THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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Rockridge Kitchen Tour Sept 29; Tickets on Sale Now



/Photos: Kelly Patrick Dugan



by Natalie Mehta, tour chair

The 2013 Rockridge Kitchen Tour is nearly here. This year marks the tenth biennial event since 1995, and continues to offer guests a personal look inside nine beautifully remodeled residential kitchens in our historic Rockridge neighborhood.

This self-guided tour offers guests an opportunity to experience a variety of kitchen styles and sizes. The event brochure is full of photos, resources, a floor plan, and the stories behind what you will see. How can an art collection

Tour Tickets On Sale Now, page 7

Safeway Begins Site Prep Venerable College Ave Store Gone



/Chris Jackson



/Susan Shawl



Safeway officials and Oakland city leaders, including Mayor Jean Quan, recently gathered in front of the old supermarket building (top left) to announce the official groundbreaking and inauguration of construction of the new store at College and Claremont avenues. Three weeks later: Gone.

/Don Kirkead

NCPC to Host Ceremony for Officers Who Nabbed Two Robbery Suspects

NCPC Meets Thursday, September 12, Rockridge Library. Ceremony: 6 p.m.

by Karen Ivy, NCPC Secretary

With eight robberies taking place in Rockridge in less than a three-week period, it was especially good news to hear that the Oakland Police Department (OPD) captured a pair of robbery suspects on August 26.

OPD Officers Gunther Lee and Dana Ly, on directed patrol on College Avenue as a result of recent street robberies, spotted a vehicle at College and Keith that had reportedly been involved in a robbery on Howe Street. The suspects were taken into custody and a firearm was recovered.

Captain Anthony Toribio, in charge of the newly designated Area 2 which covers North Oakland and the Oakland Hills, will present the two arresting officers with commendations at a special public ceremony at 6 p.m. Thursday,

NCPC Hosts OPD Ceremony, page 5

NCPC? Neighborhood Watch?: What? See Page 5

September 19 | 7:30-9 p.m.

19 Agenda: RCPC Town Hall Meet

■ **Featured Guest: Peter Calthorpe — Of Cities and Survival —**

Come hear Peter Calthorpe, award-winning Bay Area architect, urban planner, and Rockridge resident, discuss how land use and transportation investments can overcome environmental and fiscal challenges to improve the quality of urban life. Mr. Calthorpe will share insights from his recent trip to China, where he explored how basic design practices that promote transit, biking, and pedestrian mobility can improve the sustainability and

Town Hall Agenda, page 12

- Refreshments will be served. RSVP to: info@rockridge.org ("Calthorpe" in subject line).
- Two copies of "Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change," by Peter Calthorpe, will be raffled to attendees at the meeting.

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

It Is Time to Move Rockridge's Overhead Electric Utility Lines Underground

by David Lorié

While Rockridge may lead the city of Oakland in charm and character, it lags behind many of Oakland's neighborhoods in replacing overhead utility lines.

Neighborhoods such as Crocker Highlands, Trestle Glen and Piedmont Pines have worked to get their utility lines moved underground, but Rockridge neighborhoods continue to tolerate and coexist with the maze of power, phone and cable lines strung precariously from rooftop to poletop.

It's time Rockridge caught up with its neighbors.

A group of interested residents has formed a committee to investigate the viability of "undergrounding" the overhead utility lines in Rockridge. You can learn more about it, take a survey to register your opinion, and get involved at www.rockridgeunderground.com.

The Pros and Cons of Undergrounding Utility Wires

Undergrounding power lines has several advantages: Aesthetics, increased property values, reduced outages during storms and safety (reduced risk of fire, seismic hazards and falling objects). It can also save neighborhood trees from severe and sometimes aggressively asymmetrical pruning.

Updating the street lighting during an undergrounding project can further enhance the aesthetics of the neighborhood and provide for increased safety from crime because of a more efficiently lit environment.

The main drawbacks are cost and disruption. The process of undergrounding existing overhead lines involves trenching the street and a portion of most properties (from the house to the street).

Construction takes about one year for each mile of undergrounding and costs roughly $60,000 per property plus approximately $9,000 in costs such as panel conversion and service lateral trenches associated with each property.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has two programs for the replacement of existing overhead distribution lines with underground service. Under a Rule 20A project, the county, PG&E and other affected utilities pick up 85 percent of the total cost while property owners pay only for the cost associated with each property. But since PG&E is only undergrounding 30 miles of overhead power lines per year in its entire service area, the waitlist in Oakland is 40 years.

Piedmont Pines, for example, applied for a Rule 20A undergrounding in 1987. After years of battles with PG&E and the Oakland City Council, and after getting leapfrogged by other neighborhoods on the waitlist several times, construction finally got under way in October 2011. "We're really excited," said Robbie Neely of the Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association. "Although it took forever to get started, Phase 1 will be completed by the end of the year." Ms. Neely added that when all three phases of the project are completed, it will be the largest residential undergrounding in the state.

For those neighborhoods seeking to speed up the process, there is a privately financed alternative that can have the utility lines undergrounded in a two-to-four year time frame. Under a Rule 20B project, the property

➧ **Utility Wires Underground, page 13**

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

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Articles submitted for publication may be e-mailed to the above address. Submissions are limited to 600 words; must include the author's name, phone number, e-mail address, and city or neighborhood of residence; and are subject to editing. To reprint a *Rockridge News* article, please contact the editor.

Newsletter Advertising/Deadline

Publication date of the next issue is:
☛ **October 5, 2013**
☛ **October deadline is September 19, 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.)

Rockridge Area Safeway Projects Still Problematic

Rockridge Shopping Center

Final EIR for Rockridge Shopping Center Rebuild to be Issued Soon

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair

Safeway's second Rockridge-area project, rebuilding the Rockridge Shopping Center to add 120,000 sq. ft. of additional retail and office space and replace the existing 50,000 sq.ft. store with one 15,000 sq.ft. larger, appears heading for a Planning Commission hearing in late September. The final environmental impact report (FEIR), which will include responses to comments on the draft report, is, according to Oakland Planner Darin Ranelletti, due to be published "early in September."

