THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

VOL. 28 ■ NO. 7 ■ ISSUE NO. 302 ■ July 6, 2013 ■ CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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

June Town Hall Meeting Draws a Full House

Mayor Quan, Interim Police Chief Sean Whent at Joint RCPC/NCPC Meeting

by Stuart Flashman

It was obvious that public safety was much on people's minds, especially with the looming deadline for the city to approve a new budget, as a capacity crowd filled the Rockridge Branch Library meeting room for the June 20 joint Rockridge Community Planning Council – Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Town Hall meeting.

A major reason for the large turnout was the presence of Oakland Mayor Jean Quan and Interim Police Chief Sean Whent, who both focused their remarks on public safety issues.

Before Chief Whent and the Mayor arrived, NCPC Chair Frank Castro and Problem Solving Officers (PSOs) Lane (Beat 12Y) and Trode (Beat 13X), along with Police Lieutenant Bolton, filled the crowd in on the latest crime statistics and trends in Rockridge.

RCPC-NCPC, page 10



At the June Town Hall meeting hosted jointly by NCPC and RCPC, a crowd of about 150 Rockridge residents heard Police Chief Sean Whent and Mayor Jean Quan discuss plans and financing for improved police service and response in Oakland and Rockridge. Above, from left, Chief Sean Whent, NCPC Chair Frank Castro, Mayor Jean Quan, and NCPC Secretary Karen Ivy. /Don Kinkead

How You Can Support the RCPC Kitchen Tour

by Natalie Mehta, Tour chair

Your RCPC Kitchen Tour committee has been visiting many beautiful kitchens in the neighborhood and has selected those that will be featured on this fall's Rockridge Kitchen Tour set for Sunday, September 29.

The tour has been a favorite since its inception in 1995 and attracts interest from all over the Bay Area. The event's success is testament to the enthusiasm of the volunteers who make

Kitchen Tour Opportunities, page 2

An Early Look at Rockridge Kitchens for Volunteer Tour Docents

by Nancy Sale, docent coordinator

If you are a design enthusiast, community supporter, or just love hearing stories first-hand, please join us as a volunteer docent for the 2013 Rockridge Kitchen Tour.

Docents are a key element to the success of our tour, and guide our guests with stories and insights that highlight the unique features of each kitchen. Docents receive a pre-tour that offers a behind-the-scenes look at the kitchen, and hear its "story" directly from the homeowners and architects/contractors who created it. In addition, docents receive a complimentary ticket to visit the other tour kitchens on the

Be a Kitchen Tour Docent, page 2

Apply Now: Two RCPC Board Positions Open

Two positions on the RCPC board of directors are currently open.

The first, not having been filled in the recent election, may now be filled by board appointment for a term ending in April 2015. The remaining spot is an appointive seat open to any Rockridge merchant or resident, and has a limited term ending in April 2014.

The board will continue to solicit interest in membership during July and August, and will interview candidates and make final appointments during September and October.

To discuss your interest in board service, e-mail chair@rockridge.org. To contact the board with questions or to discuss an issue, e-mail info@rockridge.org.

Address handwritten correspondence to RCPC, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611.

We look forward to hearing from you.

NO!

No: Town Hall Meeting in July and August

No: Rockridge News in August

YES! ***Have a Happy Summer!***

RCPC's "Tasteful Tour" of Rockridge kitchens is coming in September. Tickets for this biennial fundraising event go on sale then. In the meantime, there are ways to help support the event: volunteering for a support position – perhaps as a docent – or advertising in the tour brochure, as described in the accompanying articles.

Planning your own kitchen remodel? Gather ideas and solutions for your project by visiting Kitchen Tour homes, such as the one pictured below from an earlier tour event.



Kitchen Tour Opportunities

from page 1

this biennial event possible; there is still time to get involved and contribute your talents to this community fundraiser. There are several ways you can help:

❖ **Be a Docent**: Our team of volunteer docents guides tour guests by sharing their knowledge of the kitchens. Volunteer a few hours of your time on the day of tour, and you can spend the rest of the day enjoying the other kitchens for free. Contact Nancy Sale, 510/655-4625, or e-mail docents@rockridge.org, for more information.

❖ **Purchase Advertising**: Do you have a business that serves the Rockridge neighborhood? Our tour brochure offers print advertising space, and our website offers an online presence for the two-year period until the next tour. Contact Natalie Mehta at natalie.mehta@yahoo.com for more information.

❖ **Spread the Word**: Ticket sales are the primary form of fundraising for this event, and each tour brings guests from all over the Bay Area. Help us publicize the event by sharing the event date and details with your networks, family, and friends.

Be a Kitchen Tour Docent

from page 1

day of the event.

If you enjoy "backstage" access and have a few hours to contribute to your community on Sunday, September 29, contact Nancy Sale, 510/655-4625, or e-mail docents@rockridge.org, for more information.

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Sunday and Monday: **CLOSED; Also, Tues 9/3**
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:
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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/Deadline
Publication date of the next issue is:
☛ **September 7, 2013**
☛ **September deadline is August 22, 2013**
Advertising rates are $26/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or e-mail joellis1@hotmail.com. RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate. (Classified ad contact, page 14.)

RCPC Land Use Committee

The RCPC Land Use Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Rockridge Branch Library, upstairs meeting room, 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 24. Topics will include an update on the College Avenue Safeway and Rockridge Shopping Center Projects, as well as possible discussion of the city's off-street parking requirements. **Agendas**: Check with committee chair Stu Flashman, 652-5373, or stuflash@aol.com the week before the meeting for an updated agenda.

