Peralta playground on Alcatraz Avenue, a half-block east of Telegraph Avenue. Come see the dazzling array of furniture, kid stuff, music, art, kitchen goods, tools, garden and sports equipment.

LRPG is a 400 member community group established in 2001 by three neighborhood moms seeking to build support for Peralta Elementary School by building community in and around the Lower Rockridge neighborhood.

Today the Peralta community is able to raise the funds required to provide its students with art, music, Spanish, P.E., mental health services and social skills curriculum, all housed in a stimulating art-filled, garden environment.

Peralta has won numerous awards including multiple Title I Achievement Awards, California Distinguished School Status and has most recently been nominated as a National Blue Ribbon School.

Claremont, Rockridge's neighborhood middle school, is deserving of the same energy and attention that helps support Peralta's success. Test scores and enrollment at Claremont are up, testament to hard work by Claremont students and staff. Like Peralta, Claremont is committed to providing its students with access to art and music and stimulating and fun after school activities. Yard Sale proceeds will be shared 50-50 with Claremont Middle School.

Please come join us: Shop, have a snack, meet neighbors, make new friends and support your wonderful neighborhood public schools.

For more information on the LRPG or the Yard Sale, e-mail or call Nicole Aruda at 510/547-7976; nicaruda@earthlink.net.

Interview: Mayor Jean Quan, Part 2

by Don Kinkead, editor, The Rockridge News

Shortly after her inauguration, Mayor Jean Quan met with RCPC Chair Stuart Flashman and Rockridge News editor Don Kinkead to discuss her plans and concerns for Oakland and its future. In the first part of the interview, reported in the February issue of the newsletter, Mayor Quan discussed Oakland schools, public safety, improving retail, city budget problems, redevelopment and public facilities. In the following conclusion to the interview, she considers planning and zoning, AC Transit's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) proposal, and how citizens can help Oakland in this period of need.

Noting that recent public hearings have presented proposed zoning changes that would increase permitted building heights to a 60-foot limit along major transportation corridors, including Telegraph Avenue, Stuart Flashman asked the mayor for her reaction.

Mayor Quan replied, "I think it has to be neighborhood by neighborhood. I would like to see form-based zoning* used a little more." Such an approach, she feels, would lead to a better mix of tall and short buildings in a given area, and avoid a "canyon look" that could result when the majority of street-front buildings are constructed to the maximum permitted height. The goal, she said, should be an "…agreement on 'how does it look, how does it feel?'" in the neighborhood.

Quan is also supportive of recognizing the historical background and design of an area, and encouraging construction to make "a bow to the history [of an area]" with design features that carry that historic sense into present-day appearances.

Overall, she believes, neighborhood commercial centers should have interesting shops within walking distances and be well-served by public transportation.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Turning to a proposal by AC Transit to create dedicated bus lanes in the city, she said, "I like the overall concept, although it doesn't seem the plan left enough parking in some [commercial] neighborhoods. Also, it takes out too many bus stops in East Oakland, leaving seniors feeling vulnerable as they walk the extra distance to a remaining stop." Replacing the parking would be "really hard" without redevelopment dollars, she said. "It obviously needs more work."

Citizen Support

In closing, Mayor Quan was asked how neighborhood groups and individual residents could help in the current fiscal crisis.

"It's the thing I have been asking people to do: Volunteer to work with the city." She reports that at a recent open house, for example, 60 people signed up to work with Public Works on medians, parks and "adopt a spot" projects, while others out of 1,000 attendees signed up with other departments. "This was pretty nice," she said.

The mayor then reiterated the call she had issued during her inauguration:

"Dream about the city; imagine something a little different;

"Give one hour a week back to the city;

"Shop more in Oakland (the 25 percent solution);

"Discover Oakland again. Take a fresh look at Oakland's neighborhoods. So much is going on: Art Murmur, Sundays in the Redwoods, Cinco de Mayo celebrations.

"It's just an amazing city!"

*** "Form-based Code," from Wikipedia. (***For clarification only.***)** "Form-based codes address the relationship between building façades and the public realm, the form and mass of buildings in relation to one another, and the scale and types of streets and blocks. The regulations and standards in form-based codes... are keyed to a regulating plan that designates the appropriate form and scale (and therefore, character) of development rather than only distinctions in land-use types. This is in contrast to conventional zoning's focus on the micromanagement and segregation of land uses, and the control of development intensity through abstract and uncoordinated parameters (e.g., floor area ratios, dwelling units per acre, setbacks, parking ratios) to the neglect of an integrated built form."

