THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
Remember: No Newsletter in August.
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12

A 62,000 sq.ft. self-contained shopping center with a 50,000 sq. ft. second-floor Safeway "Lifestyle" store and 12,000 sq. ft. of "small shop" street-level storefronts on College at Claremont. – See Land Use Committee report, page 3.

July 12, 2012 RCPC Meeting : Town Hall AGENDA Note New Meeting Date

College Avenue Safeway Project Controversy Comes to a Head

Planning Commission to Consider Proposal July 25

After literally years of discussion, debate, and argument, Safeway's proposal to more than double the size of its store at College and Claremont avenues and convert it into a self-contained shopping center is headed for a showdown at the Planning Commission later this month. The city plans to release the project's Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) shortly after July 4, and it is tentatively scheduled to come before the Planning Commission at its July 25 meeting (6 p.m. start time). The commission will consider whether to accept and certify the FEIR as adequate and whether to approve Safeway's proposal, or, possibly, some other alternative.

The July Town Hall Meeting – Thursday, July 12; ***note changed date*** – will feature discussion of the FEIR by Stuart Flashman, the chair of RCPC's land use committee, and possibly by Michael Graf, the attorney recently retained by RCPC to advise it on this important issue.

There will also be representatives from Friends and Neighbors of College Avenue (FANS) to discuss alternatives to the Safeway proposal, as well as an explanation of how residents can be most effective in voicing their opinions.

RCPC Town Hall Meeting: Thursday, July 12 | 7:30-9 p.m. Rockridge Branch Library 5366 College at Manila

A Long Tme Coming: BART Plaza Takes Shape in Builders' Hands



Bill Castellon directs placement of 12 tons of plaza boulders. /Bob Franklin

by Bob Franklin, manager of customer access, BART

The Rockridge BART Plaza renovation project broke ground May 20, 10 years after its initial envisioning by the group UnderBART, sponsored by RCPC.

Golden Bay Construction, the Hayward company awarded the public contract from BART, will take about two months to complete the project that replaces the mound of ivy near the base of the station's escalator.

The wave bike racks adjacent to the former planter area were relocated to the west of the plaza's down escalators. All the ivy in the planter was removed, as was the large Black Acacia tree that leaned over Keith Avenue. The Oakland Zoo came and picked up 3 truckloads of branches from the acacia tree for about a week's worth of food for the elephants at the zoo.

About 30 percent of the planter was removed to open up the plaza. An arborist on-site provided input to protect the roots of the three redwood trees. The remaining planter had to be covered with mulch and

BART Plaza, page 4

Early Plaza Planning Laid the Groundwork

by Teresa Drenick, former RCPC Planning Committee member and UnderBART chair

Last year, Bob Franklin told me that plans were afoot for the construction of the BART Plaza. I immediately dusted off and delivered a huge file created over 10 years ago when I chaired what was then called the UnderBART committee.

Stuffed full of photos, papers, drawings, phone lists and meeting agendas, my old file documents the history of an effort to enhance the space under the Rockridge BART station. Over a decade ago, our committee formed as an extension of the RCPC and our first public meeting at

Early Plans Take Root, page 4

Councilmember Brunner Hosts Final Picnic

Please join City Councilmember Jane Brunner for her final District One Community Picnic
BBQ and Drinks Provided!
Please Bring Your Favorite Dish to Share!
Sunday, July 15; Noon to 4 p.m.
North Temescal Picnic Site, Lake Temescal,
Need More Information? *Give our office a call at 510/238-7001. The picnic site is located at 6500 Broadway next to the Highway 24/13 interchange on Lake Temescal's north shore. Park free on Broadway or in the Parking lot for $5.*
Do you need a ride? Call 510-238-7014

Crime in Rockridge

'Rockridge BART Lowest in Crime of All Eight Oakland Stations' — Lt. Ed Alvarez, BART PD Area Cmdr

The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) hosts monthly meetings to discuss and review area crime trends with Oakland Police Problem Solving Officers (PSO), and other law enforcement agencies. At a recent meeting, BART Police Area Commander Lt. Ed Alvarez, pictured at right, discussed crime and crime prevention at the BART station. The Rockridge News later interviewed Lt. Alvarez to make his remarks available to the Rockridge community at large. **— *Editor***



/D. Kinkead

■ How long have you been with the BART Police Department?

I have worked at the department for 14 years. I started at the department's entry level, and attended the Oakland Police Department training academy. Many BART officers have trained at the OPD academies and, overall, this leads to good relations with OPD, since the BART officers maintain their relationships with academy classmates. We also have lateral transfers of OPD officers coming to BART's department who maintain their ties to OPD. Two of our executive command staff – deputy chiefs – were captains with OPD. Our ties to Oakland police are pretty strong.

■ Are there different emphases in policing issues for the two agencies?

Well, we are both involved in law enforcement, of course. Like OPD, we are also involved in Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) meetings and community policing activities. The uniqueness of the BART police is our work in a transit environment. With the crowds coming and going, we have more people contact on a day-to-day basis than city officers. It's the nature of the environment. Also, any crimes or law enforcement issues in BART jurisdictions are committed on our turf: The stations and trains. We know the station layouts, the best exit and entry points, and hazardous areas. Plus, we control the trains. We have a direct link to hold a train when a criminal suspect may be on it.

■ How do you communicate with others at your command level about problems at the stations?

There are five area commanders; I am one of them. The area commanders meet weekly with the deputy chiefs and the Chief to discuss what is going on throughout

BART Safety, page 12



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Also 8/14, 9/4 and 9/8.
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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RCPC Land Use Committee

This month, the RCPC Land Use Committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the Rockridge Branch Library, Upstairs Meeting Room, 7:30 p.m. This month's meeting: Wednesday, July 18. *(Note date change.)* *Contact Stu Flashman (652-5373 or stuflash@aol.com) to confirm meeting location and to get a copy of the agenda. Land use committee meetings are generally open to the public.*

Safeway Final EIR Release Date: July 6; RCPC Land Use Committee Meeting: July 18; Planning Commission Public Hearing: July 25.

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair

■ **Meeting Agenda:**

The main topic on the agenda will be preparing for the Planning Commission hearing on the College Avenue Safeway project. (See below.) Other agenda items (including update on the Rockridge Shopping Center Project) as time permits. Please contact Stu Flashman (652-5373 or stuflash@aol.com) to confirm meeting location and to get a copy of the agenda.