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair

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

Unconfirmed reports indicate that the current store will be closing early in July, possibly as soon as July 8. Demolition will begin shortly thereafter, once hazardous material removal is complete. Construction of the new store will likely begin early in the fall.

RCPC and the other community groups who reached a settlement with Safeway on the new store have reviewed the 60 percent completion stage construction drawings, and will be meeting with Safeway to discuss several concerns, primarily concerning modifications to the design of the retail building at College and Claremont. Safeway indicates the 90 percent construction drawings will be completed in mid-July, and it will apply for building permits shortly after that.

■ **Rockridge Shopping Center Rebuild and Expansion Project, Broadway and Pleasant Valley Road**

Safeway's second Rockridge-area project is to rebuild and enlarge this major shopping area, adding about 120,000 sq. ft. and including a larger (65,000 sq.ft.) Safeway. According to Darin Ranelletti (238-3663; DRanelletti@oaklandnet.com), the city planner working on the project, a consultant study and draft report on impacts from project-related neighborhood cut-through traffic has been completed and is being reviewed by planning staff. He doesn't expect the final EIR to be completed and published until September.

After a short review period, the Planning Commission will meet to consider the EIR and the project. The city is working with Safeway to arrange a meeting with the landowner to discuss whether the master lease can be modified to allow residential development on the site, something both the Planning Commission and Councilmember Dan Kalb have said they highly favor for this large and centrally located site.

RCPC is continuing to push to improve project access for transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

■ **Smitten Ice Cream**
5800 College Avenue at the Corner of Birch Court

The committee heard from founder Robyn Fisher and manager Nick Wood about this proposed ice cream parlor at the former site of Great Harvest Bakery.

Both the ice cream and associated waffle cones would be made fresh on-site, they said. The ice cream making involves a new, patented, technique using liquid nitrogen to quick-freeze the ice cream, so it can be made to order for each customer. The owners are committed to using local, organic ingredients and plan to use 100 percent recyclable or compostable materials to minimize waste.

They have already met with and had an ice cream social with nearby neighbors and plan a food-focused science program in cooperation with local schools. The committee felt the proposal was a good fit for the location and would be a unique addition to the commercial area.

The proposal will be considered by the RCPC board at its September meeting. The project planner is Mike Rivera (238-6417, MRivera@oaklandnet.com).

■ **The Barrel Room**
Wine Shop and Bar
5330 College Avenue

This is a proposal for a wine and beer bar/tasting room, which would also serve light meals to accompany tastings and have wine available for purchase by the bottle. This would be its second location, the first being in San Francisco in the Hayes Valley area. It would be the fourth similar shop to open on College Avenue in the past few years, the other three being The Trappist, near 63rd Street, Toast at the corner of Chabot Road and Enoteca Molinari near Taft Avenue.

Unlike the others, however, it would serve both wine and beer, with an emphasis on unusual and little-known varieties, and serve "flights" of related wines or beers to give customers a sense of the particular varietals being featured.

Hours are still being finalized, but would be roughly from 11 a.m. to midnight, perhaps somewhat later on weekends.

The committee generally reacted favorably, feeling that the store could be a welcome addition to this section of the Avenue. Some concern was expressed about parking availability, but given the size of the store (1,000 sq. ft.), it was felt this would probably not be a serious problem. The committee also felt that the owners should be cautioned to respect nearby residential neighbors, particularly in terms of late-night operations.

This proposal will also go to the RCPC board at its September meeting. To RCPC's knowledge, no planner has yet been assigned.

■ **Off-street Parking Requirements "Citywide Rezoning, Phase II"**

The city, as part of Phase II of the citywide rezoning, is considering modifying off-street parking requirements for new construction. The aim is to reduce parking requirements in areas with good public transit availability (such as Rockridge) where the need for private autos may be less. This could raise concerns if it led to more severe parking "crunches" in the bordering residential areas.

According to planner Darin Ranelletti, (238-3663; DRanelletti@oaklandnet.com) the city expects to release a study/report on residential off-street parking in July for public review and comment. Those interested should contact the planner to receive notification when the report issues and to learn how to get a copy.



Thank you, Jim Ryugo

Jim Ryugo retired at the end of June as Building Services Manager after 33 years of service in the city's Public Works Agency. He began working with Rockridge neighbors on a park when he was a manager responsible for park maintenance and trees in about half the city. He was instrumental in renovating Colby Park and, later, in the multiyear effort creating Frog Park, the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt.



This unique concrete tile was created by FROG member Jimmy Pedersen as a thank-you gift to Jim Ryugo.

Dear Jim:

It was just over 20 years ago that you began working with parents in the Rockridge community to find a place for a children's park, and with your help and guidance, we were able to renovate Colby Park. We could never have dreamed that this small project would develop into a 21-year collaboration, the centerpiece of which is Frog Park, the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt Park.

Throughout the years, you have been an incredible resource for us, providing direction, resources, information and strategies about developing and maintaining parks in Oakland. Frog Park involved Oakland's first-ever community-built park, which required getting permission to do all sorts of things not usually allowed in parks, and fostering working relationships with Alameda County, CalTrans, DMV, and the State of California, as well as with Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation, various contractors, and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission.

Through it all, you shared with us your wisdom and creativity about getting things done, always with an eye toward supporting the community and volunteers within the framework of city requirements and budgets. We followed your advice, and as we said at the 10th anniversary celebration for Frog Park, we could not have created this park without you. Our community is so very much the better for having been able to work with you.

We wish you the best in your well-deserved retirement, and hope that we might continue to hear your thoughts on the park as we continue our second decade of work promoting parks and open space in the community. Thank you for everything you have done for us. We are truly grateful, and we hope that you will enjoy the one-of-a-kind stepping stone created by Jimmy Pederson, one of our FROG Committee Members, which includes the Frog Park pathway stamp and special items from the pathway.