The project at Broadway and Pleasant Valley Avenue between the Rockridge, Temescal, and Piedmont Avenue communities has a long history, including two major revisions to respond to criticism from the community and from the Planning Commission. Most observers feel the revisions have significantly improved the project, but serious concerns remain about traffic impacts on surrounding residential streets.

RCPC initially focused its concern on making sure the project was appropriate to its urban location. More recently, concern has shifted to pressing Safeway to improve the project's transit, bicycle, and pedestrian accessibility, especially given its location near the Rockridge and Macarthur BART stations. Obviously, the more people who use alternatives to the private auto to access the center, the less will be its traffic impacts.

A meeting between Safeway and local community group representatives for Safeway to present its latest project plan revisions was scheduled for just after Labor Day. RCPC is hopeful those revisions will continue to show responsiveness to community concerns.

College Avenue Store Replacement

In Its Haste to Start Construction, Safeway Violates Agreement

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair

Demolition of the old Safeway store at College and Claremont Avenues has begun, and Safeway is barreling ahead towards starting construction of its new shopping center. Unfortunately, in its haste, Safeway overlooked a key provision in the settlement it reached last winter with RCPC and two other community groups.

The agreement, reached after many hours of arduous negotiations, calls for Safeway to meet with representatives of the three groups – RCPC, Friends and Neighbors of College Avenue (FANS), and Berkeleyans for Pedestrian Oriented Development (BPOD) – to discuss any major design changes between the plans approved by the city in December and the drawings that would guide the actual construction of the store. That meeting was to happen before Safeway submitted its application for a building permit to the city. Its purpose was to allow the community groups to comment on the changes and resolve any disagreements about whether they were warranted. In case of disagreement, the groups could ask the city to review, and potentially reject, the changes.

Apparently, Safeway never told the construction manager about the provision, so he went ahead and submitted the permit application without any meeting. Upon learning of the breach, the groups contacted the city's planning department. Pete Vollman, the planner handling the project, agreed to suspend processing the permit until the required meeting occurred.

That meeting, scheduled for September 4 at City Hall, is to allow the groups to review

▸ Safeway Violates Agreement, page 12

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, September 25. Topics will include an update on the College Avenue Safeway and Rockridge Shopping Center projects, and further discussion of the city's off-street parking report.

Agendas: Please check with committee chair Stu Flashman, 652-5373, or e-mail stuflash@aol.com the week before the meeting for an updated agenda.

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair

■ Residential Off-street Parking Study, Citywide Rezoning, Phase 2

In support of revisions to the city's off-street parking requirements for new construction as part of citywide rezoning, the city conducted a study of off-street parking for multifamily residential buildings. The study looked at the behavior of 294 Oakland households in 11 residential buildings in the Fruitvale, Jack London Square, and Telegraph Avenue areas. (The buildings include 815 units, but only about a third of the households responded.)

The study was designed to examine residents' existing use of off-street parking and evaluate their attitudes towards incentives to reduce private car ownership. The results would be part of deciding whether to reduce off-street parking requirements for new residential construction. A similar study is planned to evaluate commercial off-street parking requirements.

While suggestive, the study produced few clear-cut results. Not surprisingly, buildings without off-street parking (generally older buildings) had lower rates of car ownership. Two buildings located close to the Fruitvale BART station also had lower car ownership and higher transit use. The results also seemed to indicate that a small but significant proportion of residents might respond to incentives such as free transit passes or higher parking costs by giving up at least some of their private cars. RCPC plans to review and provide detailed comments on the study.

To read and comment on the study, find it on-line at: http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PBN/OurOrganization/PlanningZoning/OAK030572, or by calling planner Darin Ranelletti at 238-3663 or e-mailing DRanelletti@oaklandnet.com. Send comments to the same e-mail address or c/o Planning and Zoning Division, City of Oakland, 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3315, Oakland 94612.

Creek to Bay Day, the Rockridge-Temescal Way

by Leonora Sea, DMV Neighbors

Creek to Bay Day is Oakland's annual stewardship event and celebration of our urban waterways; this year it coincides with the autumnal equinox on September 21.

It's time to welcome autumn to the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt, and to gather, get acquainted, and get our own Temescal Creek ready for winter.

The DMV Neighbors Association is coordinating Creek to Bay Day, Saturday, September 21, at the creek from 9 a.m. to noon. Sign in at the corner of Redondo and Cavour. Volunteers will be treated to pastries and coffee at the sign-in table. Families and groups are welcome.

We'll sweep, prune overgrowth, pull ivy, remov blackberries and weeds, spread mulch, pick up litter, and remove roots, silt, and debris from the creek channel. Plan to stay after we're done for snacks, drinks, and conversation on the lawn under the trees.

For more info, contact Leonora Sea, DMV Neighbors Association, leonorasea@yahoo.com, or look up Temescal creek on the city's Creek to Bay Day web site: www.oaklandcreektobay.org.

Are you interested in neighborhood creeks in Oakland and the East Bay? Visit the Oakland Museum of California watershed website: http://museumca.org/creeks/MapOak.html.

Kids Paint Plaques to Help Dog Park Renovation

by Becky Alseth, local resident

Hardy Dog Park got a splash of color in late August thanks to more than 60 children from College Avenue Presbyterian Church's Vacation Bible School summer program. The kids painted dozens of temporary plaques to adorn the park's fence, adding a refreshing vibrancy to the otherwise dreary space.

The campaign generated $7,000 in contributions for Scenic Streets, the local volunteer landscaping group that is leading a renovation of Oakland's oldest and most dilapidated dog park. Dozens of residents and businesses sponsored one of a selection of youthful works of art offered in a choice of bone, fire hydrant and dog shapes.

"During each of our summer sessions, we have the kids participate in community improvement projects," explains Pastor Monte McClain. "Painting plaques to help raise money for the local dog park was a lot of fun for the children and helped them realize they can make a difference in their neighborhood."

Funds raised were matched dollar for dollar by Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream, a supporter of Scenic Streets' other nearby landscaping projects as well. Local volunteer Robin Binaoro says the campaign puts the group closer to achieving its goals of improving the safety, access and functionality of the dog park.



/Monte McClain

Binaoro acknowledged that many plaque sponsors, like himself, don't even own dogs or use the park. "But so many of us drive by it every day and wonder why it has to be such a bleak space," he said. "Residents realized that the improvements we have proposed, such as adding shade loving trees and shrubs to the dog park, will greatly enhance the gateway to Rockridge."

