# THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

VOL. 27 ■ NO. 3 ■ ISSUE NO. 287 ■ March 3, 2012 ■ CIRCULATION: 5,500 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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


**March 2012 RCPC Town Hall Meeting**

**15 AGENDA**

**Improving Home Energy Efficiency**

**Is your home drafty and cold? Utility bills too high?** Energy Upgrade CA is a one-stop shop for energy efficient home improvements that will save you money, help the environment, and make your house more comfortable. Learn how you can get up to $4,000 back on your project, and even help neighborhood schools in the process.

Now might be the right time to get the new

Energy Efficiency, page 13

**Thursday, March 15 | 7:30-9 p.m. Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College at Manila**

# Claremont MS Principal Selection Process Begins

## School Parents, Incoming School Parents, Teachers and Staff, and School Community to Elect Applicant Review Panel

Thursday, March 8 in the Claremont Middle School gym, Mia Settles and Kyla Johnson-Trammell explain the OUSD principal recommendation process. Dinner 6-6:30; Meeting 6:30-7:30, Childcare available.

Claremont Middle School and its community members have been invited by the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) to participate in the Principal Recommendation process per OUSD Board Policy 4500.

Claremont Begins Principal Search, page 11

**APRIL 19: RCPC BOARD ELECTIONS; SIX SEATS. VOTE FOR RCPC REPS: PAGE 3**

# Reprieve: CVS Closing Extended for a Year




/D. Kinkead

**Closing...**
***Re-opened!***
**Closing...?**
***Re-opened!***
**The CVS roller coaster slows down again as the store makes plans to be open for another year. Spring is coming. Buy plants.**

## BRT COMMUNITY MEETINGS IN MARCH

AC Transit and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have released a Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report (FEIS/R) on the proposed East Bay Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project for public review and comment. AC Transit is hosting a series of community meetings to provide the public with an opportunity to learn more about the project and comment on the FEIS/R. Meetings will include an informational open house and brief overview presentation. Comments may be submitted at any time during the comment period, February 3 to March 19, 2012, including in writing at the community meetings. We hope to see you there!

| OAKLAND CITY HALL | *NEW LOCATION* | ALLEN TEMPLE ARMS |
|---|---|---|
| Monday, March 5, 6-8 p.m. | FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | Monday, March 12, 6-8 p.m. |
| 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza | Wednesday, March 7, 6-8 p.m. | 8135 International Boulevard |
| Hearing Room 3 | 430 49th Street | Multipurpose Room |

For more information about the East Bay BRT Project or upcoming public meetings, please call Jim Cunradi, AC Transit BRT Project Manager, at 510-891-7175 or visit www.actransit.org/planning-focus/your-guide-to-bus-rapid-transit.

**Note: New location** for the North Oakland BRT community meeting Wednesday, March 7. If you cannot attend a meeting, call Jim Cunradi, AC Transit BRT Project Manager, 510/891-7175, to learn where to submit your written comments prior to the March 19 deadline. — Editor *Meeting information notice was provided by AC Transit*

# What is BRT?

*by Don Kinkead*

For at least the last 10 years, AC Transit has been planning a BRT – Bus Rapid Transit – system that would share some of the features of light rail lines except it would be buses, rather than rail cars, running in dedicated lanes.

AC Transit's proposal is to run such lines from Berkeley along the center of Telegraph Avenue to Downtown Oakland, then along International Boulevard (E. 14th Avenue) to San Leandro. Patrons would board at sheltered stations along the route, or "transitway." However, the stations would generally be farther apart than current bus stops. Also, many intersecting streets along the Telegraph route, for example, would be closed to automobile crossings, requiring drivers to take alternate, perhaps longer,

BRT-AC Transit, page 12

**Op Ed** Essays on matters of local interest are invited for consideration as Op-Ed pieces for *The Rockridge News*. Please limit length to 450 words and submit to editor@rockridge.org.

# Hey! Where'd Everybody Go?

***by Don Kinkead***

Well, here it is, March already, and 2012 no less! Three months into another new year and April Fool's Day just around the corner; 2011 fading into the fog of was.

Still, it's nice here at home in Rockridge with many of life's comforts close at hand. Are you hungry? Let's check out that new place that just opened up, then hop on over to Cole's or Peet's or Hudson Bay for a lingering afternoon latte. Afterwards, we can wander on down to the library and go through the new DVD selections; might find something good. On the way back, we can swing through Frog Park, then head up Claremont Avenue to College for a little window shopping, then home at last to our cozy urban retreat.

Idyllic, no? But how did it happen here, in this place? Fact: it didn't just happen; it was *caused*.

It was caused by people who fought to preserve houses slated to be buried under planned high rises. It was caused by people who fought to craft a new urban zone dedicated to neighborhoods built to a human scale with nearby commercial areas that could be comfortably sauntered through by shoppers and residents.

And the library? It was built because people said, "We need a library," and taxed themselves to pay for its design and construction in the neighborhood. The park? Same deal! People wanted it and got together to make it happen.

Many of these people and ideas were associated with the Rockridge Community Planning Council, RCPC as it is known, that helped foster and fight for many of these Rockridge features people decided they wanted.

There were other ideas and supporters along the way as the organization worked to fulfill its mission to preserve and enhance the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood, and to furnish a forum for community involvement.

"A forum for community involvement"? Certainly. Since RCPC formed in the mid-'70s, the organization has held monthly meetings open to all Rockridge residents to come together to discuss neighborhood issues, challenges and progress. RCPC board members develop a presentation of topical concerns or general interest that could be useful to residents, providing the forum for community involvement.

Have you had a chance to attend any of the meetings? Rockridge folk are a protective group and will turn out for contentious issues, but judging from attendance at the regular meetings, are otherwise likely to be busy elsewhere.

So: an invitation to you. Read through the following list of 2011 meeting topics

**RCPC Agendas, page 12**




## ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY

**5366 College Avenue**
**597-5017**
**Hours:**
*Tue:* 12:30 – 8 p.m.
*Wed, Thu, Sat:* 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
*Friday:* 12 – 5:30 p.m.
***CLOSED:*** Sundays and Mondays. and Saturday, 3/31.
**Library program details: See Calendar, page 15.**

The Rockridge News

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

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

Contact us at one of the following:
**Editor: editor@rockridge.org**
**www.rockridge.org**
***The Rockridge News***, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611
**RCPC 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 5, 2012**
☛ **April deadline is March 19, 2012.**
**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 Board Election Procedures

At the RCPC Town Hall meeting Thursday, April 19, Rockridge residents may vote for RCPC board candidates. Twenty-five or more residents must vote at the meeting to establish a quorum. If the quorum is met, residents unable to attend the Town Hall may vote Saturday, April 21, in the lobby of the Rockridge library, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

**Voter Eligibility**

Persons age 18 and over who live within RCPC boundaries are eligible to vote. Verification will be by driver's license or DMV ID card showing an address within RCPC boundaries, depicted on the RCPC website at rockridge.org.