— The FROG Park Committee and Volunteers

by Theresa Nelson, Ronnie Spitzer, and members of the FROG committee

Coming: Creek-to-Bay Day | September 21



Love creeks? Want to do a coastal cleanup close to home? Join the DMV Neighbors Association on the banks of Temescal Creek for our annual Oakland Creek-to-Bay Day cleanup Saturday, September 21.

We'll provide tools, caffeine and juice, and morning snacks. If you're interested, contact Leonora Sea, DMV Neighbors Association, leonorasea@yahoo.com, and look for more information in the September Rockridge News.

— Leonora Sea

A crew of Cub Scouts helps with Creek-to-Bay Day cleanup in 2012.

/Leonora Sea

June 15 Interim Day Spruces Up the Park; Fall Maintenance Set

by Leonora Sea

Delightful new neighbors and dear old friends converged on the Rockridge Temescal greenbelt and Frog Park for the annual June Interim Cleanup Party, co-sponsored by the DMV Neighbors Association and FROG.

After a wake-up cup of coffee and some bagels and coffee cake, volunteers shifted clean sand into the Little Frog Park sandbox, spread out cushioning wood chips at Big Frog Park, and weeded and spread mulch along Redondo and in the butterfly garden. Others picked up litter, pulled out ivy, and generally spruced up the park in time for summer. Many thanks to those who came – especially the Kiwanis – pitched in, and accomplished much.

Volunteer events like this and the First Saturdays, Earth Day, and Creek-to-Bay Day, keep our beloved greenbelt a welcoming and hospitable place for all, including native wildlife that thrive when invasive plants and ugly litter are kept under control. Come over to the park, get to know your neighbors (we're a lot of fun) and have a great time caring for our special place.

Upcoming cleanup days:

- **August 3, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**
- **September 7, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.**

FROG Council meeting:

- **Second week in July: info@frog-park.org for details.**

Frog Park Shuttered for Fall Maintenance Day

Frog Park play areas will close all day Saturday, September 7, for the park's

Fall Maintenance, page 6

FROG Seeks Volunteers With Specific Skills

FROG is planning to implement the highest priorities based on the FROG community priorities survey results and on ongoing initiatives (See The Rockridge News, March 2013: www.rockridge.org/news/frog-news-survey, or the full report at www.frogpark.org.

FROG seeks volunteers with the following

FROG: Volunteers, page 6

City Proclaims 'Claremont School Day'!

by Shona Alexander

June 6 was a big day for Rockridge's Claremont Middle School. In fact, it was formally declared by the City Council to be "Claremont Middle School Day."

Upon the 100th Anniversary of the school's service to our neighborhood, Oakland District 1 City Councilmember Dan Kalb presented a Council resolution recognizing Claremont Middle School for its successes over the past century and for all the good work it performs for its students and for the city.

The resolution praised Claremont for its diverse student body, the many special programs the school offers, the dynamic leadership of the twin co-principals, Reginald and Ronald Richardson, and the strong partnership that has been forged among families, the community and the school.

Representatives of Claremont Middle School were on hand to accept the honor and to share stories during the fun and fabulous Centennial Celebration held on the Claremont campus.

At the event, school alumni met and mingled with current and former students, faculty, and staff, enjoying tasty pulled pork from Oliveto restaurant and a beautiful Claremont-shaped cake made and donated by Marla Erojo of Cakes Made by M.E.

The community that drew together to celebrate Claremont's past looks forward to building an even brighter future.

Oakland Tech Graduates Awarded Over $1.8M in Scholarships

compiled by Ronnie Spitzer

More than 71 dedicated and remarkable seniors of Oakland Technical High School's 2013 graduating class of over 350 received more than $1.8 million in scholarship money.

One student who received five scholarships plans to pursue a career in medicine at Occidental College in the fall. Asked how his scholarships will help, he said, "My scholarships will relieve the stress of financial burden and allow me to focus on academics."

The awards include:

National Merit finalists: 2

Universities and colleges (including merit, athletic, and music awards):

Cal Opportunity Scholarship, 3 full rides; Cal Poly Scholarship; Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; EOP Grant/Scholarship; California College of the Arts (2); Case Western Reserve University; Casper College; Eugene Lane; Holy Names (3); Mills College; New Mexico Highlands University (full ride); Northeastern; Pacific Lutheran University; Pratt Institute, School of Architecture; Oberlin College; Puget Sound (2); UCSB; Tulane; UCB; UCLA; United States Military Academy (full ride); University of Nevada; University of the Pacific (2); Willamette University; York St. John.

Scholarships and awards, non-university, above $2,000 each:Allen Temple Baptist Church; American Musical and Dramatic Academy;

Scholarships, page 13

New Position for Tech Principal



After 10 years at Tech, Principal Sheilagh Andujar has accepted an executive position with the school district.

/Bill Kaufner /RN file photo

Principal Changes at Oakland Tech

submitted by Ronnie Spitzer

Oakland Technical High's principal Sheilagh Andujar announced she will be leaving her position of 10 years to become the Oakland Unified School District's Executive Officer for Special Education.

Due to the late date and unexpected change, school district administrators appointed Staci Ross-Morrison, assistant principal at Oakland Tech for nine years, to be the school's interim principal for the 2013-14 school year. The district will revisit the interim status of the principal in the spring.

Ross-Morrison has experience from within the Tech community, shares the school's focus on teaching and learning and holding high expectations for young people. She is well equipped to take the school to its next level.

More Tech Graduate news, page 11

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Daily Bread Needs a Refrigerator in the Rockridge Area

by Joan Sautter, volunteer

Daily Bread needs a refrigerator.

