The Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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

Two New Members for RCPC Board

RCPC is pleased to announce the appointment of Jennifer Daskal and Kevin Faughnan to fill the two current board of directors vacancies. Meet them at the January 16, 2014 Town Hall meeting.



Jennifer Daskal
I enjoy working with the public, listening to the needs of the community and problem solving. My family has enjoyed the community of Rockridge and Oakland in general since moving to the area and I want to give back.



Kevin Faughnan
College Avenue was a fairly empty and unattractive area in 1975. I know lots of people have added to what it is now-and what we enjoy as residents. The area has its share of problems to solve, and I want to be part of those solutions.

2013 On the Way Out: What Have 'Ya Done for Me Lately?

The RCPC Mission Statement
• **Preserve and enhance** the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood of Oakland, California; • **Promote** the health, safety, and quality of life of its residents; • **Furnish a forum** for community involvement; • **Provide leadership** and representation of neighborhood interests

In fulfillment of its mission statement, the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) presents up to 10 public Town Hall meetings each year, reviews and comments to the city on development and business proposals, and meets with adjoining and nearby neighborhood associations to share concerns and interests.

Throughout, the RCPC board strives to communicate its activities to the community – and to get community response – via the Town Halls and its sponsorship

RCPC in 2013, page 13

Notes: November RCPC Town Hall on Neighborhood Watch Groups

by Zabrae Valentine, chair, RCPC

We hope November's RCPC Town Hall spurs you to action! The audience heard a panel of local residents who are part of active Neighborhood Watch groups and other public safety efforts share ideas about how Rockridge neighbors can make our streets safer. The discussion was moderated by Rockridge resident Allie Rasmus of KTVU News, panelists included David Lorie, Andy Young, Frank Castro, and Don Link. OPD's Capt. Anthony Toribio and Lt. Chris Bolton and Neighborhood Services Coordinator Patricia Rose were also present to answer questions. Here were the primary "takeaways":

What matters most of all is simply getting to know your neighbors and being able to reach

Neighborhood Watch, page 9

Help Fill the Buckets

Because you never know when you may need them, keeping your resources ready is always a good thing. Take a moment to think of your year-end donating and think of RCPC, FROG Park, and/or Scenic Streets. Donations to these groups are tax-deductible. *Thank you.*



Create Sustainable Service: Donate to RCPC's General Fund

RCPC main funding is from the biennial Kitchen Tour. Between tours, it can be difficult to meet large unexpected financial challenges. Donations to RCPC's General Fund will smooth out the cash flow.

RCPC General Donations. Online: rockridge.org/support. **Mail/Payto**: RCPC, 4123 Broadway, PMB #311, Oakland, 94611. Tax ID 94-3011284



Put FROG Park Swings on Your Year-End Giving List

To make the vision of an enhanced FROG Park a reality, we need to raise $20,000.

It's been a part of your family's life. Now it's time to make FROG a part of your year-end giving. More details, page 3.

FROG Park: Online: frogpark.org. **Mail/Payto:** FROG Park, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, 94611. Tax ID 94-3011284



Scenic Streets Has a Few Specific Projects on its Wish List:

- Hand tools: $150
- Replacement shrubs for highway ramps: $250
- Mosaic artwork for sidewalk trash can: $500
- Shade trees for Hardy Dog Park: $750
- Commercial grade and ADA compliant bench for Hardy Dog Park: $1,500

More Scenic Streets information, page 3.

Scenic Streets. Online: www.scenicstreets.org/. **Mail/Payto:** RCPC/Scenic Streets, 362-60th Street, Oakland, 94618. Tax ID 94-3011284

***Happy Holidays!* No RCPC Town Hall Meeting in December. Next meeting: January 16, 2014**

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.

Public Safety, Not Private Security

by Laura Counts, Nicole Aruda and Susette Min

It's fair to say that everyone—whether living in Rockridge or any other neighborhood—wants to feel safe. But not everyone believes the recent hiring of private security makes our community safer. In fact, no one has presented any empirical evidence that it does.

Some Rockridge residents are organizing to find other ways to reduce crime.

"Just because we're worried about private security doesn't mean we aren't concerned about public safety," says Irene Yen, a 20-year North Oakland resident. "There are many alternatives, and we want to include as many people as possible in the discussion."