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SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE: OUSD Seeks Community Input for New Strategic Vision Proposal

Budget, Receivership Challenge District

by Jody London, Vice President, Board of Education and Director, District 1

The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) has been California's most improved large urban district for six years running. North Oakland schools continue to improve every year, providing quality education and opportunity for Oakland's youth.

OUSD has adopted a Strategic Vision – "Community Schools, Thriving Students" – and wants input from the community. Simultaneously, California schools face unprecedented challenges if the June special election fails.

Provide Input for Strategic Vision on March 12

North Oakland residents will have an opportunity in March to provide input to the district as it develops a strategic vision to become a full-service community school district. This means schools throughout Oakland will provide for the needs of the whole child: academic, social, emotional, physical. Some Oakland schools already do this, but the school board seeks to provide this for every child, starting in early childhood education programs.

The board is pursuing this vision in the face of the most devastating budget cuts to public education in decades because it is convinced this model provides the greatest educational opportunities for Oakland's children, and for the city as a whole. Fourteen task forces are meeting regularly to plan implementation of this strategic vision. Learn more about the task forces and their meetings at www.ousd.k12.ca.us.

On Saturday, March 12, the community is invited to a youth and family conference focused on Region 1, which includes North and West Oakland. The conference will give students, parents, caregivers, and community members an overview of the "Community Schools, Thriving Students" vision, and the opportunity to provide the school district with ideas and suggestions.

I will be facilitating portions of the conference and hope to see North Oakland participate. See box, top right, for details.

Schools Will See Huge Cuts if Special Election Fails

It is crucial that the community pay attention to the state budget. California school districts receive 80 percent of unrestricted funds from the state. Some districts can supplement this with funds from parcel taxes, bonds, and donations, but the basic budget for schools relies heavily on the state. Since the budget crisis that began several years ago, school funding has been cut in greater proportion than schools represent in the state budget. If the June special election Governor Brown has called for does not succeed, schools will see even less. Some analysts believe the actual cuts would result in as much as *$900 less per student*. I encourage you: stay informed on this matter, and share this information with your friends across the state.

Legacy of State Administration

From 2003 through 2009, OUSD was run by a state-appointed administrator; during those six years, the district had three different state administrators. Some good things happened: academic performance district-wide continued to improve; better systems and processes were developed in administrative areas; and as the district returned to local control, it hired a dynamic superintendent and a thorough and transparent deputy superintendent of business, who oversees our budget and finances. But the district now faces challenges that are a direct legacy of state control, including:

■ OUSD entered receivership because it faced a shortfall of about $35 million. The district comes out of receivership owing the state $100 million. Apparently the state administrators viewed loans from the state – an initial loan of $65 million and a subsequent loan of $35 million – as a tab against which to spend. The district now must pay back the state, with interest, several million dollars per year. This is the last year OUSD will be able to use the state loan to pay back the state. The district has investigated the possibility of loan forgiveness, but that seems unlikely, given the state's own financial troubles and the fact that the loan has been sold.

■ When a school district is in receivership, the state controller's office conducts the annual audits. The controller is years behind in doing this, so OUSD has faced audits that ding the district with findings of which it was not aware. This, in turn, can result in fines. The district has successfully contested some of these charges and is working with its legislators on potential solutions.

■ The main reason the district entered receivership was a structural deficit of about $40 million: expenses were greater than revenue. When a district's budget does not balance, the state steps in. However, state administration did not address this structural deficit. New Superintendent Tony Smith has been working under direction from the school board to reduce the structural deficit. If the June ballot measure passes, the district will be able to adopt a budget that eliminates the structural deficit.

If you have any questions about the Oakland Unified School District, please feel free to contact me at: jody.london@ousd.k12.ca.us.