A nonprofit organization of individual volunteers, members pick up food at markets, bakeries, and restaurants – and from occasional parties and social events – for delivery to shelters, churches and other community resources serving needy folks.

Food pickups are often made in the evening after business hours and cannot be delivered to the receiving shelter until the next day during the shelter's operating hours. A refrigerator that would preserve perishable food between pickup and delivery would prevent spoilage, thus conserving more of the donations.

If you have – or know of – an available refrigerator, Daily Bread would be grateful to have it available for our project.

Ideally, it should be accessible to the volunteer without disturbing the home occupants. As an alternative, the group seeks an accessible spot in Rockridge to place a donated refrigerator.

Contact Larry, 510/653-3721, or Joan, e-mail: joanmsautter@yahoo.com.

Thank you for any help you are able to give to our worthwhile project.

To learn more about the work of Daily Bread and volunteer opportunities such as pickup and delivery or other support, contact volunteer coordinator Patrice by phone at 510/526-3123 or e-mail patrice @pcsyes.com.

Register by July 29: Join Your Neighbors



National Night Out (NNO) is the nation's night out against crime. Oakland residents are encouraged to join with their neighbors to have a neighborhood block party, ice cream social or other outdoor event to build neighborhood spirit and unity – the first defense against crime. Register now for National Night Out 2013.

Fall Maintenance

from page 4

annual maintenance day. Park volunteers will clean and seal wooden play structures, replace plants, sift sand, clear the creek, remove graffiti and take care of general cleaning. The College Preparatory School freshman class and their advisors and teachers will help again this year. The play structures will be closed until Sunday as the sealer will be wet.

The wood sealer is messy, so children are not asked to help in this work. Cleaning begins at 8 a.m., and ends at 4:30 p.m. E-mail Howard Ferrier, volunteer coordinator, for details at hwferrier@sbcglobal.net or leave a phone message at 510/220-4249.

FROG: Volunteers

from page 4

specific skills: project management with public agencies; community outreach; marketing; communication and presentation development; website editors and developers; and working with the community on art initiatives. E-mail info@frogpark.org to learn more about the plans or to participate on the committee.

Next FROG meeting: Second week in July, 7:30 p.m. E-mail info@frogpark.org for location and details.

— Carol Behr, FROG chair





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Interest rates creeped up a bit this month. We are still at historic lows, but above the bottom rates of the last few months. What does this mean? Immediately, not a big negative impact and might even inspire more buying before rates go up even further.

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- 2BD, 2BA Farmhouse cottage, Peralta Dist. Detached barn/office, sweet brick patio/garden, parking. 434 North St, Offered @ $749,000

COMING:
- 4+BD 2.5BA Colonial + studio cottage, double lot, for sale, Chef's kitchen, Chabot District
- 1, 2 and 3BDs for lease in Rockridge



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The Zoning Counter

6420 Regent Street

Proposal: Deconstruct and remove a 475 square foot existing garage/barn; construct a new accessory building of 385 square feet reusing siding from the deconstructed barn, and locate the new structure in the rear northeast cornier of a 6,500 square foot lot.
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Contact Person/ Adolph S. Rosenkrans Jr.
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Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property (PDHP) Area of Primary Importance (API) contributor, Survey Rating: Dc1+.
Case Planner: Caesar Quitevis at 510/238-6343 or clquitevis@oaklandnet.com.

LOST AND FOUND

One of the first things Mary did after her husband of 60 years passed away was to have a memorial locket made honoring their years together. It was a small, hexagonal pill box that opened on two sides. One side had their initials engraved on the face, inside was a lock of Bob's hair and a photo of them on their wedding day. The other side had a photo of each of them in Hawaii, one of their favorite vacation spots. Bob and Mary were avid College Avenue shoppers, supporting many small businesses in the neighborhood. Last month Mary was shopping at Tootsies and Trader Joe's. She was wearing the pill box affixed to a bow style pin. She lost it and she is heartbroken. She says it is almost like losing Bob again. If anyone has any information regarding the memorial piece, please call 510/484-8866.

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.

Safeway Center Should be More People Friendly, More Attractive

Editor:

I am a 35-year resident of the North Oakland/Temescal neighborhood and care deeply about the quality of life we create here. I am very concerned about creating a car-oriented shopping center at Pleasant Valley and Broadway. We already have too much traffic in this area.

We need to find a way to build a pedestrian-friendly, local-business-friendly, and local-resident-friendly design for this area that also supports the city's coffers, but in a truly sustainable way that makes our city more attractive in the long run.

A combination of residential and commercial would be far better than commercial only.

— Susan L. Harris

Mail Call: *I'm going to sit right down and write myself a letter...* Because I love to get them. But not just from myself; I love to get them from readers, too, like the letter above.

Part of the role of The Rockridge News is to take the pulse of the neighborhood. To do that, the newsletter needs to hear from you. Is there something happening in Rockridge that you want people to know about, or do something about or just share the news about? Drop an e-mail to editor@rockridge.org and tell us all about it.

— Editor

Kitchen Tour Sites Illustrate Design Solutions for the Creative Use of Space

RCPC's Kitchen Tour is not just a chance to get together with friends for a pleasant, strolling, neighborhood tour of selected kitchens — or to go solo and linger at your leisure: It is also an opportunity to discover eye-catching solutions for difficult or underused corners, such as the bowl with a fruit and vegetable display shown in a past Tour home.
Watch for ticket and tour details in the September issue of The Rockridge News. Want to help with the Tour? Find contact numbers in the articles beginning on page 1.