The renovation plans are being reviewed by city officials currently and can be viewed at scenicstreets.org.



/Monte McClain

Rollover Collision at Controversial Intersection Sparks Calls for Action

by Nancy Schaaf, local resident

Two vehicles collided at the intersection of Claremont Avenue and Hudson Street on Sunday, July 18, causing a small SUV to roll onto its roof in the crosswalk that spans the entrance to the highway ramp. This latest incident at the notoriously dangerous intersection has residents calling for more pedestrian safeguards near Frog Park and Hardy Park Dog Run.

"Motorists approach the on-ramp like they are getting ready for take-off. They have little regard for pedestrians in the crosswalks or bicyclists on the streets" says Tom Hull, a nearby resident. "It's surprising there aren't more accidents here. The city needs to take action before someone gets killed."



/Sean Riley

In fact, the city of Oakland does have an action plan in place to study the area.

Kristine Shaff, spokesperson for the Public Works Department, says that additional safety enhancements are currently being considered for the near term, such as enhancing signage and altering traffic light timing.

More robust safeguards may take a while longer. The intersection is tentatively slated to receive substantial

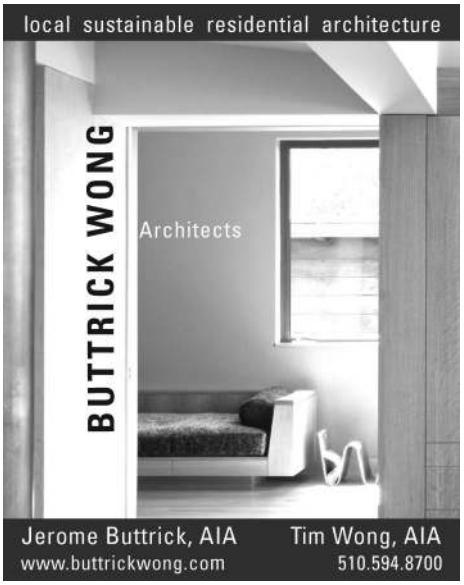
Collision, page 13

NCPC Hosts OPD Ceremony

from page 1

September 12, at the Rockridge Library, just prior the next Greater Rockridge NCPC (Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council) meeting. These ceremonies usually take place at the Oakland Police Department headquarters at 455-7th Street in downtown Oakland. Captain Toribio thought that it would be much better for these two fine officers to be recognized by the community members they help to protect.

Join us on September 12, 6 p.m., at the Rockridge Library to meet Officers Gunther Lee and Dana Ly and give them our sincerest thanks and appreciation.



Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council; Neighborhood Watch. What's the Difference?

Editor's Note: A recent posting on the Rockridge Neighborhood Watch group stated a common concern: "I don't know what the difference is between the RockridgeNCPC and RockridgeNeighborhoodWatch groups." Below are brief statements about the differences and similarities of the groups, and links to more information, compiled from site-specific searches. To join the Yahoo-hosted RockridgeNeighborhoodWatch group itself, go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/

What Is NCPC?

A Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is made up of you and your neighbors working together and in partnership with the Oakland Police Department (OPD) and other city agencies to address ongoing problems in your neighborhood.

NCPCs generally choose three priorities for the Oakland Police Department Problem Solving Officers (PSO). The Neighborhood Services Coordinator, PSOs, beat officer, and other city agencies work together and with the NCPC to develop and implement a strategy for addressing the priorities. OPD also reports back to the NCPC about progress on the priorities until the problems are resolved or changed.

Throughout the city, NCPCs are organized on the basis of their area's police beat. Rockridge is covered by beats 12Y and 13X. Residents in the beat area staff and run the group. All neighborhood residents are invited to attend its meetings.

Monthly meetings of the Greater Rockridge NCPC (GRNCPC) are usually held on the second Thursday of each month at the Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue.

Find more information at the GRNCPC web site: http://www.rockridgencpc.com/

What Is Neighborhood Watch?

A Neighborhood Watch group is a partnership between a self-selected group of neighbors and the Oakland Police Department to improve safety and prevent crime.

After holding two Neighborhood Watch meetings, preparing a map and roster of the neighborhood members, selecting a block captain and alternate, and registering this information with the city's Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, the group of neighbors are designated a neighborhood watch group. Street signs identifying the area as home to a watch group are posted.

The block captain and the alternate are liaisons between the watch group and the police department, making sure the map and roster are complete and the Neighborhood Watch signs are installed. The liaisons also schedule meetings, maintain the membership roster and map, and distribute flyers or other information as provided by the police department.

Call Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Brenda Ivey at 510/238-3091 for more information. Visit the web site: http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CityAdministration/d/NSD/s/BLP/s/NW/





Eyes on Rockridge

That Porta-Potty in your yard could land your kitchen on the tour

by Judith Doner Berne

'She smiles when she talks about kitchens."

That's what my 18-year-old granddaughter said after she sat in on my interview with Natalie Mehta, chair of the Rockridge Community Planning Council's (RCPC) 10th Rockridge Kitchen Tour.

This year's event, to be held between 12:30 and 5:30 p.m. Sunday, September 29, is Mehta's third go-round as either chair or co-chair of the biennial event. Other years, she's been a docent, welcoming tour-goers and offering details about the kitchens they are viewing.

"I probably look at two dozen kitchens (ahead of each tour) and we accept nine," said Mehta, who is also active on the Chabot Elementary School PTA board and the RCPC Land Use Committee. "Whenever I see a Porta-Potty outside a house I write down the address."

Ironically, one of the portable restrooms was outside Mehta's house on the day of our interview. You guessed it: She and her husband, Manish, are re-doing their 1939-era kitchen.

"I've been mentally planning this since we moved into this house in February 2002," she says. Since then, they made its narrow, Pullman-style layout work even as their family grew to include Anand, 11, Maya, 9, and Aidan, 7.

"The ceiling looked like the inside of an old Chevy Impala," she describes. "The sizing that covered the lath and plaster had split and was sagging down the center. The rest of the kitchen had yellow tile with burgundy tile accent liners, a yellow tile backsplash and a dark brown heavily worn and stained vinyl floor."