## 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 28.**

*Subject to change. Check* rockridge.org *the preceding week for the full meeting agenda.*

**Committee Notes:** The next meeting of the RCPC Land Use Committee is Wednesday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge Branch Library. Topics on the agenda are: • updates on the Rockridge Shopping Center and College Avenue Safeway projects; • the Rockridge Montessori expansion project; and • discussion of the city's proposed revisions to its off-street parking requirements. Contact Stu Flashman (652-5373 or chair@rockridge.org) if you want a copy of the agenda. Land use committee meetings are generally open to the public.

## Land Use Update

*by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair*

■ **College Avenue Safeway Shopping Center Project**
**College & Claremont Avenues**

Nothing new to report. Peterson Vollman (pvollman@oaklandnet.com; 238-6167), the planner assigned to this project, is still working with the city's environmental consultants on revisions to the 2,000 page administrative draft of the responses to comments document. Unless the city decides to recirculate the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for comments on newly-added information, once this volume is completed and released to the public, the entire EIR will go to the Planning Commission. The commission will consider whether to certify it as adequate and then use it to decide on whether to approve Safeway's 62,000 sq. ft. proposal, or something else instead.

■ **Rockridge Shopping Center Rebuild Project**
**Broadway & Pleasant Valley**

The RCPC board of directors earlier this month adopted the Land Use Committee's

Land Use Committee, page 6

## Rockridge Community Planning Council

**2011 Financial Statement**
**Fiscal Year January 1 – December 31, 2011**

| RCPC P&L | All as of 12/31/11 |
|---|---|
| **Ordinary Income/Expense** | |
| **Income** | |
| Contributions | 15,710 |
| Rockridge News | 40,653 |
| Kitchen Tour | 21,749 |
| **Total Income** | 78,112 |
| **Expense** | |
| Rockridge News | 35,416 |
| Bank Charges | 3 |
| Office Expenses | 3,338 |
| Contractors | 5,634 |
| Fundraising | 509 |
| Grants / Awards / Scholarships | 1,830 |
| Programs - Safeway | 11,763 |
| K-Tour | 3,102 |
| Misc Expenses | 2,753 |
| Taxes, Licenses, Fees | 81 |
| Utilities | 237 |
| **Total Expense** | 64,666 |
| **Net Income** | **13,447** |

| FORL (Friends of the Rockridge Library) P&L | |
|---|---|
| **Ordinary Income/Expense** | |
| **Income** | |
| Contributions | 4,291 |
| Earned | 0 |
| **Total Income** | 4,291 |
| **Expense** | |
| Library Furniture | 3,510 |
| Bank Charges | 6 |
| Office Expenses | 727 |
| Grants/Scholarships | 4,959 |
| Misc Expenses | 2,146 |
| Office Supplies | 32 |
| Total Expense | 11,380 |
| Net Ordinary Income | -7,088 |
| Net Income | **-7,088** |

| FROG (Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt) P&L | |
|---|---|
| **Ordinary Income/Expense** | |
| **Income** | |
| Contributions | 566 |
| Earned | 20 |
| **Total Income** | 587 |
| **Expense** | |
| Bank Charges | 0 |
| Maintenance/Cleaning | 1,393 |
| Misc expenses | 823 |
| Events | 265 |
| Grants | 150 |
| Utilities | 126 |
| **Total Expense** | 2,757 |
| **Net Ordinary Income** | -2,170 |
| **Net Income** | **-2,170** |

| RCPC, FROG, FORL Balance Sheet | |
|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | |
| **CDs** | |
| FORL | 30,000 |
| FROG | 10,353 |
| RCPC | 38,836 |
| **TOTAL CDs** | **79,189** |
| **Checking/Savings** | |
| FORL | 14,199 |
| FROG | 33,080 |
| RCPC | 56,353 |
| Whistlestop | 442 |
| Scenic Streets | 3,162 |
| Locksley Gardens | 499 |
| **Total Checking/Savings** | **107,735** |
| **Other Current Assets** | |
| FROG: Bal of Paygo-de la Fuente | 22,022 |
| Inventory Asset - FORL | -700 |
| Inventory Asset - RCPC DVDs | 12,350 |
| **Total Current Assets** | 33,671 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS** | **220,595** |
| **LIABILITIES & EQUITY** | |
| **Sales Tax** | 10 |
| **Total Liabilities** | **10** |
| **Equity** | |
| **Opening Bal Equity** | 193,172 |
| **Unrestrict (retained earnings)** | 21,226 |
| **Net Income** | 1,978 |
| **Total Equity** | 216,375 |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** | **216,385** |

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

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# School Director Jody London Invites Master Plan Participation

**Friends,**

A little over six years ago, my involvement with Oakland Unified School district (OUSD) as a parent volunteer kicked in to high gear when the district revised the Facilities Master Plan. With the passage of Measure B in 2006, OUSD has been able to upgrade schools across our city. The Facilities Master Plan is being updated again this year. I encourage you to attend one of the meetings shown below to learn more, and/or review the online documents. Please spread the word.

**— Jody**

## Help Plan the Next Generation of OUSD Facilities Improvements

The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) is in the process of developing a new Facilities Master Plan and members of the school board need to know what improvements you'd like to see.

The Facilities Master Plan will help determine what changes we make to OUSD facilities and campuses over the next five years. With input from throughout the community, this plan will provide a framework for continual improvement over the next generation of Oakland students and families.

Following is a list of community meetings to be held on the topic in different areas of the school district; more may be added later.

### Facilities Community Engagement Plan Schedule

- **March 6: McClymonds High, 2607 Myrtle Street; 6-8 p.m.**
- **March 13: Oakland Tech High, 4351 Broadway; 6-8 p.m.**
- **March 20: Madison Middle School, 400 Capistrano Drive; 6-8 p.m.**
- **March 27: Franklin Elementary School, 915 Foothill Boulevard; 6-8 p.m.**
- **April 3: Havenscourt Middle/ HS (Roots/CCPA), 1390 66th Avenue; 6-8 p.m.**

For more detailed information about the Facilities Master Plan and related activities, visit: www.ousd.k12.ca.us/facilitiesplan.