For those who missed the news, guards from VMA Security are now patrolling at least two North Oakland areas, hired by groups of residents through online "crowdfunding." The organizers launched the campaigns and then let the community know, rather than seeking input first. Not to doubt their good intentions, but to many people this felt profoundly undemocratic.

Organizers say 20 percent of the neighborhood funded the VMA guards, but we couldn't verify that claim through census data. There are 2,655 households in the Lower Rockridge South/West crowdfunding zone (Census Tract #4003), and 281 people contributed. That represents about 11 percent of households. In Lower Rockridge North/West, 226 people contributed—about 12 percent of the 1,911 households. It's unknown how many went on to sign contracts with VMA.

It seems that a small number of people have made a decision that makes many feel less safe, has the potential to escalate class and racial tensions, and fails to address the core issues behind this recent crime wave.

"This sets an ugly precedent for our community by privatizing a most basic civic function," says North Oakland resident Kristy Guevara-Flanagan. "I'm also concerned that the potential for racial profiling by outside security guards could affect children and youth."

We've spoken to many neighbors who are unhappy about the patrols but hesitant to speak up, given how divisive the discussions have been on local listservs and blogs. Many others, including longtime residents not tapped into online discussions, don't even know about the patrols.

There are many unanswered questions about how this experiment will work. For example, it's unclear whether the guards will remain unarmed in the future, and, if they do carry weapons, how organizers will let the broader community know. There's also the question of what actions guards might take. Many of the scariest recent crimes are armed robberies on city streets—crimes police say are largely driven by the cash market for stolen electronic gadgets. But public streets are supposedly outside the scope of VMA's work.

Organizers say the guards will only patrol streets with paying clients, so it's uncertain what VMA will do if they witness a crime in progress, or spot someone they consider to be acting "suspiciously" near a client's property.

"Can they stop me and ask what I'm doing?" asked one 40-year resident who is active in the neighborhood. He said he's worried about being profiled, and is even more concerned for his grandchildren (he didn't want to put his name out publicly). "This doesn't make me feel safe. Are they keeping the neighborhood safe, or are they

➧ **Private Guards; Public Ground, page 12**

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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**?
- 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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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:
☛ **January 4, 2014**
☛ **January deadline is December 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.)

RCPC Land Use Committee

The RCPC Land Use Committee meets Wednesday, December 18, 7:30 p.m, location to be determined. Note change of date. Topics will include an updates on the two Safeway projects.

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

■ College Avenue Safeway
College & Claremont Avenues

At a two-and-a-half hour negotiating session on November 1, Safeway representatives (led by Corporate Vice President for Real Estate Steve Berndt), and the three community groups – Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), Friends and Neighbors of College Avenue (FANS), and Berkeleyans for Pedestrian Oriented Development (BPOD) – hashed out a compromise agreement over Safeway's increasing the height of its new College Avenue store. The final height is still 2-½ feet taller than shown in plans the city approved last December, but the community groups achieved a number of concessions to compensate for the additional visual impacts. Since then, things bogged down, with Safeway's attorneys inserting provisions not agreed to and omitting things that were. Hopefully, the agreement will be finalized soon.

Construction has been stalled until the negotiations are completed; it's now going to be a race between Safeway's construction crews and the serious winter rains. Once the foundation is completed, construction can continue regardless of the weather. Otherwise, the work could remain stalled until spring.

■ Rockridge Shopping Center [Safeway]
Broadway & Pleasant Valley

When the local community groups and Safeway reached agreement over plans for the Rockridge Shopping Center redevelopment project, everyone assumed that the controversy was over. Now, a previously-unknown group has filed suit against Safeway to block the project. The group's nature and motive remain unclear, but the suit is unlikely to take long to resolve. When the project was approved by the Planning Commission, nobody appealed that decision to the city Council. The failure to take the issues to the Council (as RCPC did last year for the College Avenue Safeway project) practically guarantees that the lawsuit will be dismissed for "failure to exhaust administrative remedies." This will likely happen some time in the next month or two. Demolition and construction might then begin.