Further, she says, "Someone had tiled over the counter surface of the two existing built-ins with small mosaic tile in the shape and color of cat kibble – with thick dark brown grout to add to the ambience. A blue border featured white ducks with yellow feet. Oh yes, it was a real beauty!"

Beyond that, there was no dishwasher or garbage disposal. "I haven't had a dishwasher since I left for college at 17," Mehta says, somewhat proudly, although that is about to change.

But although she is modernizing, the effect won't be modern. It will reflect what she holds true: "What I love about old kitchens is they are super-efficient."



RCPC Kitchen Tour chair Natalie Mehta knows first-hand the trials of a kitchen remodeler. Relocated temporarily to the basement, the family's kitchen equipment is split between two small rooms as their main kitchen is remodeled. /Judith Berne

Yes, she's culled ideas through the years from the kitchens she's visited.

"The biggest thing is adjusting the layout to your needs," she says. You are often encouraged to, for example, keep the sink where it is. It might cost a little more, but she has seen that "kitchens often work so much better if we change the layout."

Mehta has also relied on the Internet as well as what catches her eye, such as the display shelves she spied at Berkeley's Tail of the Yak that she had duplicated to hold her array of old canning jars.

"It's probably rooted with my grandmother," mused Mehta, who was born in Australia but grew up in the South Bay. "I never really thought about that. She always stored everything in jars.

"I also wanted vintage lighting in the kitchen," Natalie said. "No cans." She was struck by fixtures designed with old x-ray shades that she saw in a San Francisco restaurant and was able to track down Vanessa Bell of Berkeley's Omega Lighting Design, who created a vintage fixture for her kitchen.

During construction, the Mehtas have set up a make-shift kitchen in their basement where they already had an under-counter refrigerator and sink. Their old stove, microwave and toaster ovens are in one room, the refrigerators and sink in another.

"I'm using two pans, two pots and a colander," Mehta says. "And we've been totally fine."

So two years from now, can we expect to see their completed kitchen on the Rockridge Kitchen tour? "We will never be on the tour," she says with a laugh. "That would be a marriage-ender."

Typically, the event draws upwards of 500 people (the record was around 800) who pay $35 in advance or $40 the day of the tour. "It's mostly women, but there are a number of men," Mehta says. "Most of the people are from Rockridge or Piedmont and are contemplating re-doing their kitchens. But there are people who come year after year."

Mehta took over from Susan Montauk, who founded the kitchen tour in 1995 and led it through 2009. "I always loved it, but it was time," Montauk says. "Natalie had worked with us. I thought she was terrific. She does more of the work herself than I did. She's amazing."

It's the RCPC's principal source of funds, raising, on average, $20,000 for community projects. They include the restroom facilities

Inside the Tour, page 7

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Inside the Tour

from page 6

at Frog Park, benches along College Avenue and the re-designed Rockridge BART Plaza.

"I love people's stories about their kitchens," Mehta says, stories that are recapped in the tour brochure along with the photographs she selects from those taken by professional photographer Kelly Patrick Dugan. Both are shared with the tour committee which tries to select a variety of styles while keeping the tour fairly walkable.

"This year two houses are right next to each other," Mehta says.

"I think the best thing about the tour is while there's variety, there's also similarity" because so many of the houses are from the same era, she says. That makes it easier to envision a kitchen you like in your own house.

Probably her most frustrating experience was two years ago when a kitchen she featured on the advertising poster was withdrawn because the homeowner was suddenly transferred. "The posters had already been printed and distributed," she says.

"Homeowners change their minds, docents bail," says Nancy Sale, who has been in charge of gathering the more than 40 docents from the tour's inception.

"Natalie is very well organized and very patient," Sale reports. "She inherited a blueprint (from founder Montauk), but she's made some improvements. She's a real smart person."

For further Tour details, see adjoining articles.

If you have comments on this column or want to suggest a topic or person you think would make interesting reading, please email judyberne@att.net.

An RCPC Kitchen Tour 2013 Vignette

A Modern Twist on a Classic

by Keziah Moss



After living in their home for 10 years, one young family was ready to put a modern twist on their classic Rockridge bungalow. Walnut cabinets, Caesarstone counters, and a backsplash artfully assembled from Heath ceramic tile seconds, united to create their fantastic new kitchen. Clever design details including deep cabinets, an appliance garage, and banquette seating provide ample storage while keeping necessities close at hand. Large sliding doors allow the family to enjoy uninterrupted views of the garden, and when a crowd gathers, the doors pull open to let the party spill onto the back deck. This renovation has created an indoor/outdoor atmosphere cherished by all.

To see this beautiful renovation, and eight others, please join us for the 2013 Rockridge Kitchen Tour on Sunday, September 29, from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Here's how you can get your tickets now:

Online: Advance Tickets ($35) may be purchased through September 27 online at www.rockridgekitchentour.org

On the Avenue: Advance Tickets ($35) are available at Rockridge Home, 5418 College Avenue, open daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets are available here through September 27, and may be purchased via cash or check.

On site: For those who wait, $40 Day of Tour Tickets will be sold at the registration desk in front of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue, beginning at 11 a.m., Sunday, September 29.

Tour Tickets on Sale Now

from page 1

be beautifully incorporated within a kitchen? Where do you place full-sized laundry appliances so they are readily available yet hidden from view? How can modern amenities be fit appropriately into a traditional space?

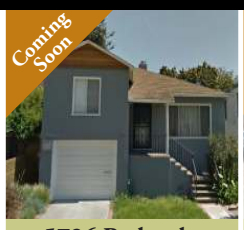
These questions, and more, will be addressed by the architects, designers, contractors, and enthusiastic docents available in each of the nine kitchens on the tour.

Whether you are looking for ideas and resources for an upcoming renovation, or just interested in supporting this community fundraising event, there is plenty to enjoy.

Event and ticket information is available in the Tour vignette article above, and at www.rockridgekitchentour.org.

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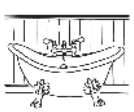
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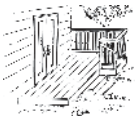
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Barry A. Kaufman

HIPSTER FARE: THE NEW FOOD REVOLUTION

Restaurant critics often refer to the current post-Chez Panisse food revolution as the snout-to-tail craze, the farm-to-table movement, the return of retro cocktails and the new comfort food.