Jody London, President, Board of Education and Director, District 1
Oakland Unified School District
510/459-0667
jody.london@ousd.k12.ca.us

# Chabot Fundraiser: Many Ways to Play and Support a Local School

This month, Chabot Elementary School hosts its Spring Auction, the most important and exciting fundraising event of the Chabot year. Plan to attend the festivities Saturday, March 10, 5:30 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Temple, 1547 Lakeside Drive. Tickets are $40 and can be bought online at the Chabot website, http://www.chabotelementary.org/ (click on the Casino Royale logo).

There will be dancing, great food and drinks, and in keeping with the Casino Royale theme, there will be a working casino with blackjack tables, roulette and more. Come join us.

In addition to the live auction, the online auction that began in February runs through Thursday, March 8, closing at 10 p.m. Preview the online catalog of exciting items, including gift certificates to your favorite Rockridge stores and restaurants, camps, and more, then bid on them from the comfort and convenience of your home.

You do not have to be a Chabot School family to participate. Check out all the action at http://auctions.readysetauction.com/chabotelementary/home.

Much thanks to the community for all your support of Rockridge public schools.




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# Ride for a Reason: Together We Will Make a Difference

## Cyclists Carry Word of Public Schools' Needs to the Capitol

*by Mike Napolitano*

Ride for a Reason is a bike ride to Sacramento to draw attention to the budget crisis for public schools in California, and to raise essential funds for enrichment programs in four North Oakland schools: Emerson Elementary, Claremont Middle School, Oakland Technical High, and Oakland International High. **California now funds its schools at 25 percent below the national average. We must do better**.

The ride takes place May 12. Join us for fully supported 45-, 65-, and 105-mile rides to the Capitol; transportation home is available. As of mid-February, 70 riders had registered. **With your help, we will reach our goals of 200 riders on May 12, and $60,000 donated to our schools**.

The 45-mile ride is ideal for families and children. All riders are encouraged to raise $250 or more in donations. **To register, volunteer, or donate, go to**: http://www.rideforareason.dojiggy.com/. For more information, contact Mike Napolitano at mikenapolitano5@gmail.com.

On the ride you'll "spruce-up" your low gears, tame a "wildcat," ride through the "valley of the red palace," and cross a "blessed" bridge, and that's before lunch! You'll have to register, volunteer, or donate to find out more. One hundred percent good feeling guaranteed. **Working together we will make a difference.**



**In this photo taken at the successful conclusion of a previous Ride for a Reason, satisfied cyclists celebrate their arrival in Sacramento and make a point of getting their message to state legislators about the inadequacy of school funding.**



# FROG Earthday and 10th Anniversary Celebration: April 21

## Cleanup

*Family-friendly Cleanup:*

* 9AM - 12 noon (Big & Little FROG parks)

## 10th Anniversary Celebration

*Big Build Celebration and Family Fun:*

* 12 noon-2 PM (Big FROG)

**And...**

## Frog Park Meeting

**Rockridge Library, Thursday, March 8,** 7:30 p.m. Join with neighbors who care about Frog Park to plan the Earth Day clean-up and planning for 2012.

The Community is invited to join Masons, Dads, and Merchants as they host the 3rd Annual Claremont Middle School Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, Saturday, April 21. More, page 13.




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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 at the editor's discretion. Views expressed in any letter are the writer's own, and may not necessarily be shared by the editor, or by RCPC.*

### 'A Storied Establishment Recognized'

Thank you for that splendid article in The Rockridge News ("Eyes on Rockridge," February, 2012) about the Rockridge Barber Shop; always a pleasure to see a storied establishment recognized.

Marty and I are convinced that the photo in the article is, in fact, the present day shop as the overhead light location matches an electrical plate that is now there in its stead. Not to mention the art-deco waiting chairs.

The owner of the Levant RugCompany across College Avenue remembers the shop from the early '30s and was in for a haircut recently. Also, a gent came in with a photo of himself getting a haircut in 1946 as a 10-year-old [right]. We should have taken a snapshot with him holding the picture!

***— John (second chair) Busher***

Ed. Note: This letter was sent to the article's author. It is published here with permission of the letter writer.



# Street Sweeping More Profitable for City than Permit Parking Program

***by Jon Gabel, RCPC board member***

In response to the story on Residential Permit Parking (RPP) costs and revenues published in the November, 2011 Rockridge News, several readers asked for the same data on street sweeping.

Here is that data for fiscal year July, 2010 – June, 2011, as provided by the city:

| | |
|---|---|
| Street sweeping citation revenue: | $10,115,673. |
| Cost of street sweeping parking enforcement: | $1,046,000. |
| Street sweeping budget (cost of sweeping); | $6,851,784. |
| Net revenue to city of Oakland: | $2,217,889. |

This is considerably more than the $642,462 net revenue from the RPP program for the same time period.

# *Land Use Committee*

**from page 3**

recommendations on ten issues that Safeway needs to address in its proposal for the rebuild and 120,000 sq. ft. expansion of this shopping area, located at the borders of the Rockridge, Temescal, and Piedmont Avenue districts. (See last month's issue or the rockridge.org website for details.) Other North Oakland community groups are discussing whether to also support these issues. The Draft EIR for the project is still in preparation.

- **Rockridge Montessori School Expansion Project 5610 Broadway**

This project,which would be the third proposed expansion of the school, would convert an existing residence next to the current Broadway facility to a classroom building, with the addition of a second story. The new building is proposed to hold up to 59 toddler and preschool students (toddlers on the first floor, 3-5 year-olds on the second). The current Broadway building holds 38 students, and a former church on Manila is state-approved to hold up to 59; its city use permit would allow up to 94. With the new building, the school could potentially house as many as 191 students.

This project was first put forward several years ago, but has been stalled for the past year while the school's consultants address traffic, parking, and other issues. The school's immediate neighbors have repeatedly expressed major concerns about the expansion, both in terms of its specific impacts and the appropriateness of having such a large facility within a residentially-zoned area. RCPC has expressed concerns about safety issues associated with its Broadway location for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles. Of particular concern have been the potential problems from U-turns at the Broadway traffic signal, especially in light of the city's planned "lane diet" – a reduction from four travel lanes to two – and the addition of bicycle lanes on Broadway. A related concern is the proposed drop-off/pick-up parking zone on Broadway directly in front of the school.

The City planner involved, Ulla Britt-Jonsson (ujonsson@oaklandnet.com, 238-3322) met with the school staff and consultants and some of the neighbors on February 22. While some progress has been made, major issues remain unresolved. The city will schedule an administrative hearing soon. At present, the city has considered the project exempt from environmental review based on its location and small size.