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

This project is a proposal to replace the current 22,500 sq.ft. Safeway store with a 62,000 sq.ft. shopping center, including a 50,000 sq. ft. second-floor Safeway "Lifestyle" store and 12,000 sq. ft. of "small shop" street-level storefronts.

The latest update from Oakland planner Peterson Vollman (pvollman@oaklandnet.com, phone 238-6167), is that the Final EIR, including responses to comments, will be released on or about July 6. The Planning Commission would then consider certification and project approval at its meeting on July 25. (RCPC's request to the Planning Commission to postpone the public hearing until September was ignored.) The July Town Hall meeting (*Special date:* Thursday, July 12) will focus on the project and the adequacy of the Final EIR in preparation for the Planning Commission hearing. (See story, front page.)

■ **Rockridge Bottle Shop 6309 College Ave.**

The application for this on-site/off-site beer and wine sales store was considered by the Planning Commission at its June 27 meeting. No one spoke in support or opposition; the use permit was unanimously approved.

Oakland Bicycle Plan Improves Cycling Safety, Comfort

by Ronnie Spitzer, RCPC Transportation Committee chair

Rockridge possesses one of the highest rates of bicycling in Oakland and some of the city's original bikeways. Benefits of bicycling include improved public health and a lowered carbon footprint. Adding more first class bikeways to this nationally recognized walkable neighborhood with accessible transit services improves everyone's quality of life. And that is just what the Oakland Bicycle Master Plan aims to do.

One plan goal would upgrade existing cycling routes whenever possible. Another would increase the number of bikeways by a whopping 250 percent to total 218 miles. Bikeways are streets with certain levels of bicycle accommodation: bike paths, which provide bicycle travel on a paved right-of-way separated from the street; bike lanes, with striped lanes for the cyclist's use; and bicycle routes with vehicles and bikes sharing the road.

Progress toward a more bike friendly environment can be measured by signage and roadway striping around Rockridge. New signs for over 100 destinations are being installed along Broadway Terrace, the Shafter-Webster

▸ Better Cycling, page 7

RCPC Legal Defense Fund for a Fitting Building

Are you worried that the proposed Safeway project is just too big for the beleaguered two-lane College Avenue? Are you afraid it will overwhelm the neighborhood, threaten nearby small businesses, or worsen already congested traffic flows?

The RCPC board shares your concerns, and suspects the issue may ultimately play out in the courts. This could be expensive.

To plan for this possibility, RCPC established the Rockridge Legal Defense Fund. If Safeway's plans and power concern you, consider sending a check, or using the donate button on the RCPC website. Donations are tax deductible, and all donations are welcome.



The board anticipates that donations will be used to help support the fight for a Safeway store of appropriate size and scale for Rockridge. Funds not fully used for legal fees connected with this project will be retained for future cases in which RCPC may need legal help to uphold meaningful zoning regulations and to maintain and enhance the livability of our mixed-use neighborhood and the pedestrian-oriented shopping options along College Avenue.

In the past, RCPC used legal means to push for a better design for the Dreyer's building, and to help win funds for the community and public schools to mitigate impacts from the Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore project. Similar steps may be necessary to encourage Safeway to listen to community concerns; your help will be critical.

Mail checks to RCPC, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. Online donations may be made at www.rockridge.org. (Tax ID no. 94-3011284)

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DaVita Dialysis to Unveil Renovation Plans

by Diana Thomas, Rockridge resident

Scenic Streets, the local volunteer group renovating the Rockridge-Temescal Gateway, has announced a community meeting to unveil landscaping plans for the DaVita Dialysis facility at 5354 Claremont Avenue at Clifton. The group has been negotiating with the company for over a year to make upgrades to the grounds of the former supermarket that many in the neighborhood regard as an eyesore.

The event will be held Tuesday, July 17 at 7 p.m. at the Colombo Club, 5321 Claremont Avenue, directly opposite the DMV. Representatives from DaVita will present plans for improving the grounds and a timeline for completion of the project. Feedback from the community will be welcomed.

DaVita spokesperson Mollie O'Brien told Scenic Streets members in September the company intended to make improvements to align with the community's own nearby efforts. Since then, neighbors have been looking forward to the change.

"It's a very prominent property" says Rockridge

DaVita Renovates, page 15

BART Plaza

from page 1

all exposed roots had to be kept damp. As a safety guard against damaging any of the redwood tree roots, a large vacuum instead of tractors was used to remove the excess dirt.

Rock placement specialist Bill Castellon, in consultation with landscape architect Greer Alley, installed 12 Sierra Granite boulders weighing a total of 23 tons.

A compass rose has been completed and will be set in the plaza once the concrete work is complete. Designed primarily by Austin Cho with assistance from Cosmin Haims, it is a decorative iron manhole cover-sized art work commemorating the Rockridge community and the lure of travel.

At presstime, project features to complete include the bench that will border the planter, uplighting for the redwood trees, the placemarker "Rockridge" sign behind the boulders, the addition of native grasses to the remaining planter, and finishing the plaza colored concrete work.

BART will also repair the concrete around the London Plane tree by the bus zone on the east side of College Avenue.

Early Plans Take Root

from page 1

the Rockridge Library drew a crowd of more than 50 people. We continued to meet on a monthly basis for several years; committee regulars included many residents and merchants from the neighborhood, including Theresa Nelson, instrumental in founding Frog Park; Sarah Wilson and Peter Wilson, of Market Hall; Jan Christensen Heller of Christensen Heller Gallery; Glen Jarvis, local architect and RCPC boardmember; Mike McDonald, contractor and RCPC member; and Fred Womack and Patty Brunn, owners of Maison d'Etre, among many, many others.

Our efforts led to a mission statement, the creation of beautiful renderings and even a mocked-up plaza during an early "Out and About in Rockridge" street festival.

Over the years we worked on the plan, we met with officials at MTC, BART, CalTrans, and the city of Oakland, each of whom supported the idea. The vision for the area included a plaza space exactly where the current construction is taking place, a community garden on the northwest side of the station, and artistic, colorful lighting of BART's pedestrian breezeway above College.

We took into account comments and suggestions from hundreds of Rockridge residents, and hoped to create a beautiful space that could serve as a community hub for the neighborhood and enhance safety in the area by improving visibility and lighting.