Starting in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn, the hipster restaurant movement has come to Oakland in full force. Oakland is often referred to as the new Brooklyn. As a Brooklyn transplant, I find this all most amusing.

Oakland neighborhoods like Rockridge, Temescal Triangle and Uptown, have become ground zero for some of the hottest and hippest restaurants in California. Millennials or hipsters have emerged as a distinct demographic subculture with an edgy focus on food, art, and music. You often see tattooed hipsters snapping photos of their food and sending them out on Facebook or other social media sites. The young chefs at these restaurants are pushing the boundaries of culinary creativity. The menus defy simple categories such as Cal-Med, Asian fusion, or modern Italian. From food trucks to small and loud downsized restaurants in emerging urban neighborhoods, hipster fare has created a new food revolution.

On College Avenue, the Ramen Shop is a hipster's delight. A short menu offering locally sourced and house-made ingredients is a "noodle slurper's" ideal meal. How can you beat the Meyer lemon ramen and pork belly?

Down the street is the newly expanded Toast featuring innovative cocktails and small plates. Originally started as a wine bar, Toast has reinvented itself as a cocktail and lunch and dinner spot. Next door, the soon-to-open Box and Bells from Michelin chef James Syhabout of Commis and Hawker Fare fame, promises to be a new Rockridge destination mecca. Opening is set for late summer. Chef James will be offering a new hipster trend of staff meals from the Commis kitchen.

The newest addition to the surging Temescal Triangle is the ultra-small Juhu Beach Club from Top Chef finalist Preeti Mistry. Juhu Beach Club features street food from Chef Preeti's hometown of Mumbai. Juhu's menu features unique Pav combos. Pavs are slider-sized sandwiches with fillings such as smoky black cardamom-braised short ribs or pulled pork in a vindaloo BBQ sauce – very yummy.

Oakland's most booming dining destination is, of course, the hot and happening Uptown. Restaurants like Hopscotch, Marrow, Flora, Hawker Fare, Duende, and Luka's Taproom are creating a buzz throughout the Bay Area Twitter crowd.

The only warning I have is for the more-senior diner: the noise level of these restaurants can be high. Food at these hipster spots is worth trying, but the noise level can be a distraction.

I'm not sure Oakland is the new Brooklyn, but the emerging food scene is certainly putting the city on the culinary map.

Quirky burgers made with locally sourced grass-fed beef are the go-to bite for the Twitter and tattoo crowd. Check this month's recipe for a unique take on the hipster burger.

Pork (lamb, turkey or beef) Portobello Burgers

Ingredients

1 pound ground pork (lamb, turkey, or beef)
1 tablespoon minced garlic
1 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary or parsley
salt/pepper to taste
4 large Portobello mushroom caps, stems removed
Olive oil
4 large burger buns
Any burger fixings you like

Preparation

Prepare a grill, set to medium high temperature.

- Combine the ground meat, garlic, rosemary or parsley, and salt and pepper.
- Use a spoon to lightly scrape away the mushroom gills to hollow them out.
- Drizzle mushrooms inside and out with olive oil.
- Press ¼ of the meat mixture into the hollow of each mushroom.
- Grill the burgers, meat side down, about 4-6 minutes. Flip and cook another 6-7 minutes.

Serve on a toasted bun with any fixings you like

Barry Kaufman is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. Barry is available for cooking classes and tours of East Bay ethnic markets. Barry's e-mail is: kaufman42@comcast.net

Specializing in Rockridge Real Estate

Most real estate transactions in Rockridge from 2011 to 2013

The media may provide market data from recent 'months', but it is key to keep up on the very latest activity. After 18 months of prices rising sharply, prices may have peaked a couple of months ago. This is likely due to a combination of buyer fatigue, modest increases in interest rates, and our typical late summer slow-down. It is still a strong and stable market, with a bit of the edge taken off the exuberance. Stay tuned as the fall inventory increases!

SOLD: 3BD, 2.5 BA nr Temescal/Farmer's market @ 5137Miles.com, seller rep - $911,500
LEASED: 2BD 1BA home, 5315 Locksley - $3,295/mo. 1BD 1BA "efficiency apt" $1,195/mo
COMING: 3BD 2.5BA built in 2006, Peralta District, 3 blocks to College Ave @ 432 North St.
4+BD 2.5 BA plus studio on huge lot in Chabot District for sale. 1 & 2 BD Apts. for lease



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Temescal's Culinary Crawl Is Back: Sept 17

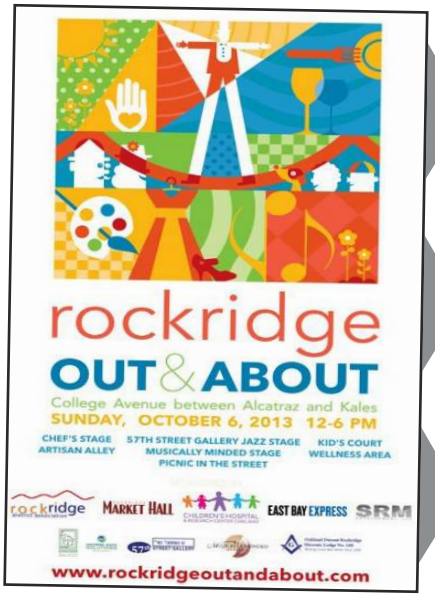
This is the cool event where you get to stroll the sidewalks of Telegraph Avenue on a warm September evening sampling the amazing food from Pizzaiolo, Barlata, Burma Superstar, Tanjia Moroccan, Doña Tomas, Marc 49, Lanesplitter, Tara's Organic Ice Cream, and many more.

The Crawl raises money for local schools and resources:

- Emerson Elementary
- Claremont Middle School
- Oakland Tech High School
- Women's Cancer Resource Center
- Lions Center for the Blind.

Tickets, $30/person, at the BID (Business Improvement District) office, 510-49th #203. (Call 860-7327, or e-mail before to make sure somebody's there!), or, buy tickets online: http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/441754

Rockridge Out & About: Sunday, October 6



Local Community Garden Now in 13th Year

by Greer Alley, Rockridge resident

Our neighborhood on Ocean View Drive between Broadway and Margarido has a magnet that we all refer to as the community Garden. This is a story about that long block of neighbors in Rockridge that came together as a community to celebrate, to work, and to join each other as a neighborhood around our garden.