**Praying - Serving - Growing**

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# NCPC Backs Group Buys of Security Cameras

*by Denise Jorgensen, treasurer, Rockridge NCPC, Beats 12Y & 13X*

The first Rockridge Logitech Camera Order Buddy group to receive and install its security cameras has given strong positive feedback about the program and offered their thanks to the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (GRNCPC), to Paula Stringfellow, the NCPC's Rockridge resident volunteer for the program, and to Logitech.

Since the NCPC's January meeting launching the discounted security camera program in Rockridge, Paula has been coordinating the Order Buddy introductions and creating groups of interested Rockridge residents who live close to each other to meet the minimum of six cameras purchased to be eligible for the significant 37 percent discount.

Details about what are likely the most state-of-the-art security cameras currently available to consumers on the market today may be found on the GRNCPC website, www.rockridgencpc.com. The PDF file, and information in the January 2012 meeting minutes (http://rockridgencpc.com/documents/minutes/NCPC%20Minutes%201-12.pdf) should answer all of your questions.

If you are interested in purchasing a camera system, send an e-mail with your first and last name, address, and the number and types of cameras you would like to purchase to Paula Stringfellow at paulaps@mac.com, with a copy to chair@rockridgencpc.com. Technical questions not answered on the website may be addressed to Alex Zaliauskas, Senior Product Manager for Logitech, at logitechforcommunities@gmail.com.

While you are at the NCPC website, check out the dropdown menus for crime prevention tips and resources. The March meeting will be held at the Rockridge Library, Thursday, March 8, 7 p.m.

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The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (GRNCPC) meets the second Thursday of the month at the Rockridge Branch Library, College and Manila Avenues, Oakland.

# WhistleStop Disbands; Passes Funds to NCPC

At the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council's (GRNCPC) February meeting, the WhistleStop Association of Rockridge closed out its books and turned over the balance of its funds to the NCPC. WhistleStop founders Margaret Wahlberg and Christine Acker presented the NCPC with a check for $440 to help in the ongoing effort to fight crime in Rockridge.



**WhistleStop passes its remaining funds to NCPC boardmembers. Karen Ivy, left, and Barbara Minton, NCPC; Margaret Wahlburg and Christine Acker, WhistleStop; Frank Castro and Denise Jorgensen, NCPC.** /D. Kinkead

WhistleStop, a nonprofit citizens' action group, was patterned after one at the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference in Chicago (http://www.hydepark.org/programs/whistlestop.html). The Rockridge program was organized in 1992 in the midst of a particularly bad crime spree that followed the Oakland Hills fire.

Together with the Oakland Police Department, WhistleStop sought to raise community awareness and vigilance by providing residents a practical way to get help in an emergency. The WhistleStop philosophy was simply to blow a whistle when help was needed, and when a whistle was heard to respond with the needed help by calling the police.

In the past 20 years, over 1,000 whistles were sold to Rockridge residents at selected stores on College Avenue and at street fairs. In addition, WhistleStop contributed to crime-fighting causes in Rockridge and in the city of Oakland at large by helping to purchase a bloodhound "Buddy" for the OPD, and by joining with the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), the Rockridge District Association (RDA) and the NCPC to buy bicycles for the OPD College Avenue patrol officers.

As time passed and high-tech methods of fighting crime became more widely used, WhistleStop decided to dissolve the organization and give its funds to the NCPC, the perfect organization to continue the cause for which the money was originally intended—that of fighting crime.

The NCPC is actively involved with community outreach and awareness. Working with the Oakland Police Department, the NCPC helps identify trouble spots in our neighborhood and helps Rockridge residents prevent crime.

Learn more about the Greater Rockridge NCPC: Visit the organization's website at rockridgencpc.com and plan to attend the next meeting at the Rockridge Library, Thursday, March 8, 7 p.m.



# Springtime is the Perfect Time...

## To Become a Rockridge News Block Captain

Although it's not officially spring, we can definitely feel spring in the air. And what better time to become a block captain than now, when you can enjoy the fresh air while you stroll down the block dropping off the Rockridge News to friends and neighbors?

We have two easy blocks to cover, if you live in their vicinity. Thanks to Amy Vernetti and Leah & Ben Hoskin who have covered these routes until just recently and welcome to new Block Captain Patty Siri Tarino who will deliver Route #5K along Chabot.

Please call or email if you are interested in becoming a Block Captain and mention the route number: smontauk@gmail.com or 510/547-3855

| Route No. | Description |
|---|---|
| 07G | 5800-6145 blocks of Broadway, east side only. |
| 16A | Both sides of Miles between Cavour and Clifton. |

# Eyes on Rockridge

## She wins title of 'Oakland historian' in a walk

*by Judith Doner Berne*

Annalee Allen's name may sound familiar.

That's partly because the long-time Rockridge resident writes a weekly column on topics covering local landmarks, tours and history for the Oakland Tribune.

She also manages the city of Oakland's Walking Tours Program and has authored three books dealing with Oakland history.

But you might not know that her love of old buildings was honed at an early age and by local architecture.

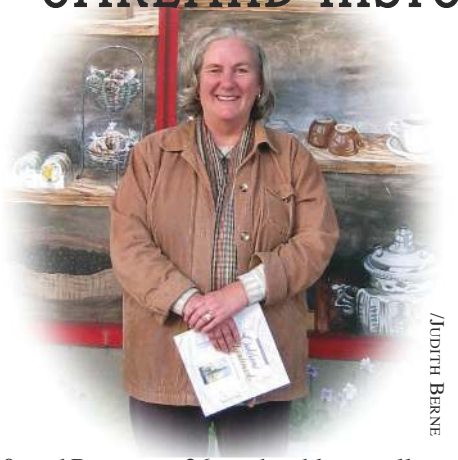
"It was so inspiring," she says, of looking out her bedroom window at the historic Claremont Hotel as she was growing up in Berkeley.

"I knew who Julia Morgan was as a young girl," she says, because her grandmother lived in the Morgan-designed Berkeley City Club.

She also credits her Berkeley High School Latin teacher with introducing her to Roman architecture. She went on to major in art history, with a focus on architecture, at UCLA.

When she and her attorney husband, Jim, who were high school sweethearts, moved back to the Bay area, they settled "briefly in Moraga. It was just a little too homogeneous for me, I'm just saying. Fortunately, an opportunity came up and we moved to Rockridge in 1978."

"I wanted there to be sidewalks. I wanted our children – Conor, now 33, Brian, now 30, and Ross, now 26 – to be able to walk to College (Avenue)" as she had done growing up in the Elmwood/Claremont neighborhood.



/Judith Berne

**It's hard to imagine Oakland's walking tour coordinator, Rockridge resident Annalee Allen, at a standstill. But here she is, in front of the mural painted on Hudson Bay Café, holding her newest book, "Oakland Landmarks." It honors the city's 160th birthday and is illustrated by watercolorist Heidi Wyckoff.**

They bought their house on Lawton which she describes as "the spookiest Halloween street in Oakland."