In the end, the dedication and creative work of the committee stalled when we could not find a source to fund the project.

With the new plaza nearly complete, I have had a chance to reflect upon the efforts of our committee over a decade ago and I hope that, at least in some small part, we planted a seed that was finally able to take root and flourish.

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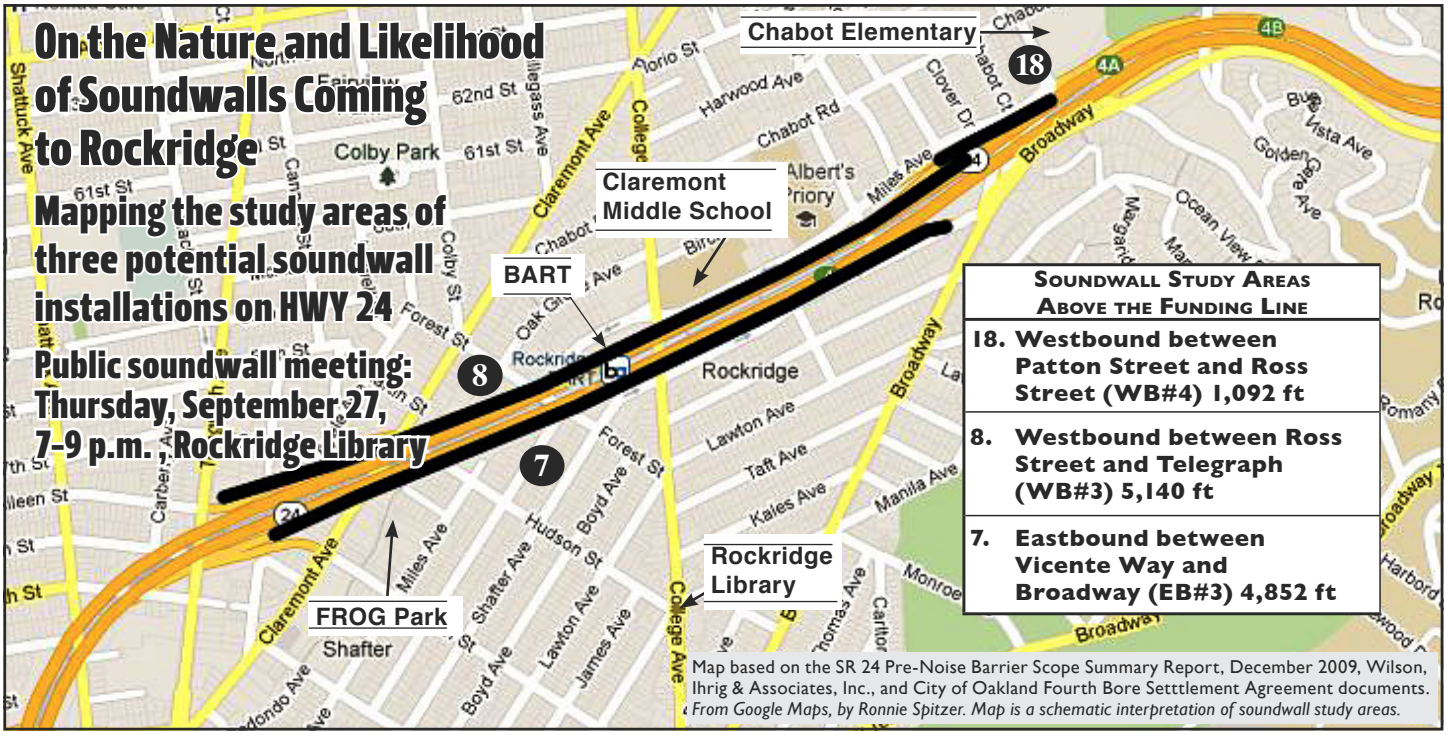
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Terminology: "Pre-NBSSR"= Pre-Noise Barrier Scope Summary Report: A preliminary study to determine if highway sound levels appear high enough to affect nearby residents and to establish the potential need for mitigations.

Soundwalls: Process, Benefits and Drawbacks to be Topics of a September Community Meeting

During 2010 and 2011, the city of Oakland developed a ranked list of projects funded with the $8 million Caltrans paid Oakland in a settlement reached over the adequacy of environmental reports which studied effects on the neighborhood of the Caldecott Tunnel's fourth bore construction.

The final list of 37 projects is available online at http://tinyurl.com/7na7jhj. Twenty-one projects totaling $8 million are "above the line," meaning they receive first consideration for the money. The line was established during several community meetings when participants ranked suggested projects in terms of their importance to community safety and improvement.

Soundwall studies were placed on the city's list due to the higher freeway noise levels anticipated after the Fourth Bore is opened and to current noise levels measured in the December 2009 pre-NBSSR study. The three "above the line" Rockridge soundwall segments are indicated on the above graphic. Note their location in terms of schools, the park, and other public uses. All segments can be found here: http://tinyurl.com/8yc6hoq.

The next step in evaluating support in the neighborhood for soundwalls is through property owners' petitions for the NBSSR studies. Information on the petition process, the overall soundwall approval and construction process, and on properties of soundwalls will be presented at a public meeting scheduled Thursday, September 27, 7-9 p.m. at the Rockridge Library. Your participation is important to the process.

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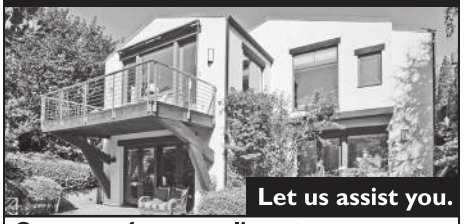
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New Trees in DMV Lot Need Water, Care

by Leonora Sea, DMV Neighbors

Good news for the DMV tree replacement project! The California Conservation Corps finished planting five trees in the DMV east parking lot May 20. These are the trees that the community asked to be planted in the first phase of mitigating last summer's tree removal. Thank you to Mark Campodonica and his Conservation Corps crew; Kevin Scull of DMV; and Steve Batchelder, Consulting Arborist, for making it happen. The new trees are a Valley Oak, Big Leaf Maple, two Cork Oaks, and a Shumard Oak.

Planted in late spring, the trees missed the winter rains; it's important that they be watered this summer until the end of August.