Ocean View Gardeners: Dee Stevens, left, Doug Moon, Jody Stevens, Michael Monroe, Dale Alley, Craig Lyall, Eric Jabobsen & Greer Alley. /Dom di Mento

Thirteen years ago, our garden area was an abandoned space between sidewalk and street. Barren and full of leaves, electrical panels and trash, it was not an inviting entrance to our little community. Then, more than 15 neighbors came together to excavate, amend soil, set boulders, install temporary irrigation and plant. Materials were purchased by the neighborhood or through donations from local nurseries and Acapulco Rock and Soil in Richmond.

Since that summer of 2000, we have had an annual December holiday party to watch the lights go on in the trees and decorate them with wonderful outdoor ornaments given to us by a neighbor living many blocks away. Neighbors install the tree lights prior to the party. Then, working from the shoulders of adults, kids decorate the trees and the adults bring appetizers and drinks to share. We invite everyone on our block: From new homeowners and renters to old-timers, everyone is welcome.

Over the years, the garden has been tended by a group of Garden Guardians. In dry months, the guardians use soaker hoses to keep the garden watered. They weed, prune and pick up debris. A dedicated group, they have not changed their guardian schedule for 12 years.

This year, we received a grant from Keep Oakland Beautiful. With that funding, we purchased materials for a permanent drip irrigation system that will use water supplied by a generous neighbor.

On Mother's Day, eight neighbor men installed the new system, and the plants are thriving.

The community garden continues to evolve. Trees reach adolescence. Native plants thrive. Weeds grow. Cigarette butts are thrown and picked up. We have never had vandalism, graffiti or trauma to our garden. Yet, as happens in nature, an aspect of urban gardening has cropped up: gophers have discovered the garden.

To be continued.....

Come picnic with Market Hall during Rockridge's Out & About Street Fair, Sunday, October 6, 12-6 p.m.

Along College Avenue from Ocean View Drive to the BART station, Market Hall and neighboring businesses will offer a wide array of foods, beverages and fun activities.

Details here: http://rockridgemarkethall.com/events/item/rockridge-out-and-about

Among the many events and attractions, you will find:

- **Chefs Stage:** Sponsored by Market Hall and Nathan & Co.

11:30–1:30p.m. – Live music with Brasiliando: Featuring Mary D'Orazi, vocals; Marcos Silva, piano; Harvey Wainapel, sax; Doug Lee, bass; and Greg German, drums

2–5 p.m.– Local Rockridge culinary personalities' chef demonstrations. Free food tastings, gift certificate giveaways from Rockridge businesses

5:00–5:20 p.m. – Comedy from Mario A. Montes – a popular Bay Area comedian and your favorite Marin Sun Farms' butcher!

Other Activities:

- 12–5 p.m. – **Pumpkin Painting** – FREE for the kids (or until pumpkins run out)
- 12–5 p.m. **Market Hall Prize Wheel** – Spin for free prizes ranging from yummy food treats to Market Hall swag.
- 2 - 6 p.m. – **Cookbook Exchange** – Bring a book, take a book! An annual **fundraiser for the Rockridge Public Library**. Books also available for purchase.
- 12–6 p.m. – **Cheese Box Art**. All proceeds go to MOCHA.
- 2:30–5:30 p.m. – Zydeco Flames. **Dancing on the BART Plaza** at College & Keith
- **Food offerings from Market Hall Merchants** from 12–6 p.m. (or until sold out).

Rockridge Branch Library: Thank You, Library Friends, for Support

by Erica Siskind, children's librarian

We'd like to thank the Friends of the Rockridge Library for the special programs and resources for children they've funded this past year. The projects have been much appreciated by our patrons and have enhanced the experience of every visitor to the library. Many members of the community have contributed to FORL, so this thank-you goes to you all.

This spring, we conducted three parenting workshops on topics of interest to families with the very youngest children; Sleep Issues, Yoga with Baby, and Infant Massage. During the last session, we got a great idea for next year: Massage for Moms – where kids ages 3 to 13 learn some great hands-on techniques for helping their moms relax. The final workshop in this series was Language and Brain Development in Children.

May was Asian and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month, the perfect time to share our Kamishibai stories. On the first Tuesday night of May, families came for an extended story time, followed by Japanese candy – the traditional end of a visit by the Kamishibai story teller. All through the month, Erica performed Kamishibai stories for class visits (using the beautiful wooden box-stage purchased by FORL) and talked to students about this special story format that interconnects the histories of children's books, Japanese street theater, and manga and anime.

FORL has instrumentally supported our summer reading program for more than a decade, by funding our intern, a library trainee just finishing 11th grade who works at the Rockridge Library in June, July, and August. The intern makes sure the summer reading program runs smoothly by supervising volunteers, keeping track of prizes, and, effectively, doubling our ability to help young patrons.



/Courtesy Erica Siskind

Erica Siskind presents a Kamishibai story, a storytelling form that originated in Japan in the 12th Century, in one of a series of school class visits. /Photo Courtesy of Erica Siskind

FORL once again has made it possible for the Rockridge Library to host extra summer performances – above and beyond what the library general fund provides – to joyful and enthusiastic crowds. When you came to a show this summer – many held on Tuesday nights – know that FORL funds supported the program series.

In addition, FORL provides small gifts for our Junior Volunteers. These are neighbors ages 11 to 17 who help out with the summer reading program. Over 1,000 kids sign up for the program every summer, and we need help to register everyone, explain how to participate, and distribute prizes. The Junior Volunteers are a crack team of experts who spend between 10 and 40 hours of their summer vacation helping out at the library. Things run more smoothly because these junior volunteers help sort books and DVDs to get them back on the shelves during our busiest season. We know that everyone in the community wants them to feel appreciated for their hard work, sharp skills, and enthusiasm.

This fall, FORL will be funding a series of craft workshops for kids ages 5 to 12.

When you came to the library this summer for one of our special events, to get prizes for reading, or just to check out whatever you like, I hope you got a quick peek at the farm diorama in the Children's Area, too. It's a favorite with preschoolers.