■ Bourbon & Beef Restaurant
5634 College Avenue

In November, The Rockridge News reported that complaints from this new restaurant's upstairs neighboring tenants would be resolved by the restaurant's owners. However, problems have continued. RCPC is being asked to intervene and try to resolve the continuing problems. Failing that, it may be necessary to contact the City Manager's staff to seek nuisance abatement (which ended up closing down Bourbon & Beef's predecessor, Water).

■ Bica Coffee Shop
5701 College Avenue

We reported in November that Bica planned to apply for full-service restaurant use permit. City staff has since concluded that a restaurant use permit had already been issued for this location some time in the past. Oakland's zoning ordinance (unlike in most cities) makes use permits permanent, with no expiration date. Thus, Bica is being

Land Use Committee, page 9

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Put FROG Park Swings on Your Year-End Giving List

With your help, FROG Park will be home to new toddler swings, regular swings, climbing merry-go-round and more (highest rated features for those who took the survey). After extensive public comment this fall, and meetings with the city of Oakland, we're moving ahead with new swings and play features in 2014; but we need your support.

To make the vision of an enhanced FROG Park a reality, we need to raise $20,000 from the community. And just in time for the holidays, a mystery donor has given $5,000 towards a match. Please donate now to ensure we receive that money.

For more than a decade, FROG Park has been a second home for area children – for playdates, birthday parties, field trips, and get-out-the-energy excursions. It's been a part of your family's life. Now it's time to make FROG a part of your year-end giving.

Thank you for your generosity.



Support Scenic Streets' Claremont Avenue Area Beautification Efforts

by Scenic Streets staff

Several new public trash receptacles were added along southern Claremont Avenue last month thanks to Scenic Streets, the group leading landscaping renovation of the area.

The city placed the sidewalk cans in three litter hot-spots along the street: the corner of Clifton, the corner of Hudson and mid-block near the underpass "Oceanus" mural.

Scenic Streets, page 13

City Approves Chabot School & Recreation Center Tree Plantings

The Lorax Project's Goal: Plant Trees, Keep Air Clean for Kids

by Jon Welch

As part of its settlement with Caltrans, the Fourth Bore Coalition proposed planting trees along Highway 24 to mitigate the effect of the newly expanded Caldecott Tunnel. Caltrans balked.

"We picked up where the Caldecott Settlement ended," said Rich Proulx, director of the Lorax Project, a local tree planting initiative. "We addressed the concerns raised during the negotiations. We even offered to adopt a highway so we could plant trees on the Caltrans land along Highway 24. After years of trying, it was clear that the tree planting would never be permitted."

The Lorax Project received a second wind from the city of Oakland when it recently obtained approval to plant redwood trees along the southern edge of the Chabot Recreation Center area and Chabot Elementary School. The Lorax Project also plans to offer trees to residents on Miles Avenue.

A 2003 California law banned new school construction within 500 feet of any major freeway. Legislators reviewed the scientific evidence and determined that the health risks for children attending schools located so close to freeways were unacceptable, so new schools are not exposed to the conditions faced by Chabot Elementary School and nearby Claremont Middle School, whose campuses are entirely within 500 feet of Highway 24.



The Lorax project will be planting trees in the Chabot Recreation Area and the edge of Chabot Elementary. Trees pictured are growing on the Miles Avenue side of Claremont Middle School.

/Don Kinkead

Scientific research has established the negative health consequences of exposure to pollution for people who live, work, or attend schools near major freeways. Exposure to pollution among children living or attending schools near freeways is known to increase risks of asthma, allergies, bronchitis, other respiratory problems, and impaired lung function growth. Of particular concern for schools and parks in such locations is that children's lungs are fragile and developing. Current research shows that repeated exposure to freeway pollution can result in critical long-term consequences, including compromised adult lung functioning, lung disease, heart disease, and cancer.

Two years ago, Claremont Middle School planted rows of redwood trees along the side of the campus grounds adjacent to the highway to help mitigate this danger. Studies have shown that trees located near highways can serve as barriers that significantly reduce the transmission of pollutants through the air.

"The fact that the Lorax Project can help to reduce particulates in the air and make it healthier for our children is wonderful," stated Laura Burnett, Chabot Elementary School PTA president. "It has been a continual concern that Chabot Elementary School is so close to a freeway and so the particulate matter is especially high. Currently, it's at unhealthy conditions. Between the enhanced beauty and better air quality for our children, we couldn't be happier." Jon Mayer, Chabot Elementary principal, added, "It cannot hurt to have more trees around our site. Having more trees is great protection and can only clean the air up."