I am coodinating watering and I am looking for as many watering volunteers as possible to cover the summer months. Steve Batchelder strongly recommends that the trees each receive about five gallons of water three times per week. Water is available from the DMV irrigation system, and I have a watering kit which makes it easy to get the water from the system and deliver it correctly to the trees' root balls.

If you can help, please contact me at leonorasea@yahoo.com.

FROG Sets Cleanup Days

by Howard Ferrier, FROG maintenance, and Carol Behr, FROG chair

Our community park relies on the community to keep things clean, safe and fun for our children and ourselves. Join us on the cleanup days noted below.

Also, there is a FROG committee meeting Thursday, July 12, 7:30 p.m. (**Note:** for meeting location and information, contact info@frog.org or call 510/919-0627.)

All are welcome to attend to catch up on ongoing plans to enhance and improve the park.

■ Help us Sunday, August 5, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., as we do general cleanup, weeding and other tasks with the Build On group from Oakland Tech.

■ FROG Fall maintenance day is set for all day Saturday, September 22, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Come help the freshman class of College Preparatory School clean, repair, improve and preserve our garden and playground areas. **Note:** Playgrounds will be closed due to wood sealing and fibar turning.

FROG to Help With New Trees

In collaboration with local neighbors, FROG will be working with the DMV to continue restoration efforts along the creek side.

Rockridge Merchants' Jazz & Wine Stroll



The Rockridge District Association (RDA) welcomes you to the Summer Jazz & Wine Stroll. We are looking forward to another fun-filled evening here on College Avenue. Our spring event was well received, with over 12 musical venues and great shopping and dining.

Come support your local merchants' summer stroll July 13, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., with a little wine, samplings of food and on-street music. Come for the Jazz, come for the Wine, come for the shopping, come for the food and special offers on College Avenue from Alcatraz to Broadway.

Also, mark your calendar: the RDA's big Out and About street festival for the first time ever will be held on Sunday October 7.

Both events are sponsored by the Rockridge District Association.

FORL Funds Make a Difference at Rockridge Branch

by Jennifer James, FORL boardmember

The Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) continues to support the library and provide materials and resources to make our branch a vibrant hub in Rockridge. Recent funded projects include reupholstering several leather chairs in the adult reading section, paying for the library's *New York Times* subscription, and providing support for the children and teen programs, with art supplies, a world map and globe, and new demonstration materials for children's story time. FORL continues to fund the summer intern that runs the popular Children's Summer Reading Program. There is time to get your kids in on the fun. Come introduce yourself to London Robinson, this summer's intern, and keep the joy of reading in your home during the summer.

We have had some changes on our FORL board, losing one valued board member while gaining another. Jane McDermott stepped down as treasurer of FORL to pursue an MFA in writing at San Francisco State. We appreciate her hard work and wish her the best. Her wry humor and sharp mind will be missed.

Sharie Mendrey has joined the board. A lawyer and a full-time mom with two small boys, Sharie is a Rockridge resident and is already making contributions to our FORL projects.

There is a vacancy for a treasurer and a general board seat. For the treasurer role, finance or accounting skills are helpful, but we are primarily looking for someone who has an interest in accounting and wants to support the library. Contact Kathy O'Neal (onealkathryn@gmail.com) or Carol Bieri (cgbieri@gmail.com) to learn more.

Join The Rockridge News Family of Volunteers

Do you live on or near Broadway? The Rockridge News needs a volunteer to deliver papers once a month to the 5800-6145 blocks of Broadway on the east side.

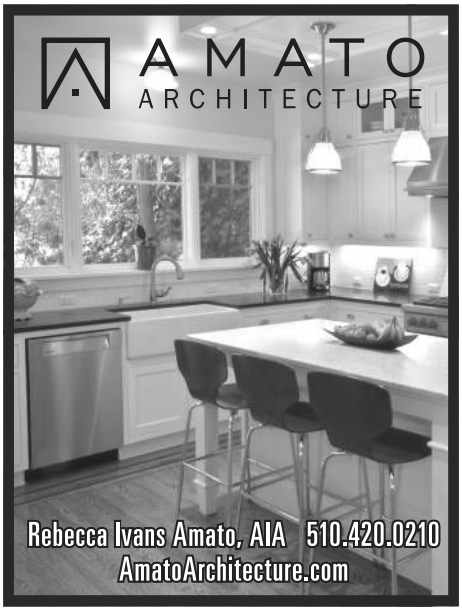
We thank long-time volunteers, Leah and Ben Hoskin, and hope that someone will step forward to take their place.

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Better Cycling

from page 3

bike boulevard, by Lake Temescal and on Chabot Road, the city's original bike route.

New bike lanes are coming to Alcatraz Avenue and Broadway, too. They will be installed on Alcatraz in 2013, funded by a Safe Routes to School grant, following street repaving. Restriping the wide Alcatraz travel lanes to standard widths will not affect any parking spaces and should discourage speeding, which will benefit the two elementary schools nearby.

To add bike lanes to Broadway, the city reduced Broadway to four lanes to better match traffic demand. Traffic engineers call this treatment a "road diet." The lanes, to be installed in 2013, will extend from Broadway Terrace south to 38th Street.

Mitigation funds from the Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore project will be used to stripe bike lanes on Broadway along Highway 24 from Golden Gate Avenue up to the Kay Street freeway overcrossing by Caldecott Field, then down Tunnel Road into Berkeley.

On some Rockridge bikeways, bicyclists must share lanes with motor vehicles. Striped bicycle lanes are not feasible on one of the new bikeways, College Avenue from Alcatraz to Broadway, due to its narrow width. However, it is a popular route for many cyclists visiting businesses and the BART station. Shared lane bicycle markings or "sharrows," white bike outlines with arrows underneath, and signage will mark this new arterial route and alert motor vehicle drivers that the road is shared. Sharrows have been installed on the Shafter-Webster bike boulevard, with Colby Avenue sharrows slated for installation after the street repaving. Other bike boulevards, including Lawton Avenue, Chabot Road, and the Cavour-55th Street route, will be painted in the future.


A sharrow.
/D. Kinkead

The full plan and other cycling program information are online at http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PWA/o/EC/s/BicycleandPedestrianProgram/.

Bikeway improvements are listed at http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PWA/o/EC/s/BicycleandPedestrianProgram/OAK024656.

To get involved with Rockridge transportation issues, attend an RCPC Transportation Committee meeting. Watch for the fall 2012 meeting announcement.