North Oakland Community Meeting

- **Saturday, March 12**
  9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- **McClymonds High School**
  2607 Myrtle Street
- **RSVP: Raquel Jimenez**
  Community Engagement Coordinator, 510/703-4825
- **E-mail:** Raquel.Jimenez@ousd.k12.ca.us

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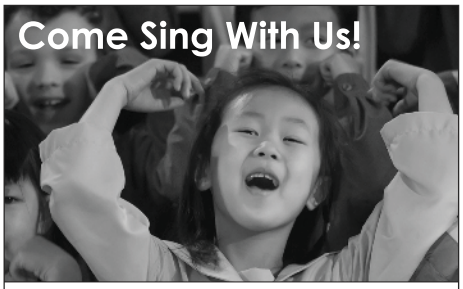
from page 2

businesses. Business owners purchase from other local businesses and service providers. In addition, they often donate more to local non-profits, such as school and community events.

An easy-walking street like College Avenue also yields environmental benefits, cutting down on air pollution and saving travel time. (For example, a recently sold home on Manila has, according to Zillow.com, a walk score of 95, which it terms "walkers' paradise.")

When Charlie and I chose our new hometown, we insisted that it possess many of the same attributes of Rockridge: public library, educational facilities, and convenient access to goods and services. In my view, communities like Rockridge represent our best future.

So, hello, College Avenue! Here I am, seven hours away, waving to you. I'll be visiting soon and look forward to cruising the avenue once again.



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Land Use Update

from page 3

board discussed next steps. While the committee's approval is disappointing, we are hopeful we can convince the full commission to improve on the current plans, especially for the project's crucial second phase. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is in preparation and due to be released this spring.

The Oakland planner assigned to the project is Darin Ranelletti, 238-3663, DRanelletti@oaklandnet.com.

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

Oakland planning staff continues to review and revise an administrative draft of the EIR for this 62,000 square-foot project, which would replace Safeway's current 22,500 square-foot store. According to project planner Peterson Vollman, (pvollman@oaklandnet.com, 238-6167), public release is a couple of months away. RCPC, working with Friends and Neighbors of College Avenue (FANS: http://fansco.org), is gearing up to review and critique the EIR's analysis of project impacts once it is released for the 45-day public review period.

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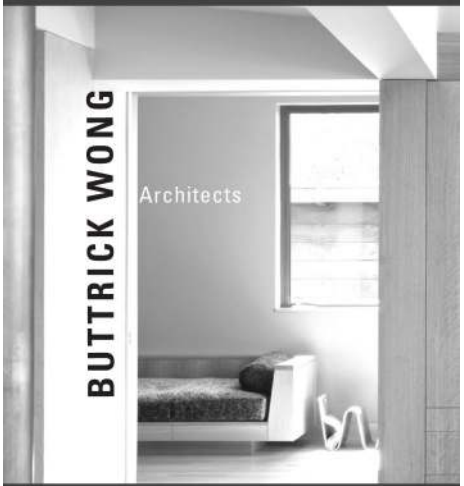
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Prediction Holds For A Great Spring!

Closing Date	BR	BATH	Address	Original Price	List Price	DOM	Selling Price
1/27/2011	2	1	5370 Bryant Avenue	$ 649,000	$ 629,000	57	$ 629,000
1/31/2011	2	1	6273 Brookside	$ 309,900	$309,900	144	$ 300,000
2/4/2011	2	1	5314 Shafter Avenue	$ 659,000	$ 659,000	4	$ 720,000

- *Rockridge currently has a 3.27 month supply of inventory.*
- *Average list to sell is currently 102% – down from an average of 107% at this time last year.*
- *Average market time is currently 68 days in Rockridge – compared to a year ago when the average market time was 33days.*
- *7 properties went pending in the last month and these properties were on the market an average of 18 days. The Median List Price was for these pending sales was $825,000*

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RDA Board Elections will be held April 7, 8-10 a.m. at the Rockridge Library, 5366 College Avenue. *All RDA business members are invited and encouraged to attend.* Information: e-mail info@rockridgedistrict.com



The Rockridge District Association has hired a tree maintenance company to manage College Avenue foliage.
Photo: Courtesy of RDA

'Just a Little Trim,' Says RDA to Trees

by RDA staff

For the first time in many years, the trees along our beloved College Avenue are being cared for by professional arborist Valley Crest Tree Care Services.