The success of the Lorax Project is not assured. Proulx warned, "We have taken a big step forward, but our agreement with the city gives us only a short time to plant trees. While we would love to plant 100 new trees, we are completely dependent on funding from the local community. We can use all the help we can get."

For more information about the Lorax Project, contact Rich Proulx, The Lorax Project, 46 Roanoke Road, Berkeley, CA 94705; richproulx@lyceuminstitute.org or call 415/637-5890.

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BUTTRICK WONG

City Solicits Comments on Newest Caldecott List

As reported in the October 2013 issue of The Rockridge News, Oakland staff and consultants are well into designing many of the highest-ranking projects on the Caldecott Settlement project list. As detailed design of construction plans has unfolded, cost estimates have grown from the initial costs used to develop the list, in some cases significantly. The result is that fewer projects on the list will be funded than originally anticipated.

At the October 17 RCPC Town Hall meeting and via a letter e-mailed to over 200 affected residents, city staff described the current status of the project list and corresponding costs and outlined potential cost-cutting options. The four projects for which adjustments have been publicly suggested are:

Project #1 (Tunnel Rd/SR-13/Hiller Dr intersection improvements). The estimated cost of this project has risen from $950,000 to over $1.5 million. Meanwhile, the city of Berkeley has submitted plans to Caltrans for a new pedestrian-activated traffic signal on Tunnel Road at The Uplands and Caltrans has committed to clearing all sidewalk obstructions and rebuilding the missing section of sidewalk on the east/north side of Tunnel Road between Hiller Drive and Vicente Road. These planned and funded improvements will give pedestrians continuous access between the hills and west/south of Tunnel Road. Some say this renders the $680,000 sidewalk component currently included in this project redundant, although some still argue for keeping the sidewalk as per the original plan. Staff will be reviewing plans to reduce cost and scope while still adhering to the original intent of the project.

Project #6 (Jogging/walking path on Broadway between Golden Gate and Lake Temescal). After closer investigation, city engineering staff has determined that the project's retaining walls are not needed, and disturbing the existing jogging path could make it more prone to damage from storm water runoff. Instead, staff recommends that Caltrans, neighbors and the city work together to better maintain the area by cleaning the drainage ditch and pruning trees along the pathway. These activities are not eligible for Caldecott funds.

Projects #7-8 (SR-24 Noise Barrier Scope Summary Reports). Since original costs were estimated, the city has learned that Caltrans procedures have changed, causing the studies' costs to rise by $300,000. Furthermore, funding for soundwall construction will be extremely difficult or impossible to come by. A petition process is underway to make a determination on whether or not these studies will proceed.

Staff and their consultants are in the process of reviewing all comments received during the October 17-December 6 comment period to determine if any project changes are in order and if additional meetings are necessary.

For more information, contact the city's Caldecott projects consultant, Victoria Eisen, at victoria@eisenletunic.com or 510/525-0220.



Broadway Road Diet Discussed at Community Meeting

City staff presented proposed designs for the Upper Broadway "road diet" and related intersection improvements at a public meeting held in mid-November at College Preparatory School.

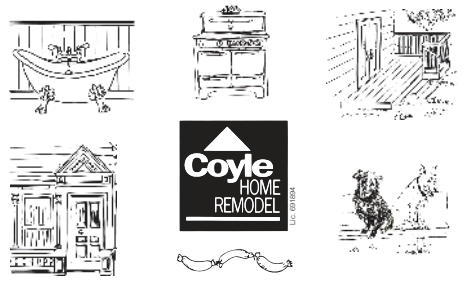
This project includes components that will be funded through the Caldecott Settlement Agreement – including a pedestrian-activated traffic signal at Lawton and corner bulb-outs to reduce the speed of vehicles turning from Broadway onto Ocean View and Lawton – as well as a number of improvements to be funded through roadway resurfacing and other funds. These components include:

- Resurfacing the roadway
- Reducing the number of traffic lanes from 4 to 3 (1 lane in each direction, with a two-way center turn lane)
- Adding bicycle lanes on both sides of the street
- Adding high-visibility crosswalks
- Keeping existing on-street parking
- Bulb-outs and high-visibility crosswalks at Taft Avenue, Kales Avenue and Ada Street

Support was expressed for these improvements at the meeting, as well as concern that the lane reconfiguration may increase congestion on Broadway during commute periods.