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Eyes on Rockridge

Will You Know When Your House Turns 100?

by Judith Doner Berne

If you live in a Craftsman Bungalow in Rockridge, your house, like mine, may have reached or be approaching its 100th birthday.

That seems like something to celebrate – and maybe a time to find out more about the history of your home.

My daughter, who lives nearby, has been invited to two "Happy 100th Birthday to Our House" parties over the past year, with more looming.

Our house was listed in the real estate offerings as a 1914 Craftsman Bungalow. But if we decide to base a whole party on its centennial, I want to make sure I'm not perpetuating a fraud.

"It's fine to take that as an estimate," says Betty Marvin, the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey maven, who seemingly can put her finger on any building in Oakland. "It can be accurate. It can also be a quick and dirty estimate by the county assessor using the appraisal concept of effective age."

Indeed, neighbors of ours were under the impression that their house was built in 1918. But as we were doing our research, their building permit came up in the year 1913, the same as ours.

"It's very much being a history detective," Marvin says.

If you are intrigued, you'll first want to call up the Oakland Heritage Alliance's website at www.oaklandheritage.org and look under its archival section, "researching your house."


/D. Kinkead

There, you'll find "How Old is My House?," co-authored by William Sturm, now retired from the Oakland History Room, Oakland Public Library, and, of course, Betty Marvin. The three-page pamphlet details the process.

It directs you to both the Oakland History Room (OHR) and the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey (OCHS), where you can look forward to help until you find your footing.

For homes that appear older than about 1910, it suggests starting at the OHR on the second floor of the Main Library which has early tax records.

The day we were there, Librarian Dorothy Lazard walked and talked us congenially and expertly counterclockwise around a room filled with fire insurance maps, block books and city directories.

And, if built after 1910, make an appointment at the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey (510/238-6879), located on the third floor of 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza. "It's prudent to call before dropping in," Marvin cautions.

Marvin, a slim, no-nonsense woman with longish wintry tresses, sets you in motion. Her fellow archivist, Gail Lombardi, keeps you on track. "Betty taught me everything I know," Lombardi says.

Oaklanders looking to authenticate their home's age can be found in that cluttered but organized book- and file-filled corner "all the time – a few a day," Marvin says.

They can also research the builder, first owner and even the succession of owners as well as the permitted improvements (on microfiche at the city's Building Department) made along the way.

The day I was at the OCHS, a woman well along in her own investigation was considering doing her whole block, then presenting it to her neighbors as a Christmas gift.

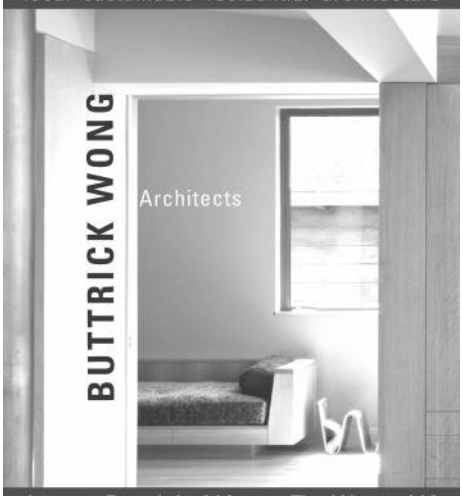
You may find that your street name changed as Oakland grew and changed. Our street, Coronado, was first called either Butter or Butler, depending on the source – and who may have made the typo! I'm leaning toward Butler.

So it's fun to also consult Quentin's Guide to the Streets of Northern Alameda County that tracks the original street names and identifies who or what the street was named for.

Manila Avenue, for example, "remembers

How Old is Your House?, page 11

local sustainable residential architecture



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The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson

Oh My Darling Clementine!

Clementine is an oasis of elegance and fragrance, filled with gorgeous flowers, antiques and unique gifts. Owner Natalie Marvin started working for the notable florist "Impressions" in Orinda, and after they closed in 2005, she worked with private clients until she found the perfect Rockridge location for her shop.

"I've always dreamed of having my own shop," said Natalie, and since she lives in the Rockridge area, she naturally turned to College Avenue to find the right space. She found the storefront at 5322 College Avenue, south of the Rockridge Library, with its beautiful bay windows, near where many of her private clients already live and shop. Crisp white walls and the exposed concrete floor keep the store cool, which is good for the flowers. An eclectic collection of antique bookcases and fixtures from estate sales create a sense of harmony with the gifts for home and garden in the shop.

While everything in the shop is for sale, including the fixtures, floral work is about 90 percent of her business. Natalie also offers Kobo candles in scents such as white musk and heliotrope, and a moss/smoke/leather blend. Lucia candles and soaps from France come in a heavenly pomegranate and red currant, or mandarin and tomato flower. The bookcases are filled with lovely antique teacups, mercury glass, and vases both new and vintage. The cards she carries are created by Bella Bigsby, who also works at neighboring College Avenue store Bella Vita.

Natalie's training as a florist developed her style, which she said generally appeals to those who "appreciate tradition and the value of flowers in their daily lives." The store is filled with artfully arranged flowers on almost every surface, fresh and colorful against the white walls, and the garlands of oak leaves bleached white and strung over and around the store.

At Clementine, Natalie offers flowers for weddings, parties, prom arrangements, rehearsal dinners, pre-prom parties, business clients, and almost any occasion that calls for lovely, elegant but not stuffy arrangements. "Many people come here for something unique, whimsical, perhaps with an interesting texture and unusual color combinations," said Natalie. "Flowers trend in and out of style; peonies are very 'in' now, as are dahlias and garden roses."

Indeed, the day I visited, the store was bursting with arrangements for a wedding; all around were white peonies with tiny red berries in a variety of small glass vases and wine glass containers, similar to the matching boutonnières. The scent of the peonies was so lovely, it took me back to my hometown of Chicago, where peonies were common and plentiful, although they are more rare in California.

/D. Kinkead

Clementine
Owner: Natalie Marvin
Floral – Home – Garden
5322 College Avenue, Oakland
510/788-4564
Open Tuesday – Saturday
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
info@ohmyclementine
www.ohmyclementine.com

Natalie goes to the San Francisco and Oakland flower marts to find just the right flowers – especially the premium varieties less commonly seen – for her clients. Arrangements start at $50 and generally go up to $125. Prices for weddings and parties depend, of course, on the size of the event. She serves clients in the East Bay, especially Oakland and Berkeley, Piedmont, Orinda, and Walnut Creek, and some in San Francisco.