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Eyes on Rockridge

Checking Out the Rockridge Coffee House Culture

by Judith Doner Berne

I don't drink coffee. Hardly any tea. So I am only an observer of the vibrant coffee shop scene that is so much a part of Rockridge.

But it's hard not to appreciate that each has its own following, seemingly based on its location, coffee roast and vibe – not necessarily in that order.

I counted up eight independent coffee houses along the mile-plus span of College Avenue within the Rockridge boundaries: Bica Coffeehouse; Bittersweet; A Chocolate Café; Cole Coffee & Café; College Point Café; Highwire Coffee Roasters; Hudson Bay Café; Old Brooklyn Bagels and Deli (where I take home bagels on Sunday); and Spasso Coffeehouse.

Elizabeth Falkner, who describes herself as "a neighborhood girl," has imbibed in many of them.

She casts no judgments, but, according to her analysis, "Hudson Bay is the dark-roast old school coffee house. Highwire is kind of more like a new wave – a medium roast. Bica buys a lot of local roasters and is really into teas. Spasso has space in the back for Wi-Fi, and Bittersweet may be more of a chocolate place but their mocha espresso is so creamy and rich."

Darrell Katz, a Rockridge resident who I graduated from high school with back in Detroit, can be found at a corner outdoor table at Cole Coffee several afternoons a week.

A retired mathematics professor, he reads and does crossword puzzles, coffee and confection in hand. Sometimes, he talks with other regulars with whom he's on a first name basis: Chris, Steve, David and Peter.

Katz introduced me to Chris, last name Diebenkorn, who I would describe as more of a mainstay than a regular. "I've been coming here for at least 20 years," he tells me. "I come a couple of times a day to read and write about my dreams."

A retired computer programmer, he drives from his home in the Berkeley Hills because, in his opinion, "the coffee's the best. They brew each cup individually. The atmosphere is working class."

He doesn't think the chatter "is much different from what people talk about when they get together anywhere," Diebenkorn says. "It's sometimes politics, sometimes gripes."

Ben Kreith also bypasses other coffee shops on his way from his home in the Elmwood area of Berkeley to sip at Cole's "three or four times a week." He likes the view of the Oakland Hills, the friendly servers and clientele, and it's close to all those very useful shops.



Choose homey comfort, quiet time for work or a quick, fueling cup for that last-minute dash to BART from among College Avenue's clutch of coffee cafés. /Don Kinkead

John Provencher, a Rockridge resident, was presiding over the coffee bar at Spasso when I visited.

He describes their clientele as "a lot of tech guys, people just relaxing and working, folks who come in with their laptops."

At Hudson Bay, a man in a wheelchair was pulled up to an outside table. Also, choosing to sit in the sun, were two young women, one bottle-feeding her baby.

Sitting nearby was Steve Guinn, a former paramedic, and his dog Sophie. Guinn, who goes by the name "Hawk," is a regular and says he bypasses a number of cafés to the south to hang out "at least three times a week. I've tried them all and this is by far the friendliest and has the best coffee." An added bonus, he says, is their grilled cheese sandwich (five cheeses, jalapeño peppers, lettuce and tomato on rye), "the best in the East Bay."

"There's an eclectic crowd here," says Steve, who once ran a homeless shelter. He likes the way the staff handles the occasional panhandler. "They are gentle, compassionate and firm."

Brett Remy, pointed out by the staff as another regular, was sipping an iced coffee and reading. He stops in after his day ends as a high school English teacher until it's time to pick up his kindergartener at North Oakland Community Charter School. "Normally I'm here grading papers."

"I like this area," says the East Oakland resident. "I like the bookstores, the library and the light filtering into the coffee shop through the windows. The coffee is good and the people are nice."

Remy laughs when I admit I don't drink coffee. "It's like sending a non-drinker to review the bars," he says.

Jon Larson was waiting for his sandwich order at College Point Café, a 30-plus-years old coffee house at the south-most end of College. "This is one of a kind," he says. "It reminds me of Europe."

Larson, who works at Jarvis architects next door, says coming to the café is "a good way to get to know the neighborhood. Dave here," he says, pointing out another patron, "has the exercise place behind me."

Local business people mix with California College of the Arts students and "we all get along," says current owner Fred Barzin.

Ethan Connolly-Caflisch is ordering a sandwich, salad and Peet's coffee to take back to the CCA campus where he's a junior. He tells me that I haven't quite covered the independent coffee house scene along College; well, almost on College.

There's also A2, the campus coffee house. It's open to the adult public, according to a college spokeswoman. But you, like me, will have to wait until CCA re-convenes for the fall semester to try it out.

Judy Berne welcomes your comments and column ideas. You can reach her at judyberne@att.net.

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City's Pothole Blitz Makes for a Smoother Ride

by Don Kinkead

So, when you've been out and about on your shopping rounds recently – driving from store to store – has the ride seemed a bit smoother, less of the old bounce and jounce?

You are not imagining things: Oakland's Public Works Department has been out in force pursuing its goal of filling 3,000 potholes in a pothole repair blitz between April 29 and June 26. According to Kristine Shaff, Public Information Officer for the department, 2,664 holes had been filled as of June 21. She added that she had every confidence the goal of 3,000 would be reached by the end of the blitz.

Two crews of three workers each have been carrying out the program, inaugurated about 10 years ago, Shaff said. They have been aided in their work by the addition of a new repair vehicle called a Hot Asphalt Truck. Still, she said, it's a lot of hard work. Crews have already used 140 tons of hot asphalt and 900 bags of cold patch.

The work can be dangerous, as well. Due to the noise of the machinery, the nature of the job, and drivers who may be impatient with the flow of traffic at a repair site, workers are often at risk. Safety standards call for placing orange cones at work sites, but drivers often fail to pay attention to them, Shaff said.