Meantime, she began volunteering for the boys' local schools (Chabot and Claremont Middle School) and joined the Oakland Heritage Alliance where she served as president.

Allen realized that her interest in local history paralleled what was happening throughout the country, fueled by the nation's 1976 bicentennial celebrations.

College programs in historical preservation were popping up, but "I couldn't find a program in this area." She settled for a certificate in arts administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

As her children grew, "I'm getting more and more involved in Oakland politics." Indeed, after working for the election of Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris, who served from 1991-1999, she was rewarded with an appointment to the city's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board.

"That was a huge breakthrough" because no one from the Oakland Heritage Alliance had ever been appointed to that board, Allen says.

At the same time, she was hired to coordinate the Firestorm Tile Mural Project at the Rockridge BART, to honor those who had died and suffered in the 1991 fires that engulfed the Berkeley and Oakland hillsides.

"Although the fire didn't come on our side of Broadway, everyone was affected," she says.

"My job for a year (1992-93) was to carry the tiles in my car, to set up tile workshops, to catalogue them until the wall went up."

Allen has been at the helm of walking tours of the city for 16 years. "I transitioned

Oakland Historian, page 14

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# Rockridge Resident Esther McFeely is 101

THE ROCKRIDGE MUSE

by Ortrun Niesar

There was a wonderful neighborhood birthday party on Lawton in late January. The invitation was written in chalk on the sidewalk for all who wished to take advantage of it. Esther McFeely, one of Rockridge's longest living residents, was celebrating her 101st birthday.

Esther was born in 1911 in San Francisco, barely missing the Great Earthquake of 1906. Her daughter Suzy Ruhe tells me that her Mom moved into her present home on Lawton in 1920, at the age of 9, when Rockridge was barely Rockridge and the neighborhood below College was called Vernon Park. In 1941, she married Fred Paul McFeely, the boy who lived a few doors down on Shafter. She brought him home, too, and together they raised two children, Suzy McFeely Ruhe and Jim McFeely. The kids left the nest early on, but Esther never felt the need to budge from her Rockridge home. It's been 92 years so far, and here she will stay as long as she can, thanks to the loving care of her son and daughter.



Esther McFeely and Baby the Dog, her constant companion.

## A Family Tale

Esther looks wonderful, always with a big smile on her face. Her memory may not be as good as it used to be, but she still recalls the days when.... For us, Esther is a real treasure and a living link to the California's gold and silver mining days. Her grandmother, from County Mayo, Ireland, landed in Long Island, New York, then trekked west in a Calistoga wagon to become the "mail-order bride" of a wealthy Nevada City saloon keeper named Kistle. Alas, it seems to have been a sham: the saloon keeper wasn't as rich and handsome as he had made out to be.

Esther's mother was born in 1879. She and her two sisters, beauties all, became excellent dress makers under their mother's tutelage. When the time was right, the ladies moved to San Francisco, setting up a prosperous high fashion dress-making business. In the aftermath of the 1906 Earthquake, the sisters were seen rolling their mannequins loaded with dresses, hats, feathers and laces down Van Ness Avenue to escape the ensuing fire. After this adventure, the sisters sought safer ground in the East Bay. Esther's family eventually settled permanently in Oakland.

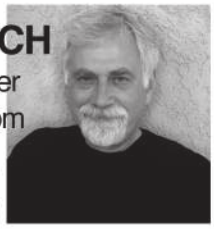
## Home Sweet Home

Esther's classic bungalow home was built in 1913. You all know it for its strong resemblance to the famous Rockridge coffee mug design. Her mom and dad bought the home from a contractor who built the Methodist church on Broadway and 25th, now the YMCA. It is therefore no surprise that sections of stained glass found their way into cabinet doors, and the massive stone fireplace seems a little out of place. A portable box pedal organ Esther's grandmother brought west sits in a corner of the living room. Suzy Ruhe has wonderful memories of that old instrument being rolled out onto the front porch each Christmas for neighborhood caroling while the ladies handed out homemade popcorn balls. Suzy also remembers the ice man singing as he went up and down Lawton delivering chunks of ice, leaving a trail of water on the pavement. And then there was the rag man, pushing his hand cart down the middle of the street, chanting, "Rags, bottles, sacks!"

Esther was always a strong community member, never took things for granted. For years she had folks gather at her home to bundle and distribute the Rockridge

Esther McFeely, page 14

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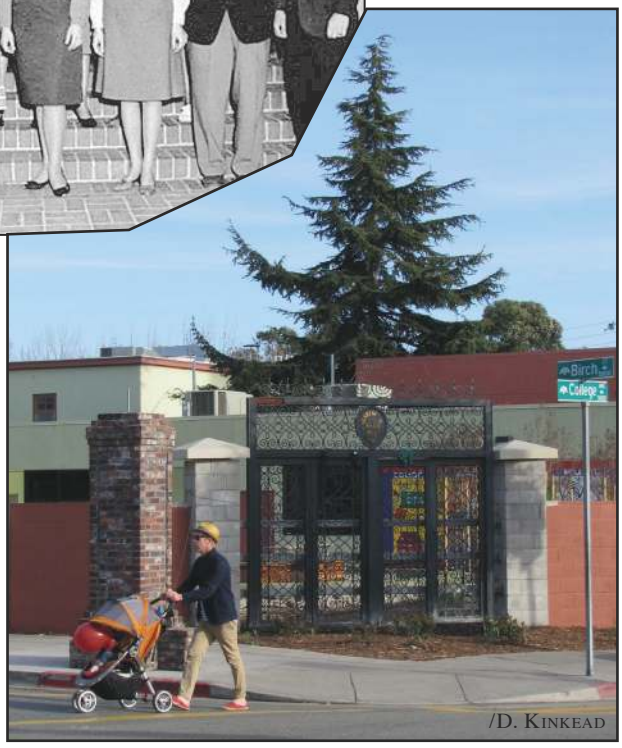


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# Then and Now: Claremont MS Entry Gate Returned to a Place of Prominence



**The long-running Claremont Middle School entry gate restoration project, below, sponsored by the Claremont Dad's Club is nearing completion. Finish work for the pillars and a little more landscaping remain.**




/D. Kinkead

When RCPC board member Annette Floystrup graduated from Claremont Junior High School, as it was known in 1964, teaching staff stood for a group photo in front of what was then the gated main entrance to the school building. That gate, found on the school grounds several years ago, has been refurbished and installed on the corner of College Avenue and Birch Court, close to its original location.