From all the patrons of our library; Thanks, Friends!

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Coming Soon to Frog Park: Survey Choices, New Swings, More

by Carol Behr, FROG chair

Based on your FROG priorities survey responses, the Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt (FROG) committee members are working on the number one interest: more swings. FROG continues to plan and work through the survey results list.

Swings for the Park

FROG hired MIG, Landscape Architecture & Green Infrastructure, a landscape architect and park design firm, to help assess and identify locations for swing placement in the park, and to recommend swings and creative features. The firm has already recommended that the new swings be located next to or near the current swings and has drafted several design options, including various configurations of these new features:

- Two baby swings
- Two more regular swings
- Some exciting additional play features that may fit into the budget.

FROG is working closely with the city, and has met with MIG, Fourth Bore Coalition members, RCPC and others to secure funding sources, minimize project management costs, and begin planning.

Fourth Bore settlement funds will be used for park improvements, though possible additional funding may be needed.

Coming: Share Your Preferences and Comments

- **Late September:** Sunday table set up in the park, to show the plans and get the community's input
- **October:** Join our community meeting at RCPC's town hall to discuss the different options and provide input: Rockridge Library, 2nd floor, October 17.

View plans online: www.frogpark.org. E-mail us with questions and comments or to volunteer: info@frogpark.org. For the latest survey information, visit www.frogpark.org and sign-up for our mailing list.

DMV Restoration Update

Final phases of the DMV restoration will begin in late September when the DMV continues its promised restoration, including planting 13 new trees and shrubs along the DMV Creekside. All that remains is to install one new picnic table next to the existing one on a date to be determined.

More than two years ago, the DMV agreed to restore the area after cutting down several large trees in the DMV parking lot and creek area without prior notice. With extensive input from local residents, the FROG committee and the community, the DMV restoration plan was finalized as a three phase process.

The first phase was planting the DMV parking lot trees; the second phase was installing additional boulders; the final phase is the new and replaced trees and additional picnic table that will serve park visitors, farmers market and DMV patrons.

Review the plan: www.frogpark.org. Request information or volunteer, e-mail: info@frogpark.org-

More Park News: First Saturday Cleanups Continue

September marks the one year anniversary of the "First Saturday" monthly Frog Park cleanups. Based on its success, FROG plans to continue the program for another year.

Highlights include: adding sand to both sandboxes, distributing wood chips throughout the Big Frog park area for a safer play time, surveying park users, beginning the replanting of our butterfly garden, widening the creek bed to prevent flooding, tree trimming, general cleaning and mulching.

This program relies on support from Oakland Tech's BuildOn club, which reached out to FROG last year to propose these workdays. Likewise, volunteers from the Berkeley Kiwanis and UC Berkeley Circle K Clubs are essential to FROG operations. The College Avenue Presbyterian Church summer camps provided much-needed summer maintenance.

All "First Saturday" cleanups are family-friendly. We provide tools. Meet at Big Frog Park, Hudson Street and Claremont Avenue, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (Note the new time) Thank you all. We look forward to a continued partnership.

Fall Maintenance Day

FROG thanks all community members who have pitched in to help on our workdays. Frog Park was built by Rockridge residents and we are honored by your continued

More Park News, page 13



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8/6/13	2	1	5826 Colby Street	$719,000	$719,000	13	$800,000
8/9/13	2	2	5301 Locksley Avenue	$615,000	$615,000	21	$770,000
8/9/13	2	1	347 Glendale Avenue	$779,000	$779,000	11	$960,000
8/14/13	3	1	5135 Manila Avenue	$625,000	$625,000	8	$735,000
8/15/13	2	2	5400 Broadway Terrace	$660,000	$660,000	1	$660,000
8/15/13	3	1	5272 Shafter Avenue	$768,000	$725,000	20	$700,000
8/16/13	2	1	328 Glendale Avenue	$695,000	$695,000	13	$785,000
8/20/13	3	1	5528 Broadway	$885,000	$885,000	15	$1,090,000
8/20/13	3	2	5646 Oak Grove Avenue	$995,000	$995,000	16	$1,275,000

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Town Hall Agenda: Peter Calthorpe

from page 1

energy efficiency of China's growing cities. He will also highlight the application of these same successful planning elements reflected throughout Rockridge.

■ **Please RSVP** to: info@rockridge.org – put "Calthorpe" in the title line, or phone 869-4200. For this special event, Jules Thin Crust Pizza, new to College Avenue, will be served with other light refreshments.

■ The evening will conclude with **a raffle of two copies of Calthorpe's most recent book**, "Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change," in which he explains how sustainable urban development can play a key role in reducing carbon emissions.

Mr. Calthorpe often cites the Rockridge neighborhood to illustrate the positive environmental and social impacts that mixed-use, high-density development can have on an urban setting.

In his response to blogger Scott London's question, "In a nutshell, how would you describe good urban design?," Calthorpe explains that "a well-designed city is walkable. It's a place where your destinations are close enough to walk to and where you feel safe enough to walk. And it's a place that is interesting enough socially to make you feel that walking is perhaps something more than just getting from point A to point B. I think that is the heart of it."

Since the formation of Calthorpe Associates in 1983, Peter Calthorpe's scope has expanded to include innovative design projects within the United States and abroad. His work reflects how community design with a focus on environmental sustainability and human scale can be adapted in urban and suburban cities with great success. His current task in China focuses on developing standards and examples of low carbon cities.

For more information, please see:
http://www.calthorpe.com/peter-calthorpe
http://dirt.asla.org/2011/02/08/interview-with-peter-calthorpe-author-of-urbanism-in-the-age-of-climate-change/

Safeway Violates Agreement

from page 3

changes, including significant alterations to the retail building's design and an increase in the height of the building's Claremont Avenue frontage.

The building's architect and Rockridge resident Ken Lowney, who has not been involved in preparing the construction drawings, is compiling a list of the major design changes, and has indicated that he has misgivings about some of them.

The three groups hope to reach an agreement with Safeway so the project can get back on track towards construction.



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Utility Wires Underground

from page 2

owners foot most (about 80 percent) of the total bill, but the city finances the cost of the project, recouping it later from owners via a property assessment. The assessment must be approved by a vote of at least 60 percent of affected property owners.