Potholes, of course, come in different shapes, widths and depths. The city prioritizes them by degrees of size, responding to the worst of the worst with a 1-day response. Overall in 2012, 9,000 potholes were repaired, more than the number reported by citizens. Citizen reports are helpful to the department, Shaff said, guiding it in structuring its work schedule.

There are several ways to report a pothole problem, and multiple reports are acceptable, even encouraged, to demonstrate the extent of the need.

1. Call Public Works at 510/615-5566
2. Use the smart phone app SeeClickFix (http://www.seeclickfix.com/oakland/)
3. E-mail pwacallcenter@oaklandnet.com for the online reporting form.
4. Visit the Public Works web site at: http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PWA/index.htm

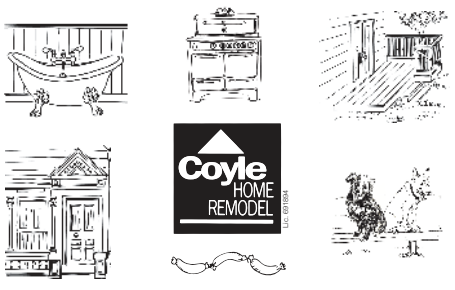
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Remember: No RCPC Town Hall meeting in July and August. See you in September.

RCPC-NCPC

from page 1

Overall, they said, crime incidents were up this month from last, but were down dramatically compared to this time last year. Questions from the audience included:

■ What if a report made on the non-emergency line gets no response? *Answer:* Make the report anyhow. It helps the police know how to distribute resources.

■ Which number is best to call in an emergency such as a fire, medical emergency, or crime-in-progress? *Answer:* 911 from a landline or 510/777-3211 from a cell phone. For non-emergency concerns, call 510/777-3333; for anonymous drug tips, call 510/238-3784.

■ Why are some police dispatchers impolite over the phone when taking a report? *Answer:* They're often stressed, but they've recently gotten more training on dealing with the public. If one is rude during a call, let the Police Department know and the dispatcher will be counseled].

It was also reported that the Department is working with the Rockridge District Association (RDA) to integrate security cameras on College Avenue into a police network. Opportunities are developing for integrated residential security cameras as well.

Chief Whent then discussed the Police Department's reorganization, one of several recommendations of the recent consultants' evaluation.

Rockridge is now in District Two of five newly drawn districts, and covers most of North Oakland. It is headed up by Captain Anthony Toribio, who many may recall was in charge of a similar area in 2008, until cutbacks forced a consolidation of districts.

The Chief said that additional resources, both sworn officer and civilian, are being allocated to each district. He noted that the city has held several police academies recently and, with the new budget, will be adding more. Additional police dispatchers are also being recruited and trained.

Whent also acknowledged that the Department's resources and responsiveness are not what he'd like them to be, but assured the audience that it is working on improving the situation.

Finally, he noted that the Department has been using a new program, Nixle, for citizens who want to receive important police alerts via text message or e-mail. Interested persons can sign up at http://nixle.us/register/ for general alerts and at http://bit.ly/VpsuyK for emergency alerts for residents.

Mayor Quan followed up on the Chief's remarks, discussing the city's emphasis on restoring police department staffing closer to full strength.

She noted that the city is doing more to recruit Oakland residents for the police force and said she was proud that the latest police academy graduating class had a higher percentage of minorities, bilingual officers, and women than any other before. She felt it was important that the Department mirror the city's diversity. She also said that between turnover and additional new officers, the Department was building a new generation of officers.

During the extensive question-and-answer period, Mayor Quan and Chief Whent discussed many issues. The Mayor explained that city employees, having endured furlough days and gone five years without a cost-of-living increase, were due for a pay increase, but increased city revenue meant Oakland could provide a modest "bump" in employee pay and still work on restoring police and other services.

Chief Whent said that the city had no plans for a curfew for under-eighteen-year-olds. He explained that a curfew would raise difficult issues such as where to put violators. He also said that most of the serious problems that might be addressed by a curfew involve people over age 18, and they would be unaffected by a curfew.

The meeting ended with a warm round of applause for both the Mayor and the Chief. NCPC Chair Castro reminded everyone to come back July 11 for the next regular NCPC meeting, when Captain Toribio will be speaking.

Contacting the Oakland Police

Emergency: call 911 from a landline; call 510/777-3211 from a cell phone.

Non-emergency: call 510/777-3333

To make an anonymous drug tip: call 510/238-3784.

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6/12/13	2	1	5339 James Avenue	$785,000	$785,000	9	$940,000
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6/12/13	4	2	5675 Ocean View	$1,079,000	$1,079,000	11	$1,257,000
6/14/13	2	1	564 Forest Street	$719,000	$719,000	13	$865,000
6/21/13	2	2	525 Forest Street	$949,000	$949,000	29	$1,000,000
6/28/13	3	3	5260 Lawton Avenue	$975,000	$975,000	15	$1,155,000

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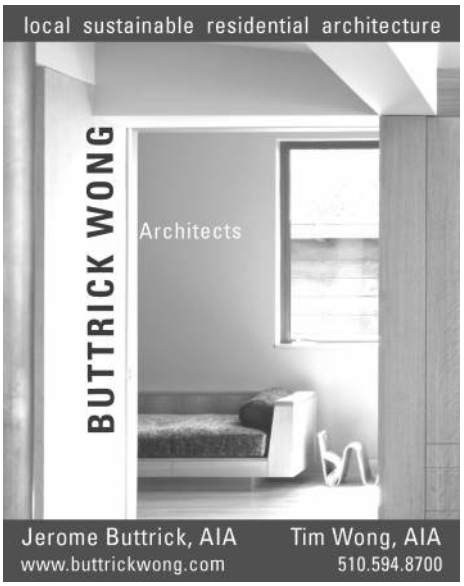
The Rockridge News congratulates the Oakland Technical High School 2013 graduating class and wishes them the best in all their future endeavors. Schools students will attend include:

Academy of Art University
Alameda Beauty College
American Musical and Dramatic Academy
Art Institute of Phoenix
Beloit College
Bridgeston Preparatory
Brown University
Butte College
California College of the Arts
California State University, California Polytechnic,San Luis Obispo & Pomona
California State University, Chico
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Compiled by Ronnie Spitzer







Rockridge Doctor of Chiropractic, a Veteran, Offers Free Natural Treatment Plan for PTSD

by Dr. Mark Alan Heltemes, DC

Stress disorders and suicides among veterans and service members are at epidemic proportions. To do my part to fight these tragedies, I extend an offer to our community to treat three veterans with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) free of charge in my clinic.

I was motivated to offer free treatments when I read an article about the results of a 2010 study that found 22 service members commit suicide every day. Paul Rieckhoff, the founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, called the epidemic of suicides an "outrage." He urged national attention to the problem of vets struggling with "invisible wounds," and said traditional risk assessments are no longer adequate to the problem. We need to add "ways to identify life stressors and concerns earlier," he said. Current treatment options at the San Francisco Veterans Administration Medical Center (SFVAMC) are limited to medication and psychotherapy. Such medications can have unhealthy side effects and the therapy can take precious time that many vets simply do not have.

Stress is a maladaptive response pattern. In the case of someone with PTSD, the system is over-aroused and chaotic. It reflects conditions associated with hypervigilance or panic attacks, loss of quality sleep, and a host of other symptoms.

I employ a treatment protocol that reorganizes brain and nervous system function. It includes spinal adjustments to the nervous system to reset/reboot the system, health awareness (good habits; bad habits), nutritional and physical reconditioning education, biofeedback and neurofeedback.

Participants in the free program would visit my office in Oakland (6 blocks from Rockridge BART) between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. twice a week for the first two months and once a week over the following year.

To be eligible for the free course of therapy, vets must have a current PTSD diagnosis and be under concurrent medical care from a local source.

Inquiries can be sent to me at 6245 College Avenue, Oakland, 94618 or Pridechiro@jps.net. My website is www.Pridechiropractic.com.

Please forward this to any service-connected individual you feel is in need. Participants will be chosen based on need and the ability to commit to the terms of the program.

Mark Heltemes served in the USAF from 1982 to 1987. He was stationed mostly in West Germany at Sembach Airbase, completing his duty at the Van Nuys Air National guard station. He has a meritorious service medal for the Lebanon Beirut war. He worked as an Inventory Management Specialist.

Be Prepared! Police Offer Free CPR Training

Consider this: Would you be able to help in an emergency or would you have to stand by, watching someone in trouble?

You can take action. The Oakland Police Department's Neighborhood Services Division is offering a free community Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) class in August:

Anyone 12 years old and older may take the class. Participants completing the class receive a certificate of their training that is good for two years.

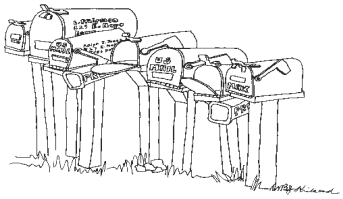
Saturday, August 24: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

81st Avenue Library, 1021 81st Avenue

Pre-registration for the course is required, space is limited.

Contact Neighborhood Services Coordinator Edith Guillen to register: 510/238-7159 or e-mail eguillen@oaklandnet.com

Find more information about the Neighborhood Services Division at http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CityAdministration/d/NSD/index.htm



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Scholarships

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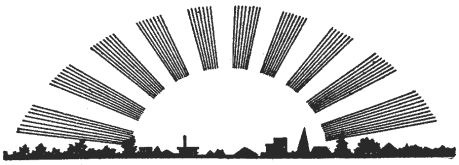


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Denise will be missed by many, especially the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (GRNCPC), where she has served on the board since 2004.

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Relocated stylist, Randee Cole, is offering a special for the month of July. $10 off a Haircut or $20 off Color Service. 5505 College Avenue. Book online at www.randeestylist.com 503/758-9047 Randeestylist@gmail.com.

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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 engage in discussions about crime and public safety with representatives of OPD. 2nd Thursday each month, 7pm. Rockridge Library, upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Ave. **Confirm mtg. info** at www.rockridgencpc.com or chair@rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

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FOR CHILDREN

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

All story times followed by Play Time; parents and caregivers invited.

**** Summer Reading Program**: on-going. **Prizes to readers of all ages**. Kids can keep track of how much time they read by themselves or when someone reads aloud to them, and get a free book and many coupons for ice cream, pizza, ice skating, dinner at Pasta Pomodoro, Lawrence Hall of Science, the Chabot Space & Science Center, and more. Come in, sign up, & start reading.

**** End-of-Summer-Reading Party at the Oakland Museum of California**, 1000 Oak Street. Free family fun for everyone. Sunday, Aug 4, 12 to 4 pm. Live entertainment, crafts, reading, & museum exhibits.

Special Events: All events are on Tuesdays, 7pm (except as noted).