Due to the city's budget deficit, many municipal services have been reduced or eliminated. Tree maintenance is an example of a service that fell prey to the budget axe. Thanks to the assessments paid by its members, the Rockridge District Association (RDA) was able to provide the required maintenance.

Not only is Valley Crest pruning College Avenue trees, the company will plant eight new ones, replacing those lost in past years.

Now, shop windows are more visible from the street, the view down the street is more open and consistent, and sick or damaged limbs are less likely to pose a danger to the public. Costs for the care of over 140 RDA-area trees exceeds $24,000.

The RDA is very proud and pleased to be able to provide this kind of basic care for College Avenue. It is important in these challenging economic times to keep our shopping district looking attractive. We want people to say and to think, "Rockridge is the place to be; the shops, the restaurants, the businesses are really terrific and the street is so lovely to be on."

For more information on RDA's tree trimming and care, visit us at www.rockridgedistrict.com.

Celebrate Earth Day at FROG Park



Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. to noon

You can give back to the community by taking care of Frog Park, our neighborhood park and an important community asset. Meet at "Big Frog" (the play structure near Hardy Circle and Hudson/Claremont), from 9 a.m. to noon.

FROG (Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt) is organizing a fun, family-friendly Earth Day clean-up and planting event to honor Earth Day. Bring work gloves and gardening tools, or a broom or rake. Bring your children, and kids' tools if you have them. Projects include playground cleaning, weeding, planting, some sealing of the new wood, sweeping, and clearing the pond and creek bed in preparation for the turning-on of the creek.

Afterwards, stay for a potluck picnic and family activities. Visit www.oaklandearthday.com for more information. Contact Carol Behr, earthday2011@frogpark.org.

Frog Park Restroom Update

Construction began on the new Frog Park restroom February 28, and will continue for about three months. The Porta-Potty will be moved to a nearby location, and will be open during construction. Parking at Hardy Circle will be limited during construction. Please keep children and dogs away from the construction area.

Questions about the restroom construction project? Contact Denise Louie in Facilities Planning at Public Works, phone 510/238-3682 or e-mail: DLouie@oaklandnet.com

Next FROG Meeting

Rockridge Library, Thursday, March 24, 7:30 p.m.

Join with neighbors who care about Frog Park, to plan the Earth Day clean-up and family activities. Everyone is welcome.

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Oakland Tech Steinway Piano Restoration Drive Hits High Note

by Camille Reed, Oakland Tech PTSA

In an article in January's issue of The Rockridge News, the Oakland Technical High School Class of 1961 announced that it would spearhead a drive to restore the Steinway Model B piano that has been at Tech since 1917.

Thanks to gifts from the class, former classes, in-memory gifts, and the community at large, we are happy to announce that we have raised $17,000 so far.

The restoration of this instrument, so important to the high school on so many levels, is closer to becoming a reality. For all of you that have been and are supportive of this effort, you have our deepest thanks.

Plans continue to raise a few thousand dollars more to begin the restoration, which will take several months. We wish to have the restored piano presented in a public performance at the school auditorium on September 17. Of course you are all invited.

The fund drive continues. To contribute towards the restoration, please send your tax-deductible check made payable to: Oakland Technical High School Parent Teacher Student Association, c/o Camille Reed, 6243 Rockwell Street, Oakland, 94618.

Tech Auction

from page 1

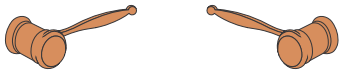
Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), the Auction supplements other support for the school, recently hailed in a front page Oakland Tribune article as "Oakland's new 'it' school."

Funds raised by the Auction will touch all areas of the school and its students: from classroom support to improving the grounds; from athletics to music; from lab supplies to technology.

Plan now to attend this exciting event, which will include both silent and live auctions, to be held Saturday, March 19, between 6:30-10:30 p.m. at the T. Gary Rogers Rowing Center, 2999 Glascock Street, Oakland (adjacent to the Oakland Estuary, between the Park Street and Fruitvale Avenue bridges).

Tickets are $35 per person, available at the door or online at http://www.oaklandtech.com/staff/otptsa/auction/

To donate items, contact auction@oaklandtech.com.