This effort will be the subject of a future public meeting. Construction is expected in 2015.

For more information see www.fourthbore.org/featured/1118-mtg-on-broadway-safe-crossings or contact the City's Caldecott projects consultant, Victoria Eisen, at victoria@eisenletunic.com or 510/525-0220.



Eyes on Rockridge

Parents Give Second Look to Claremont Middle School

by Judith Doner Berne

Although Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) is a "Schools of Choice" district, Rockridge parents have readily sent their children to the neighborhood elementary schools and, perhaps to a lesser degree, Oakland Technical High School.

Claremont, our neighborhood middle school, has been seen as the weak link, with parents often enrolling their sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders in other public, charter, private or parochial middle schools.

So last year's appointment of Reginald and Ronald Richardson as the new Claremont co-principals was hailed as an opportunity to improve instruction and atmosphere and provide stability, both in teaching staff and at the top.

Determined to stop the siphoning of students from its feeder schools – Chabot, Peralta, Emerson and Piedmont Avenue – the Richardsons told me in an interview following their appointment: "We will be really showing our faces at those elementaries."

This year, Claremont enrollment shot up 45 percent – from 335 to 487 – seemingly buoyed by the new principals, pro-active parents and somewhat higher test scores. Forty-two sixth-graders from Chabot reportedly led that surge, up from 25 the year before. Lesser numbers came from Emerson (21), Peralta (18) and Piedmont (12).

I attended the Richardsons' "Claremont Update" at the Peralta Parent Teacher Group's November meeting. "We have a personal commitment," Reggie told the audience of about 30. "Our mom went to Peralta; our uncle and mom went to Claremont."

"Our framework is social justice, and moving away from traditional teaching and discipline to more of a humanistic approach," Ronald said. "And yes: We have challenges." These include students coming to school late, a lack of resources and the ability to retain teachers.

"We did retain 90 percent of our teachers this year," Reggie said. But due to the enrollment increase, five new teachers had to be added, vetted and hired after school had started. "That impacted our students," he said.

They say it shouldn't happen again. And they point to strengthened academics, individually differentiated instruction, increased support for teachers, dynamic electives (Design Making and Thinking and the first Ethnic Studies class in the OUSD), plus a newly-added Enrichment Wheel of 16 six-week classes (Calligraphy, Leadership, Gender Studies, for example) in which students do not receive a grade.

I decided to see what the enrichment classes were about.

After I signed in at the office and donned my visitor's badge, it seemed easiest to follow the only child I knew in the whole school (she called out, "Hello, Judy!") to her Exploring Engineering class.

"We're making a Rube Goldberg design," math teacher Alonna Hauley told me. A few clusters of students were at work, each group tweaking its collaborative designs, which were a few days away from completion.

Hauley took me to another enrichment offering, Critical Media Literacy, taught by sixth-grade history teacher Lacy Lefkowitz. She was welcoming, despite explaining to me that some students were cutting up.

But once she started playing the rap song she had chosen to show that rap music could be both positive and negative, they were all ears. Their assignment was to write a rap song, or poem, or narrative, "about the conditions that you or others live in or about positive changes."

Lefkowitz, who is in her seventh year at Claremont, invited me to stay for one of her Ancient History classes. "There's a big difference between enrichment and actual classes. You will see; they (her history students) are completely quiet." And so they were.

She used her lunch break for a weekly meeting with other sixth-grade teachers to share concerns. Several were the new hires the Richardsons had mentioned.

In the hallway, I was hailed by substitute teacher Ernie Jacob. "I've been subbing here for years," he said. "There's a big improvement. It's more controllable."

Meantime, the competition for middle schoolers is intense. The same week that Ronald and Reggie spoke at Peralta, that school hosted a Middle School Information Night at which parents met with representatives of various middle schools, both public and private.

Later in the month, fourth- and fifth-grade parents were invited to a "Claremont Mix and Mingle" held at a private home. Lefkowitz also is part of a team of sixth-grade teachers and parents reaching out to Emerson and Piedmont.