An estimate for the total cost of a financed Rule 20B undergrounding is about $2,300 per year per property for 30 years.

While this price tag might seem steep, it can be tax deductible in many cases. Also, state or federal grants can be sought to reduce the bill. For example, FEMA has contributed funds through its Hazard Mitigation Grants Program towards utility undergrounding in some (non-Oakland) areas.

Whether it is through a speedy, mostly privately financed 20B undergrounding, or a more time consuming (but less burdensome for property owners) 20A project, it is time Rockridge joined the other Oakland neighborhoods in modernizing our utility line infrastructure.

Collision

from page 4

improvements funded by the CalTrans settlement over the Caldecott Tunnel's fourth bore. However, the project barely made the list for funding, so formal plans won't be undertaken for approximately another two years, says Shaff.

Peter Lund, founder of Scenic Streets, says he raised concerns about the intersection with then-Councilmember Jane Brunner after his volunteers saw a bicyclist struck by a truck last year.

The group was pushing for a ticket camera that would discourage speeding and incomplete stops, common violations at the heart of the problem. But Lund says Brunner indicated an OPD study had concluded this intersection did not meet the criteria to make the device economically viable.

In the meantime, it will simply be up to motorists to obey the law. Shaff claims that many do not realize that even entering a crosswalk occupied by a pedestrian is illegal.

Nearby neighbors report frequent fender benders at the intersection, but OPD sources say records show surprisingly few reports on file, suggesting that many collisions are not being reported.

More Park News

from page 11

commitment. September's Fall Maintenance Day relies on College Preparatory School's freshman and senior classes and school advisors to complete needed yearly tasks. Adults and teens can stop by until 3 p.m. Saturday, September 7, to help with the jobs: clean and seal wooden play structures; turn wood chips; sift sand; clear the creek; remove graffiti; general cleaning.

The wood sealer is messy, so children are not asked to help with this task.

Note: FROG Park play areas will be closed Saturday, September 7, for the maintenance day. The play structures will not be open until Sunday as the sealer must dry.

Bring gloves, smoothing rakes, turning forks and pruners, if available. E-mail Howard Ferrier, volunteer coordinator, for details at hwferrier@sbcglobal.net or leave a phone message at 510/220-4249.

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Rockridge Stress Reduction

Stress Reduction class in Rockridge Tuesday, October 15-December 10, 9-11:30. 8-week scientifically proven series includes awareness, yoga, science, communication exercises, practice CDs. Great for prenatal, parents, and anyone. Register now: www.centerforstressreduction.com, 510/594-8224.

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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. **See story p.1 for report of special ceremony on Sept 12, starting at 6pm.** Rockridge Library, upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Ave. **Info** at www.rockridgencpc.com or chair@rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

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.

FOR TEENS

- **Teen Advisory Board:** (ages 14-18) Advise the library how to better serve teens. Get community service credit for school. **Snacks provided**. 1st Sat. each month, 1-2 pm. Confirm: 597-5017.
- **Rockridge Ninjas**: watch Anime, 5-6:30 pm. **For Sept only, meet 3rd Tues. (9/17).** In future months on 2nd Tues.
- **Teen 'Scape**: (**starting on Oct. 2**) Join other teens each Wed. after school, 2:30 - 4:15pm. Play video & board games, make crafts, enjoy light snacks.

FOR ADULTS

- **East Bay Chronic Pain Group:** First and Third Tues. each month, 3-5pm. 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.

ART EXHIBITS (subject to change; call to confirm)

GALLERY:

Sept: **Lorraine Bruce:** Paintings.

Oct: Rockridge Community Photography Group.

Lobby Display Case

Sept: Travel Books.

Oct: No display.

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, 9/10.**

Diesel Book/Poetry/Readings

All FREE and open to the public.

NOTE: during September, for each used book purchased, get a second used book of your choice (of equal or lesser value) FREE.

- Sun. 9/8, 3pm. Poetry Flash with **Maxine Hong Kingston, Fred Marchant**, and **Jean Valentine**.
- Mon., 9/9, 7:30pm. **Amnesty International Meeting** (**2nd Mon. each month**)**:** All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Tues., 9/10 7pm. Local author **Joshua Safran**: *Free Spirit: Growing Up On the Road and Off the Grid.*
- Thurs., 9/12, 7pm. **Meir Schneider:** *Vision for Life: Ten Steps to Natural Eyesight Improvement.*
- Wed., 9/18, 7pm. **Michael Castleman**: *Killer Weed: An Ed Rosenberg Mystery.*
- Fri., 9/20, 7pm. The San Francisco literary journal **ZYZZYVA's** Fall Issue Release Party. Hosted (wine and snacks) by editors **Laura Cogan** and **Oscar Villalon**: readings by local contributors **Dean Rader, Rosie Cima, Nana Twumasi** and **Kate Milliken**.
- Thurs., 9/26, 7pm. Publication Party for **Annie Barrows**: *Ivy + Bean Take the Case*.
- Fri., 9/27, 7pm **Jim Ziolkowski**: *Walk in Their Shoes: Can One Person Change the World?*
- Sun., 9/29, 3pm. **Valerie Miner:** *Traveling with Spirits*.

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

Taste of Temescal

On Tuesday, September 13, from 6-8:30pm, sample great food from 25 Temescal restaurants along Telegraph Ave. Live music and prizes. Proceeds benefit local schools (e.g. Claremont, Emerson and Oakland Tech) and the Women's Cancer Resource Center. **See story p.9 for ticket info**. More event info at http://temescaldistrict.org/.

Rockridge Out-And-About Street Fair

Food, Drink, Music and fun activities for the whole family Along College Ave. between Alcatraz and Kales. Sunday, Oct 6, from noon to 6pm. **See story p.9.**

Jazz at the Chimes

Vocalist **Clairdee and her band** in a concert entitled "*Something to Live For: A Love Letter to Lena Horne.*" Sunday, Sept. 15, at 2 pm, 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.clairdee.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. 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.











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We Need More Rockridge Homes to Sell
As of press time, there were **only 6 Homes** for Sale in Rockridge. Normally there would be approx. 20 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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*NOTE: Because of Rockridge Newsletter lead time, all prices are not available at print deadline.

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