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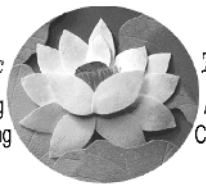
Recovering from surgery? Need long-term help in your home? Medications, bathing, preparing meals, laundry, driving to appointments. Coordinate exercises with rehab and medical staff. Excellent references. Steven Dizon 415/533-5548. Stevenjo804@sbcglobal.net Lic. CNA 697998.

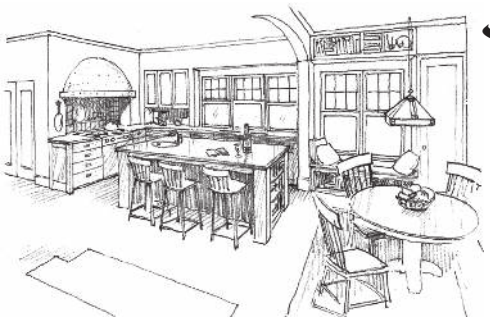
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E-mail *Rockridge News* Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210 (after noon), or mail to: *Rockridge News* Community Calendar, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the month.

Compiled by Jo Ellis

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

North Oakland Town Hall

In lieu of Councilmember Jane Brunner's Community Advisory Meeting: **District 1 Town Hall Meeting with Mayor Jean Quan.** Saturday, April 2, 10am to 12:30pm. North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr. Way (at 58th St.). **See details: story page 3**.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN

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

FOR TEENS

- **Rockridge Ninjas Anime Club: Ages 13 and up,** watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation). Second Tues. each month (3/8 and 4/12), 5 to 6:30pm, upstairs meeting rm.
- **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, 4 to 5pm.
- **Jewelry Making Workshop: Free**, hands-on workshop to create your own jewelry with local designer and entrepreneur **Chelsee Robinson**.

More info: Susy, 597-5017 or smoorhead@oaklandlibrary.org.

FOR ADULTS

- **Writers Support/Critique Group:** All writers welcome. Bring 15 copies of up to 5 pgs. (double-spaced, MS margins) of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (you're also welcome to come empty-handed). Third Saturday each month, 1 to 5pm. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch (www.berkeleywritersclub.org.) Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice and referrals.** First Tues. each month. **New times: 5 to 7pm (advance sign-up starts 4:45pm). Note**: Volunteer lawyer leaves before 7pm if no more people are present.

ART EXHIBITS (call to confirm)

Gallery:

- Mar: **Oakland Public Library Staff Art Show**.
- Apr., **Anya Behn**: ceramic sculptures wall hangings.

Lobby Display Case:

- Mar: **Oakland Public Library Staff** Art Show
- Apr., 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 **all Oakland Public Libraries closed Thurs, 3/31 and Fri., 4/1 for city furlough days**.

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings/Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Thurs., 3/10, 7pm. Release Party for **Cathleen Daly**: *Flirt Club*.
- Mon., 3/14, 7:30pm. **Amnesty International Meeting** (2nd Monday each month): All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Sun., 3/20, 3pm. **Poetry Flash: Dan Bellm, Tiffany Higgins** and **Fred Marchant**.
- Wed., 3/23, 7pm. Release Party for Oakland illustrator **Michael Wertz**: *A Dazzling Display of Dogs* (a collaboration with poet **Betsy Franco**).
- Sun., 3/27, 3pm. Local author and Marriage and Family Therapist **Ruth Cohn**: *Coming Home to Passion*.

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

Wisteria Ways House Concert Series

- **Keith Greeninger** and **Dayan Kai**: Singers and songwriters of folk. jazz, blues and more (California acoustic soul). Sample sound clips at http://keithdayan.downloadsnow.net/. Saturday, 3/12, 8pm (door opens 7:30pm).
- **Hat Check Girl**: iconic and eclectic singers and songwriters **Annie Gallup** and **Peter Galway**. Sunday, 4/3, 3pm (door opens 2:30).

Both concerts are inside venues and not wheelchair accessible. $15-20 donation for musicians (cash only at the door).383 61st St. For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

"Memoirs of Jesus"

Award winning play by local playwright **Harry Cronin**, based on the following premise: If Jesus Christ had kept a diary, what would he have written. Solo performance by **Andrew Dits**. Friday, 3/18, 7pm. Tickets: $15 (Srs. $10; kids free). St. Augustine Catholic Church, 400 Alcatraz Ave. Info: Jim Gilman, Director of Music; 220-8453.

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