Natalie notes that she finds making arrangements to be very creative and expressive (she's also a painter, and worked at an art store before entering the floral business about 10 years ago). Her one-of-a-kind arrangements are created to your tastes and to a truly artistic aesthetic.

Please stop by to see and smell the wonderful flowers at Clementine, and enjoy a bit of the true beauty of flowers in your home or office.

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THE ROCKRIDGE MUSE

by Ortrun Niesar

A Summer of Musical Celebration!

July 8-15

Golden Gate International Children's and Youth Choral Festival

During the month of July, we are in for some wonderful musical treats. First, between July 8 and 15, Rockridge and other nearby communities will be hosting about 500 young choristers from around the world who are here to do their part in building people-to-people bridges across the globe with that most magical of universal human expressions: singing. Glorious singing!

Our young ambassadors, aged 12-19, will be representing their countries, ranging from China to Lithuania, in friendly musical rivalry right here in Berkeley and Oakland. Piedmont East Bay Choirs, official hosts of this event, will, of course, offer strong competition.

Concerts will be held at First Congregational and First Presbyterian churches in Berkeley, with selected performances in Oakland at St. Teresa Church on Mandalay Road and St. Paul's Episcopal on Montecito Avenue. Schedules published on the Internet will list the type of music being performed so you can choose your favorites. Massed choruses will join for the grand finale at Zellerbach Hall Saturday, July 14, at 3 p.m. Best: all these concerts are free. Check the Internet for schedules, then enjoy! You'll find information at www.goldengatefestival.org or call 510/547-4441. Piedmont East Bay Choirs, under the direction of Robert Geary, now has over 500 wonderful young singers, ages 6-18, enrolled in their programs and is open to all young people who wish to sing.

July 15

The Oakland Jazz Choir

Jimmy Pedersen, our local jazz impresario who holds concerts regularly at his home on Avon, reports that thirteen vocalists will perform a selection of jazz classics from the 1930s to the present as part of the Jazz at the Chimes series Sunday, July 15, at 2 p.m. Jimmy himself is one of the singers, and has been for the past 12 years. He encourages anyone who has an interest in jazz singing to come hear the group, perhaps choose to join. The Chapel of the Chimes on Piedmont Avenue is the venue. Tickets are at the door. But get there early; the previous concert sold out completely. Go to chimesjazz@gmail.com or call 510/654-0123 for more on this.

July, August, September

Woodminster Summer Musicals

It's summer and time for the 46th season of the Woodminster Summer Musicals in Joaquin Miller Park. Scheduled performances: "Fiddler on the Roof," July 13-18; "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," August 10-19; and "Cats," September 7-16. Get your tickets, pack a supper and a blanket for the pre-show picnic and enjoy. Kids 16 and under are free when accompanied by adults. Order tickets online and just print them out. Go to www.woodminster.com.

July 29

51Oakland at Toast

Come join a stellar group of performing artists who will gather at Toast on College to raise money for the support of the performing arts in our public schools. This will be the first fundraiser and silent auction to support 51Oakland's mission to help bring music and the performing arts to all children in the Oakland public schools. The event is organized by co-founders Jason Hofmann and Yoshi Akiba. Later this year 51Oakland plans to underwrite a concert series, "Live at Yoshi's," showcasing Oakland's talented young performers. The fundraising event will run from 1 to 9 pm and will feature performers including David Gans, Don Reed, Jordan McConnell, Oakland students, teachers and more. Artists will trade off hourly throughout the day. To donate items to the silent auction, e-mail info@51Oakland.org. And come join the fun.

Ortrun Niesar can be reached at oniesar@sbclglobal.net or 510/652-6664.



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How Old Is Your House?

from page 8

Manila Bay, where Admiral George Dewey destroyed the Spanish fleet on May 1, 1898."

Chabot Road "is named for Antoine 'Anthony' Chabot, a 49er and philanthropist who was one of the East Bay's foremost citizens."

Maybe it all seems so fascinating because we were the original owners of our previous house in the metro-Detroit suburbs where we lived for nearly 40 years.

Only its surroundings had another history – and it was obvious. Our street was Apple Ridge Trail and in the yard stood one of the few remaining apple trees from the orchard that flourished there, as they say "in the day."

So, no, we aren't done. I expect to make at least one more trip to the Oakland History Room and, if needed, to the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey now that I know a little more about using these amazing resources. And who knows, maybe I'll see you there – doing your home work.

Judy Berne is a journalist who moved to Rockridge a year ago. If you have a special Rockridge story, her e-mail is judyberne@att.net.

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Tech Grads' Success is Evidence of Oakland Schools' Quality: 100% Move on to Further Education

by Jody London, OUSD president and District 1 board member

It was my honor to welcome the Oakland Technical High School class of 2012 on June 12 at the Paramount Theater. This class, one of Tech's largest, is evidence of the quality education we are providing our children here in Oakland. The long tenure of Principal Sheilagh Andujar, her ability to implement a vision for Oakland Tech, is something of which we should all be proud. Of the 350 students who graduated this year, 50 percent were on the honor roll – maintaining a B average or higher – all four years! And 100 percent will be pursuing further education, from universities to community colleges to vocational training programs.

While there is still work to do at Tech to ensure even more students realize this success, we have a great example of what every high school in Oakland is capable of doing, with the right leadership and encouragement.

Thanks to the community for your support.

The Rockridge News congratulates the Oakland Technical High School 2012 graduating class and wishes them the best in all their future endeavors. Schools students will attend include:

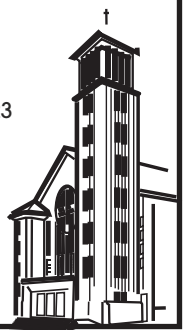
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BART Safety

from page 2

the department. We also make monthly reports via CompStat (Computerized Statistics) to identify hot spots, crime trends, significant arrests, and community-police activities. This goes back to "putting cops on the dots," the law enforcement approach developed by former NYPD Chief William Bratton. (He later was chief of the Los Angeles Police Department.) The idea is to put police officers "on the dots" where enforcement or deterrence are needed as shown by crime trends.

■ How many stations are in the BART system? How many are you responsible for?