Potential Claremont students and their parents crowd the school's gym for an open house forum held in November. /Judith Doner Berne

Claremont also held an Open House forum on a Saturday afternoon which an estimated 200 parents and children attended. They had a full hour to direct questions to a panel of teachers, parents and students before touring the school.

One questioner asked how much instruction actually goes on in the classroom.

From teachers: "There may be a few disruptions. They're 11 years old. You can't be frustrated about the things that go on in middle school. A quiet classroom is not always the ideal classroom. The ideal classroom is when the kids are engaged."

From students: "I feel we get enough (instruction), except for PE where there is a lot of disruption. The stronger teachers know how to approach the class."

Another questioner requested advice from kids and parents on how to make middle school less scary to the fifth-graders in the audience.

From students: "Don't be afraid to ask for help. Make as many friends as you can. Join the clubs."

From parents: 'I encourage my kids to advocate for themselves. This is my kid's middle school experience, not mine. Remember your middle school experience. You don't have to protect them, just guide

Claremont Looking Good, page 11

Keep the Rockridge Library Vibrant

A note from FORL board member Sarah Washburn, on the importance of the Rockridge Branch Library

Dear Friend, Thank you for visiting the Rockridge Public Library this past year. Thank you for checking out a book, or for enjoying a DVD; for encouraging your teen to study in the Teen Zone, or for singing and laughing with your child during storytime; for finding a cozy spot to read the newspaper, or for using the free Wi-Fi; for receiving advice from a lawyer, or for logging on to a library computer and getting tech help when you needed it. We're glad you found what you needed at the library.

While this may not describe how you've used the library, it tells a story of how your neighbors have benefited from the rich resources our local library provides. This past year, donations to the Friends of the Rockridge Library bolstered programs that connect our community to information, enrichment, and fun. Community support enables the Rockridge Public Library to continue offering resources and programs for everyone who walks through the library's doors.

Please help this story continue for you and your neighbors by making a donation to the Friends of the Rockridge Library. Clip and send the coupon below or visit www.FriendsoftheRockridgeLibrary.org and click on "Support the Library."

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Area Schools Open for Parent and Student Tours

Peralta Hosts Kindergarten Tours, December & January

Peralta Elementary continues to host the parent-led kindergarten tours for prospective kindergarten parents that began in November. The tours are 45 minutes long and start at 9 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday on the following dates: December 10 & 11, December 17 & 18, and January 7 & 8.

If you know anyone with kids entering kindergarten next year, have them call Peralta secretary Jan Seagren, 510/654-7365, to sign up for a tour.

If you have any questions or for additional information, contact Juliana Van Cleve, Chair, Peralta Parent Teacher Group, e-mail: pptgchair@peraltaschool.org

Claremont School Tours in December

Are you considering Claremont Middle School for your child? Information and school tours for prospective Claremont families are available. Download the 2013 Welcome to Claremont Brochure (PDF format) (claremontms.org/docs/Welcome-to-Claremont.pdf) to learn more about academic programs, electives, extracurricular activities and our Five Pillars of Horizontal Leadership. Tour dates for prospective family tours in December are:

Friday, December 13

Thursday, December 19

Tours on all dates are from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Please meet in the school library.

Visit Tech High During Tours in December

Visit Tech classrooms during a school day on December 10, and December 12, 9-11 a.m. Sign up for a school tour on-line at oaklandtech.com/staff/admissions/prospective-families/tours.

Shadow visits are an opportunity for future students to spend a day with a Tech student host, following the host's daily schedule. Sign up for a Shadow day at oaklandtech.com/staff/admissions/prospective-families/shadow-day

More information is available on the Tech website: oaklandtech.com/staff/

Chabot Kindergarten Tours

Tours of Chabot Elementary School for prospective kindergarten families for the 2014-2015 school are full for December. January 2014 tour dates are:

Tuesday, January 14, and

Wednesday, January 15.

All tours are from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m.

These tours are for parents and guardians only (no children, please), and your child must be turning 5 by September 1, 2014.

Contact the school office in advance to reserve a space– 510/654-4884, e-mail office@chabotelementary.org.



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Authors' Note: As Oakland Tech approaches its Centennial in 2014-15, the PTSA publication Bulldog Bytes has been highlighting Tech alumni. Here we present a Rockridge family with deep roots at Tech.