/Photo, scanned from Claremont Knights yearbook, courtesy of Annette Floystrup


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PC World Magazine

"Based on evaluations of output from the HP Photosmart C5180 printer, inks from third-party challenger Cartridge World earned scores identical to those awarded to HP's own ink, including an overall rating of Good." PC World Magazine Article, 2008.

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| 2/10/12 | 4 | 3 | 71 Buckeye Avenue | $819,000 | $819,000 | 9 | $851,000 |
| 2/22/12 | 5 | 4.5 | 123 Wilding Lane | $1,168,000 | $999,900 | 176 | $950,000 |
| 2/23/12 | 2 | 1 | 321 Hudson Street | $650,000 | $650,000 | 55 | $628,500 |
| 2/23/12 | 5 | 5 | 115 Alpine Terrace | $4,250,000 | $3,500,000 | 249 | $3,000,000 |

*Average original list price to sales price is currently 79% vs 100% last year · Median sales price is currently $851,000 vs $629,000 last year · There is currently a 4 month supply of inventory*

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# Claremont Begins Principal Search

from page 1

At a meeting March 8, the community will vote on who will represent Claremont on the Principal Recommendation Committee (PRC) to consist of four parents, three teachers, two staff members, one retired administrator and one community representative. This committee will help interview all eligible candidates, then make final recommendations to Superintendent Tony Smith.

Be a part of this important process. Those elected to participate on the committee will be committing to 4-6 preparatory and follow-up committee meetings and one full day (usually a Saturday) interviewing finalists. *— Shona Armstrong*

More information about Board Policy 4500 is available online at: (http://bextest.ousd.k12.ca.us/attachments/17165.pdf)

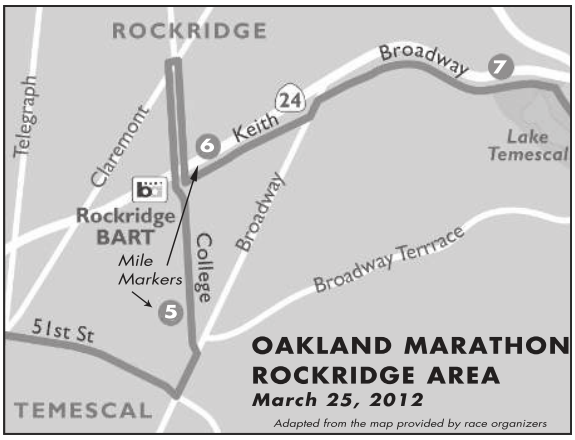
# The Marathon Runs Through Rockridge

The Oakland Running Festival returns for year three Sunday, March 25. First held in 2010, the event publicizes Oakland, but also affects homes and businesses along the course.

Race organizers supplied the following link to the race map: www.oaklandmarathon.com/Assets/Oakland+Marathon/2012AllRaces.pdf.

The timeline below and the map at right show when runners will pass through Rockridge at indicated mileage points shown as numbers in circles: Find a street-by-street listing of the route at this race-provided site: www.oaklandmarathon.com.

| Mile | First Runner | Last Runner |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | 7:55 a.m. | 8:58 a.m. |
| 6 | 8:00 a.m. | 9:00 a.m. |
| 7 | 8:05 a.m. | 9:32 a.m. |




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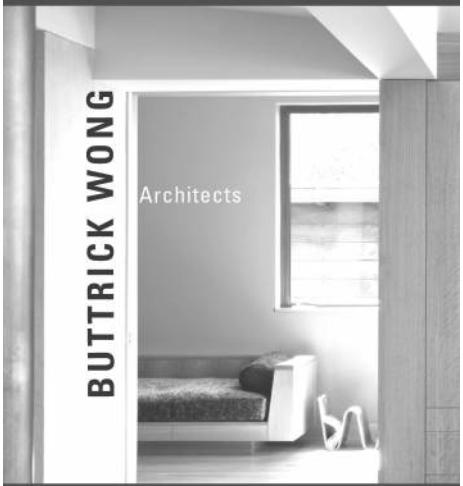
Available now:
3BD 1.5BA Two story Craftsman @ 5678 Ocean View, a block from College Ave in Chabot District $950K
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# BRT-AC Transit

from page 1

routes, likely shifting heavier traffic to adjacent streets. The central transitway would leave one lane of traffic on either side of Telegraph and remove a number of parking spaces in commercial districts along the route.

AC Transit says the dedicated transitways would increase speed and reduce travel time, making BRT attractively competitive with automobile use. The agency says the transitway stations would provide seamless, covered connections, easing ticket purchase and boarding, and the bus entry doors would be level with station platforms, also improving boarding time. Also, the buses would have electronic control of traffic signals giving them more consistent right-of-way over other traffic.

Over the years, there have been many public meetings and hearings on the proposal. The transit agency has now released a final environmental impact statement and is hosting a series of meetings for public review and comment on the BRT plan.

A rewarding Google search on "BRT" or "AC Transit BRT" returns a wealth of topical articles. Three sites below are examples, offered for their information, not their points of view. If you are unable to attend any of the public meetings, you may still comment on the environmental report through March 19.

http://www.actransit.org/planning-focus/your-guide-to-bus-rapid-transit/brt-in-the-east-bay/

http://urbanhabitat.org/node/1468

http://www.eastbayexpress.com/ebx/whats-left-of-brt/Content?oid=2414177

The above is offered as a broad overview of AC Transit's BRT proposal, and of some concerns expressed by the public. It is intended only as an introduction to the topic in advance of the scheduled meetings, not as an endorsement of any position. —Ed.

# RCPC Agendas

from page 2

to see if, in retrospect, you find any that appeal to you. In the spirit of community and communication, you very well may. If you find none, or few, that appeal, e-mail info@rockridge.org with your suggestions. A boardmember will be happy to discuss a program with you. (You can also send a letter to RCPC, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611.)

Meanwhile, read the monthly Town Hall meeting agenda, always on the front page of The Rockridge News. Meetings are held in the upstairs meeting room of the Rockridge Branch Library, starting at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, except August and December.

Your attendance and participation will help keep Rockridge vibrant.

## Retrospective: RCPC Town Hall Topics, 2011

**January 2011**

- Community-proposed alternatives for the Rockridge/Safeway Shopping Center
- RCPC Committees Annual Community Report

**February 2011**

- City Attorney John Russo Discusses Gang Injunctions and the City Budget.
- A Look at Urban Wildlife and the Birds and the Bees, with City of Oakland Naturalist Stephanie Benavidez.
- Mike Lynes, Audubon Society: Birds in Rockridge.