- July 9: **Dan Chan the Magic Man**. Magician, juggler, escape artist, & expert pick-pocket.
- July 16: **Busy Bee Dogs**. These dogs will amaze you with their tricks.
- July 23: **The Bubble Lady**. Musical adventures with bubbles, for all ages.
- July 30: **Cooperative Cookbook-Making Potluck**. Bring a dish to share & your recipe for it. Everyone takes away their own cookbook of the dishes they liked.
- Aug 6: **Butter-Making Songs & Stories for National Night Out**. Walk to the library to celebrate community safety. Sing together as we make butter in a jar for you to taste & take home.
- Aug 13 **at 6pm. Foodie Movie Night**. Come in your pajamas; eat popcorn and watch a movie together. **Also, celebrate all the winners of the Summer Reading Program**.

FOR TEENS

- **Teen Summer Passport Program**: explore Bay Area hot spots or write book reviews to earn prizes and raffle tickets. **Runs through Aug 10**.
- **Teen Advisory Board**: (ages 14-18) Advise the library how to better serve teens. Get community service credit for school. Snacks provided. 1st Sat. each month, 1-2 pm. Confirm: 597-5017.
- **Rockridge Ninjas**: watch Anime, 2nd Tues each month from 5-6:30 pm.
- **Henna Program**: Get a temporary tattoo from a Henna artist. July 27 at 1 pm.

Volunteers still needed (ages 11 to 16):

- **Help with the Summer Reading Program**: register kids and explain the game; show them how to record their time on their reading log & on the computer; give out prizes; assist with special activities.
- **Help with regular library tasks** like sorting and shelving books & movies. Call Erica (597-5017) with questions or to attend a brief orientation.

FOR ADULTS

- **East Bay Chronic Pain Group**: First and Third Tues. each month, 3-5pm. (**NOTE: no mtg Tues, 9/3**). Info: Susan Malley, 655-3278 or susanmalley@yahoo.com.
- **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. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice and referrals**. First Tues. each month, 5 to 7pm. (Advance sign-up starts 4:45pm at adult reference desk). Volunteer lawyer leaves before 7pm if no more people present. **Note: no lawyer in Sept: library closed 9/3**.

ART EXHIBITS (subject to change; call to confirm)

Gallery:

July: **Benny Alba**; "Road Series" Prints.

Aug: **Lorraine Bruce**: Paintings.

Sept: **Lorraine Bruce**: Paintings.

Lobby Display Case

July: **Kim Anderson**; "Adornment" Jewelry Display.

Aug: **Summer Travel Books**.

Sept: TBD

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 Tues, 9/3.

Diesel Book/Poetry Reading/Events

All FREE and open to the public.

- Mon, 7/8, 8/12, 9/9 at 7:30pm. **Amnesty International Meeting (2nd Mon. each month)**: All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Thurs, 7/11, 7pm. Local actors **Hal Hughes** and **George Killingsworth** present *Bits of Beckett*, a performance of short pieces by Samuel Beckett.
- Sun, 7/14, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Brynn Saito** and **Caroline Goodwin**.
- Tues, 7/16, 6:30pm. Release Party to celebrate the Spring 2013 issue of local journal *Inquiring Mind*, called *Once Upon A Time: Stories & Poems of the Dharma*, with readings by past and current contributors.
- Thurs, 8/1, 7pm. Local cartoonist and illustrator **Ben Catmull**: *Ghosts and Ruins*.

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



Jazz at The Chimes

The Dmitri Matheny Group in an all-star salute to *The Great American Songbook*: favorite Broadway and Hollywood hits of the 1920s through the '60s. Sunday, July 21, 2pm; followed by artists' reception and refreshments. Tickets at the door (cash only) beginning 12:30; doors open 1:30pm: $15 general; $10 seniors (60+) and students – for concert and reception. Hear selections at www.dmitrimatheny.com. The concert series features Bay Area jazz musicians in a landmarked Julia Morgan venue. Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. Wheelchair accessible. **Free parking. Info**: www.jazzatthechimes.com, chimesjazz@gmail.com or 654-0123.

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.

North Oakland Senior Center

Programs include: Arts/crafts; health counseling; dancing and exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's Caregivers support groups, computer classes/more.

- **A's Tickets with Shuttle** on Wed, July 31; sign-up starts July 10. $7 for Sr. Center members.
- **Trip to Ardenwood** via East Bay Regional Park Express. Thurs, August 22. – Sign-up starts July 1.

Annual $12 membership entitles seniors 55 and older to discounts on activities and trips. Mon. – Fri., 9am to 4:30pm. 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.

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 about Certified Farmers' Markets at urbanvillageonline.com.

Volunteer: Lawrence Hall of Science

Share exciting and interactive experiences with future scientists. As a Hall volunteer, you will help kids and families experience hands-on science, assist our instructors in our classes and workshops and be an ambassador of our mission and programs out in the community. **Next adult volunteer orientation, Saturday, Sept 7 from 10 a.m. to noon**. Get more information or sign up at http://www.lawrencehallofscience.org/get_involved/join_our_team/volunteer or call Megan Gray Banes: 664-9133.

5th Annual Volunteer Fair For Oakland Schools

Learn rewarding ways to tutor and mentor students. Support and strengthen schools during trying times. Saturday, Sept 7, 10am to 1pm at Lakeview School Auditorium, Grand Ave. at McArthur Blvd. (across from Grand Lake Theater). **Free parking** available in lot behind school. More info: Natalie Van Tassel 339-0785; Stan Weisner 531-2055 or 388-0601; or www.volunteeringforoakland.org.



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As of press time, there were **only 12 Homes** for Sale in Rockridge. Normally there would be approx. 30-34 Homes actively on the market right now in Rockridge. Sellers are seeing multiple offers and over asking offers because of the continued tight supply of homes for sale. If you had thought about selling in the past, but thought prices were too low, you might be surprised as prices have increased significantly. Call me for an evaluation of your home and its value in today's seller's market

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