There are 44 stations in the system. I am responsible for the eight Oakland stations: Rockridge; MacArthur; Oakland City Center (12th Street); 19th Street; Lake Merritt; Fruitvale; Coliseum/Oakland Airport; and West Oakland.

■ How do policing issues compare from station to station?

Different stations have problems unique to that station. We might see problems at Fruitvale and Coliseum that we don't see at MacArthur or Rockridge. For example, West Oakland gets criminals travelling from crimes they committed in San Francisco. Being the first stop after the tunnel, it gives us a chance to detain the perpetrators. We are also alerted to problems on the trains in the tunnel such as fights, indecent exposure, and aggressive panhandling. Some people think the time in the tunnel is beyond police notice. It isn't. We might get a call from the train operator, San Francisco police, or undercover officers riding the train. Also, there is a Critical Asset Patrol Team that concentrates in the core of the system from Civic Center to Orinda and Lake Merritt stations. This gives them an opportunity to patrol a lot of trains.

■ What problems occur at the Rockridge BART station?

As I say, crimes come in waves system wide. For example, Coliseum is now having a lot of car burglaries. But all it would take is one thief at Rockridge where there might be six burglaries in a day, then none for several months. Criminals will case a station looking for an easy target. If people leave expensive sunglasses on the dash or money in the ashtray or a laptop on a seat when they park in the lot, they are inviting trouble. People need to limit their exposure.

■ What else should BART patrons do to avoid attracting criminals' attention?

We tell people safety tips all the time: be aware of your surroundings, look around when walking to your car and to and from the station; don't be a victim, don't walk home with earbuds or headphones on, don't walk with a cell phone in hand; keep your head up and look around, pay attention to gut feelings; have keys in hand while walking to the car, look inside the car before getting in to be sure it is unoccupied. If there is something suspicious, tell the station agent, who will summon the police, or use an emergency call box in the parking lot.

■ Are there areas of the Rockridge station that passengers should avoid because of crime patterns?

We don't get specific areas in either BART lot or the station area that would attract particular types of crime. Again, a lot of it is opportunistic crime when criminals take advantage of that distracted person that they think they can get something from and get away.

■ If a person is on the platform and feels threatened, what is the best way to attract attendant or police support?

People have several options. There are white courtesy telephones that ring in the Agent's booth; 911 calls made at station pay phones go direct to BART's dispatch center; patrons can go to the station agent's booth directly. Also, the train operator on arriving trains can be notified. On the train itself, there are intercoms at each end of the car that connect with the operator. To make a report without being obvious, patrons can move to the next car to use the intercom.

■ The Rockridge station has emergency call boxes in its parking lots. How are they monitored?

Calls go straight to the BART police dispatch center; dispatchers know the location of the phone and send an officer. Also, a flashing light over the call box turns on when the phone is lifted. An officer is always dispatched when the call box phone is activated, just as if it were a 911 hang-up call.

■ How does Rockridge compare with other stations for crime?

We report statistics at NCPC meetings we attend. Overall, of the 8 stations under my area command, Rockridge is number 8 for overall crime. Most typical at Rockridge are bicycle thefts, occasional car thefts, and auto burglary. It is low on assaults and physical confrontations. We do get some assaults during the school year that involve kids fighting each other when they come out of Claremont.

■ What appeals to you about your job?

The adventure and unpredictability of police work appeals to me. The variety of each day draws a lot of people to police work. You're working in the field instead of in an office – you're outside and your patrol car is your office on wheels.

Every day is different; you never know what to expect the next day. You might go from helping someone with directions to a train to tangling with someone else in a fight for your life.



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6/15/12	3	2	5925 Keith Avenue	$575,000	$575,000	10	$655,000
6/20/12	3	1	5619 Miles Avenue	$669,000	$669,000	21	$649,000
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Must-See Hula

by Bill Kaufner, RCPC boardmember

"Hana hou!" (Bravo!), I said after seeing a video of the 2011 Merrie Monarch Festival on a flight from Hawaii. Sending in our ticket request on the required December 26 postmark date, we waited to see if we were indeed going to attend the 49th annual World Cup of hula in early April 2012.

The stars were aligned and we were off on Hawaiian Airlines from Oakland for 10 days of merriment in Hilo on the Big Island.

Sleepy Hilo comes alive during Merrie Monarch Week: all day free Easter Sunday hula by numerous halaus (groups) at the Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium; free hula show Wednesday night at the Edith Kanaka'ole Tennis Stadium; ukulele workshops in town; hula movies and storytelling workshops at the historic Palace Theater. There are walking tours of downtown Hilo taking in the 1920s architecture and colorful shops and restaurants. A visit to the Tsunami Museum is highly recommended, as are visits to the bayfront parks created as tsunami barriers. South of town are four beach parks easily reached by local buses. You can ride the local buses around Hilo or even to the inland town of Volcano or up the coast to Honokaa.



The annual Merrie Monarch Festival attracts audiences of over 5,000 for hula competitions in Hilo, Hawaii.Dancers from the Academy of Hawaiian Arts in Oakland participate in the Festival on the Big Island.

/Bill Kaufner

The competitions were Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at the Tennis Stadium, where the big excitement happens. At the Miss Aloha individual hula competitions, twelve wahines (women) performed one traditional (kahiko) and one modern ('auana) hula for the judges and an audience of 5,000 hula-crazed spectators. Friday night was kahiko style, performed by the 15 halau entrants, alternating between wahine groups and kane (male) groups. Between the chanting, gourd drumming, and powerful hula, everyone got the chicken skin (goose bumps) from these world class halaus.

Saturday was the Royal Parade through Hilo with flower floats and the Royal Court float with this year's Merrie Monarch King emulating the original King David La'Lamea Kalakaua, Hawaii's last king and reviver of the hula tradition. Saturday night, the halaus did their interpretations of modern hula with musical backing by island musicians and vocalists. In both the traditional and modern hulas, costumes are eye-catching. The movement and poise of the dancers will capture your heart and mind.

If you want a peek into Hawaiian culture, a week built around next year's 50th anniversary Merrie Monarch Festival is just the ticket. You will learn some Hawaiian language, discover new foods, meet the locals, and see the best hula in the world. If you can't make it to Hawaii, check out Oakland's thriving Academy of Hawaiian Arts at www.academyofhawaiianarts.org. The academy offers classes in hula, Hawaiian music, and culture. Their dancers are active participants in the Merrie Monarch Festivals. Kumu (leader) Mark Keali'i Ho'omalu brought their renegade brand of hula to the festival this year. Mark was quoted in the Hawaiian Tribune-Herald as saying, "We're going to be making trouble, that's for sure."