**March 2011**

- Primer on General Plan and Zoning, Land Use Attorney Stuart Flashman
- Forum: RCPC Board Candidates for April 2011 Election

**April 2011**

- Board Elections: RCPC and FORL hold elections for board candidates. Vote and show your support for the work of these groups.
- Update and Discussion of BART Plaza Project: RCPC board-member Ann Winterman chairs a presentation and discussion of the BART Plaza project.

**May 2011**

- Board Elections: RCPC holds election for board candidates. Show your support for your neighborhood organization.
- Safeway Update: Updates on the Rockridge Shopping Center and College Avenue Safeway Projects.

**June 2011**

- Primer, General Plan and Zoning Continued. The second of a series of discussions of basic elements of land use and planning presented by Land Use Attorney Stuart Flashman.

**July 2011**

- Joint Meeting: RCPC and NCPC discuss crime and crime prevention in Oakland and Rockridge.
- Jane Brunner's aide and an OPD representative discuss budget impacts.

**August:** No Town Hall Meeting

**September**

- PANEL Presentation: Maximizing Value in Your Kitchen Remodel (Kitchen Tour)

**October 2011**

- Oakland School Board President Jody London reports on the school district's strategic planning process, entitled "Thriving Students."

**November 2011**

- Oakland Walk Tours: Annalee Allen, coordinator of the Oakland Tours Program, discusses historical Oakland

**December 2011:** No Town Hall Meeting








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# Support Oakland Tech's 'This Is It!' Auction

*by Ronnie Spitzer, Tech parent*

Wonderful food, friendship, entertainment and the chance to bid on an enticing array of auction items await you at "This is It!," Oakland Technical High School's 2012 Auction.

Funds raised by the Auction provide necessary support to all areas of the school and its students, including classroom needs, athletics, music, lab supplies, technology and more. This year, we hope to raise over $52,000, and surpass last year's total. Oakland Tech's Academic Performance Index (API) scores have steadily increased in recent years, and Oakland Tech now has the highest API score of the comprehensive high schools in Oakland Unified.

Neighborhoods throughout the city are invited to the party, and are welcome to participate in Tech's first online auction this March.

The event is Saturday, March 24, between 6:00-10:30 p.m., at the Uptown Body and Fender building at 401 26th Street in Oakland. Tickets are $25 per person until February 29, and $35 afterwards. For more information or to donate an item, contact auction@oaklandtech.com, or visit: www.oaklandtech.com/ptsa/auction-2012/

# *Energy Efficiency*

**from page 1**

insulation, windows, or furnace you have been putting off.

This is a statewide program that is making our communities more sustainable and creating green jobs with local contractors.

Edie Irons, an outreach coordinator for the program, will explain how it works and answer your questions.

Peralta Elementary, Chabot Elementary, Hillcrest Elementary, Claremont Middle, and other neighborhood schools can all get money when local homeowners do upgrades. Learn more at the RCPC Town Hall meeting, or at www.energizefortheprize.org.



# April Event: Claremont Pancake Fundraiser

## Third Annual Pancake Breakfast to Support Claremont Middle School — April 21, Rockridge Masonic Hall

The Oakland-Durant-Rockridge Masonic Lodge #188, Claremont Middle School PTA Dad's Club, and the Rockridge District Association (RDA) are jointly hosting the Third Annual Community Pancake Breakfast at the Rockridge Masonic Hall, 5449 College Avenue, Saturday, April 21. Proceeds from the breakfast support programs focusing on music, fine arts and the state-of-the-art computer lab at Claremont Middle School, a part of the College Avenue community since 1913.

The breakfast menu will again include pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, fruit, coffee and tea. Tickets for the event are $10 (with a small transaction fee added when purchased online): go to the Claremont website: www.claremontms.org. The Pancake Breakfast link (about the middle of the page) will take you to the website where you can buy tickets..



**Get 'em while they're hot! A volunteer Mason cooks up a stack of flapjacks for last year's Claremont Pancake Breakfast. The annual funraising event is set for April 21. Plan now to attend.**

# City of Oakland Uses App – SeeClickFix – to Keep on Top of Public Works Needs and Track Complaints

The city of Oakland is offering a new tool that streamlines the process of reporting a problem. SeeClickFix is an online and mobile tool that helps residents report and track non-emergency problems, such as graffiti, illegal dumping or potholes. With apps for iPhone, Android and BlackBerry, and a Web interface that is simple and intuitive, users can submit a report with a photo, track requests and monitor local activity.

The information above is from the Oakland city website. Visit the site for more information about this handy and interesting tool: http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PWA/index.htm.

Find SeeClickFix itself on the web at: http://seeclickfix.com/how_seeclickfix_works

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### Hello Gorgeous!

Take a stroll in March along the Avenue and stop in. $100/cut & color with Celeste. 510/658-3658. 5336 College Ave.

### Pregnancy Support Group

Intimate group provides a safe place to share experiences and get support during this transformative time. For women in all stages of pregnancy. 6-week commitment; Tuesday mornings. Deena Solwren, LCSW. 510/364-2864. www.deenasolwren.com

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## Oakland Historian

**from page 8**

from being a 100 percent community volunteer," she says. "The pay was secondary to me. I'm passionate about what I do."

She may need that passion. Her position, which looked like it would be terminated as part of the recent city layoffs, is now tentatively assured through June. "After that, it is a question mark," she says.

"As coordinator of the walking tours program, I recruit and train volunteers to lead the tours," Allen says. "I also end up leading quite a few of the tours myself – especially the African-American-themed tour.

"She's the go-to person in Oakland if anyone wants to know the history of a building or an event," says Brooke Levin, a fellow Rockridge resident who first met Allen at a Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) meeting in 1987.

"Annalee has a passion for the significance of our history and our past to our future," says Levin, now Oakland's assistant director of public works. "It causes her to be driven to preserve the rich fabric of our community."

Allen acknowledges being so busy trumpeting local history that "I never documented my own house," a typical two-story Rockridge bungalow probably built in 1912.

"I love my street. I love my neighbors," she says.

This admiration goes both ways, according to Ron Kriss, principal Realtor with Lawton Associates Realty, who has owned two different houses on Allen's street.

"Not only is she a good neighbor," Kriss says, "but she's taken such care of so many assets of the city with her institutional knowledge of its architecture, businesses and history."

"Walk, walk, walk, that is the mantra of Rockridge, isn't it?" Allen says. "I feel so lucky to live here."

Judy Berne is a former writer, columnist and editor for local newspapers in metro Detroit. Since moving here in 2010, she is learning about Rockridge through its residents. You can email her at judyberne@att.net.

## Esther McFeely

**from page 9**

News. She sang in the College Avenue Presbyterian Church for many years and served on numerous school committees. She also started a family tradition of teaching English (ESL) to immigrants. First it was to Chinese workers sitting in rail cars on the tracks in West Oakland, then to the children of Mexican laborers attending local schools. During WW II, her husband served as block black-out warden and also tended a victory garden. Everyone did what they could to keep us all safe in those days.

Happy Birthday, Esther McFeely!

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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

## Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

Residents and business members of NCPC's 12Y and 13X areas can voice their concerns about crime and public safety. 2nd Thursday each month, 7pm. Rockridge Library, upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Ave. Confirm mtg. date at www.rockridgencpc.com or chair@rockridgencpc.com.

## Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

**FOR CHILDREN**

- **Pre-School Story Time:** (ages 2 to 5) Every Thurs, 10:30am.
- **Toddler Story Time**: (up to age 2) Every Thurs, 10:30am, upstairs.
- **Family Story Time:** Stories/songs/rhymes (to age 5). Every Saturday, 10:30am.

**FOR TEENS**

- **Teen Advisory Board**: (ages 14-18) Advise the library how to better serve teens. Get community service credit for school. **Snacks provided**. 1st Saturday each month, 1 to 2pm. **More info: Susy, 597- 5017**.
- **Rockridge Ninjas Anime Club:** Watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation). Second Tues. each month (3/13), 5 to 6:30pm.
- **Youth Speaks Writing & Performance Workshops**: (**ages 13 to 19**). Taught by experienced writers **Dyanna Loeb** and **Milani Pelley**. Free 10-week on-going series covers everything from fiction to storytelling to desktop publishing, improvisation, poetry, and performance. Thursdays through 3/22, 4 to 5:30pm.

**FOR ADULTS**

- **Writers Support/Critique Group**: All writers welcome. Bring 17 copies of up to 5 pgs. (double-spaced, MS margins) of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (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 (2/7, 3/6), 5 to 7pm (advance sign-up starts 4:45pm at the adult reference desk). Note: volunteer lawyer leaves before 7pm if no more people present.

**ART EXHIBITS** (call to confirm)

**Gallery**:

- Mar. and Apr.: **Rick Nelson**; Photography; Color photos of pottery and sculpture.

**Lobby Display Case:**

- Mar: **Women's Studies Month** display; Women, Wealth and Economic Justice.
- Apr: **Kim Anderson**; Adornment and originally crafted jewelry.

**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 branch libraries closed Sat. 3/31.**
**Note: due to possible shut-downs, confirm all dates.**

## Diesel Book/Poetry Readings, Events

**All events are FREE and open to the public.**

- Tues, 3/6, 7pm. **Mikey Weinstein**: *No Snowflake in an Avalanche; The Military Religious Freedom Foundation, its Battle to Defend the Constitution, and One Family's Courageous War Against Religious Extremism in High Places.*
- Mon, 3/12, 7:30pm. **Amnesty International Meeting** (**2nd Mon. each month**): All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Tues, 3/13, 7pm. **Jonathan Evison**: *West of Here.* Joined in discussion by **Joshua Mohr**.
- Fri, 3/16, 7pm. Publication Party for **Aimee Phan**: *The Reeducation of Cherry Truong*.
- Sun, 3/18, 11am. **Stephen Dau**: *The Book of Jonas*.
- Sun, 3/18, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Sarah Menefee** and **giovanni singleton**.
- Thurs, 4/5, 7pm. Local author and comedian **Moshe Kasher**: *Kasher in the Rye; The True Tale of a White Boy from Oakland Who Became a Drug Addict, Criminal, Mental Patient, and Then Turned 16*.

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

## Chabot Elementary Spring Auction

**"Casino Royale,"** Saturday, March 10, starting 5:30pm, at the Scottish Rite Temple 1547 Lakeside Drive. Also an on-line auction through Thursday, 3/8. Info at www.chabotelementary.org (click on the Casino Royale logo). **See story and details p.4.**

## Oakland Tech Fundraising Auction

**"This is It!"** Great food and entertainment and a chance to bid on an array of fabulous items. Also on-line auction. Proceeds provide crucial support for school programs. Saturday, March 24, from 6 to 10:30pm. Uptown Body and Fender, 401 26th Street. More info at www.oaklandtech.com/ptsa/auction-2012/. **See story and details, p. 13.**

## Jazz at the Chimes

**Le Jazz Hot**, the quartet of the Hot Club of San Francisco. Sunday, 3/18, 2pm, followed by artist's reception and refreshments. Tickets: $15 ($10 srs.60+ and students) for concert and reception.. Cash only at the door starting at 12:30pm. A concert series featuring Bay Area jazz musicians in a beautiful Julia Morgan venue. Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. Wheelchair accessible. **Free parking**. More info at 654-0123 or chimesjazz@gmail.com.

## First and Third Fridays: Square Dance in North Oakland

- **First Friday:** Music by **The Squirrelly String Band**. Calling by **Jordan Ruyle,** 8-10pm.
- **Third Friday:** (Rotating cast of bands and callers): Mar 16. Music by the **Black Crown Stringband**, calling by **Jordan Ruyle,** 8-10pm.

**All levels welcome**; all dances taught on the spot. $5-10 sliding scale donation. The Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. Info: http://squirrellystringband.com.

## Wisteria Ways House Concert Series

**Ma Muse** and **Walter Strauss:** Sweet duet harmony and world-wide guitar. Sunday, Mar 18, 3pm; doors open at 2:30 (inside venue; not wheelchair accessible). Hear artists at http://www.mamuse.org/ and http://www.walterstrauss.com/ $15-20 donation for musicians (cash only at the door). 383 61st Street. For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

## Temescal Farmers' Market

**Open Sundays, 9am to 1pm (all year)**. Locally grown fruits and vegetables; fresh ranch eggs; home-made bakery items; fresh cut flowers; unique prepared foods, fresh locally caught fish, handcrafts and more. Sample the goods; meet the grower; learn about unique food varieties and cooking tips; and listen to live music. **Bring your own reusable bags**. 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Telegraph) at DMV parking lot. More info about Certified Farmers' Markets at www.urbanvillageonline.com.

## North Oakland Senior Center

**Programs include**: Arts/crafts; health insurance counseling; dancing and exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's Caregivers support groups, computer classes and more. Annual $12 membership entitles seniors 55 and older to get discounts on activities and trips.

- **AARP sponsored FREE tax assistance through Apr 11**. Schedule apt. at reception desk: 597-5085.

Open Mon. – Fri., 9am to 3pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Subscribe to "The North Oakland Senior Times" for full schedule of classes/events, lunch menus, and volunteer opportunities. Info: 597-5085.

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