Ho'omalu believes for hula to grow, it has to escape the confines of traditional rules. The Academy sponsors a west coast hula competition every November at the Alameda County Fairgrounds which brings groups from Hawaii to compete with halaus from the western states. You will be E Komo Mai (welcome) at all these events.

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[There is no Rockridge News issue in August.]
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PERL Programmer Needed

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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

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

***FREE LUNCH* this summer from noon to 1pm for kids to age 17.** Dates will coincide with Summer Reading Game dates.

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 (followed by Playtime).
- **Family Story Time:** Stories/songs/rhymes (to age 5). Every Saturday, 10:30am.

SPECIAL EVENTS: all ages invited.

The Annual Library Summer Reading Program continues to Aug. 11. Kids can get a free book and win prizes. Sign up in person or online at www.oaklandlibrary.org.

- **Zoomobile:** meet and touch the visiting animals from the Oakland Zoo. Thurs, 7/12, 11am.
- **Puppet Art Theater:** *Super Tommy Mouse*. Tues, 7/17, 7pm.
- **Drummm:** Loud and lively African percussion show with group drumming. Thurs, 7/24, 7pm.
- **Stories & Crafts with Erica** (especially for ages 3 to 9): Tuesdays, 7/7 and 7/14, 7pm.

FOR TEENS

SUMMER VOLUNTEERS WANTED, ages 11 – 17. Call Erica for details: 597-5017.

- **Teen Advisory Board:** (ages 14-18) Advise the library how to better serve teens. Get community service credit for school. **Snacks provided**. Every Saturday from July 7 to Aug 18 from 1 - 2pm. **Call Courtney Bennett to confirm: 597-5017.**
- **Teen Advisory Board's 2nd Annual Video Game Tournament:** Bring your own controllers. Sat., 7/7, 2 to 5pm. **Call Courtney Bennett to confirm: 597-5017.**
- **Rockridge Ninjas Anime Club:** Watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation). Tuesdays: 7/10, 8/21 and 9/18 from 5 to 6:30pm.

FOR ADULTS

- **Writers on Writing: Workshop, presented by PEN Oakland.** For writers with a desire to find their voice, write, and promote their work. With award-winning Australian author and journalist **Stephanie Dale** and authors **Teresa LeYung-Ryan, Yolande Barial**, and **Joan Gelfand**. Reception and booksigning will follow the presentation. Sat, July 14, 12- 2 pm. Contact: Kim McMillon, 681-5652.

ART EXHIBITS (subject to change; call to confirm)

Gallery:

July: **Martha Snider**; digital prints on canvas.

Aug: **Darril Tighe**; abstract watercolors.

Sept: **Mike Grbich**; mixed media paintings.

Lobby Display Case:

July – August: **Lorna Strotz**; encaustic paintings.

Sept: **Kim Anderson**; 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: Tuesdays 8/14 and 9/4, and Sat., 9/8.

Diesel Book/Readings and Events

All FREE and open to the public.

- Mon, 7/9, 7:30pm. **Amnesty International Meeting (2nd Mon. each month)**: All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Wed., 7/11, 7pm. Local author **Robert B. Lowe:** *Project Moses*.
- Thurs, 7/12, 6pm. Bay Area Writing Project's **Young Writers' Camp**.
- Fri, 7/13, from 6 -8pm. Live music by the **Craig Williams Quartet** during the Rockridge Jazz and Wine Stroll.
- Sun, 7/15, 3pm. Poetry Flash with **Alicia Suskin Ostriker** and **Philip Memmer**.
- Wed, 7/25, 7pm. UCB professor **Arthur Blaustein:** *Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport: The Ultimate Volunteer Handbook*
- Sun., 7/29, 3pm. Local author **Jim Conlon:** *Invisible Excursions: A Compass for the Journey*.
- Sun., 8/5, 3pm. Poetry Flash with **Joan Baranow, Gail Rudd Entrekin** and **David Watts**.
- Wed, 8/15, 7pm. **Kate Bornstein**: *A Queer and Pleasant Danger: The True Story of a Nice Jewish Boy Who Joins the Church of Scientology and Leaves Twelve Years Later*.
- Thurs, 8/16, 7pm. Local humorist **Erich Origen:** *Don't Let the Republican Drive the Bus!*

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

Book Signing/Discussion

Ruta Kahate, chef, cooking teacher and culinary travel guide presents her new book, *Quick Fix Indian: Easy, Exotic Dishes in 30 Minutes or Less*. Ingredients and recipes will be available for sampling. Fri, July 20, 4- 6:30pm.

The Pasta Shop, 5655 College Ave. Info: 250-6005 or www.pastashop.net.

15th Annual Bay to Barkers Dog Walk and Festival

Fundraiser for the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society (BEBHS) to provide care and adoption for homeless dogs and cats. Fun activities for you and your dog, including: Complimentary lunch; 1 mile dog walk along the waterfront; doggy games and contests; spa time for canines and people; silent auction and raffle; reunion parade for dogs adopted from the BEBHS, and more. Sunday, July 2, noon to 4pm, North parking lot of Golden Gate Fields, Albany. Register to walk and get a full schedule: visit www.firstgiving.com/bebhs/baytobarkers, or call Ahmar, 845-7735 x233.

Square Dance In North Oakland

Music by **The Squirrelly String Band**. Calling by **Jordan Ruyle** (with occasional guest performers). 1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 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.

Jack London Square Summer Events

A variety of free activities: Dancing Under the Stars dance lessons and dance party; outdoor jazz concert; waterfront films, cooking demonstrations at the Farmers' Market and much more. For events schedules visit www.jacklondonsquare.com/events.php and http://instituteforurbanliving.pcfma.com.

DaVita Renovates

from page 4

resident Stephanie Bianco. "It's one of the first things visitors see when they exit the highway, but it's not a pretty sight." She would like to see more greenery to make the parking lot appear less barren.

Valerie Thompson, who owns a property adjacent to DaVita's facility, hopes the improvements will inspire more respect for the area.

"People seem to litter here more than other parts of Claremont Avenue. Improving that big property will send a message that all of the residents here care about the appearance of our homes and streets."

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