Celebrating a 3-Generation Tech Bulldog Family

by Cathy Rosenfeld and Julie Parker

Anita Debro (formerly Anita English) graduated from Tech in 1948. Her son, Keith Debro, a long time Rockridge resident, has been a teacher at Tech since 2000. And Keith's son, Drew Debro, graduated from Tech in 2013.

Last June, Anita Debro shed tears of joy as she watched her grandson Drew take the stage to read his graduation speech. Seeing him on stage took her back to her own Tech graduation in 1948 when she was one of the graduation speakers. As she looked at the graduates, Anita remembered her classmates on stage in their purple and gold robes.

When Anita attended Tech, its population was mostly white. She was the only black student in most of her college prep classes and only the second black girl to be invited into the "Delphian Club," a club for girls with high grades and good character. Anita played on the golf team and rowed with the rowing club on Lake Merritt. While Anita feels proud that she went to Tech, she is even more proud that her son is a Tech teacher and that her grandson was chosen to speak at his graduation.

Keith Debro has been a teacher in the non-severely handicapped/special day class program at Tech for 13 years. Commenting on the connection his family has to Tech, Keith says that his son's attending the same school that his mom attended "represented a 360 degree move over several generations." Keith and his mom had the pleasure of attending Drew's plays and lacrosse games together.

A freshman at the University of Hawaii, Drew says that at times he "would have preferred not to be at the school where my dad taught… where all your teachers already know who you are." As for his grandmother having attended Tech, Drew says, "Until last spring, my grandma and I had never even compared stories about Tech, but it sure was an interesting conversation when we did!" During an interview with his grandma for the student-created play 99 Years, Drew learned that she was the second black "Delphian" and was in the archery club. Drew says, "I am proud to be a Tech alum because of the exemplary diversity that you can find at Tech. Everyone is welcome."

As she watched Drew step onto the stage to give his graduation speech, Anita was calm, knowing he would do well since he had won first place in OUSD's Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest six of the past seven years! But when he started speaking, Anita almost "fell off my chair," because his speech was about her! She says she will never forget that day. The Debro family is large and close, and one of the many things they share is their pride in being a three-generation Tech family.





Tech graduates Anita Debro and her grandson Drew.
Top right, Drew and father, Keith Debro, a teacher at Tech. COURTESY OF TECH PTSA

First published in the October 2013 on-line issue of the Tech Bulldog Bytes blog: http://oaklandtech.com/staff/blog/2013/10/28/bulldog-bytes-october-2013. Find more about Tech at http://oaklandtech.com/staff/.

The PTSA is publishing a memory book in honor of Tech's Centennial containing articles about Tech's history, photos, and reminiscences by Tech alumni and teachers/staff. We are looking for alumni. We are especially looking for 2-, 3-, 4- (or more) generation Bulldog families to interview for the book. Please get in touch: Please e-mail: otcentennialbook@gmail.com.

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Neighborhood Watch

from page 1

each other easily if needed (individually or as a group). You can register as a Neighborhood Watch group or not: this is up to your group.

To start a Neighborhood Watch group or learn more about them, call Neighborhood Services Coordinator Patricia Rose: 510/238-6822 (prose@oaklandnet.com).

Essential steps:

■ Get as many neighbors to participate as you can (whatever number that is);

■ Collect e-mail addresses and create a shared list everyone has access to and create a phone tree (in case cells and e-mail are down and you need to share information quickly); and

■ Get together periodically to get to know each other – a few times a year is great. Some groups only meet once a year and say that works.

Best advice of the night: DON'T get together to discuss crime. When crime rates fall, so will your group's motivation to stay active. Instead, get together to talk about… anything you want. Disaster preparedness? Volunteering as a group? How to make your street prettier? The Oscars? Have fun – seriously. Make sure there is lots of dessert…

A Final Thought: If you already are part of an organized neighborhood group or are starting one, please e-mail info@rockridge.org to let us know: the RCPC Public Safety Working Group wants to track actions we take as neighbors or community-wide to discourage criminal activity.
If you can help us collect data on Rockridge's response to see if we can correlate it with improved results, e-mail us at info@rockridge.org.

Land Use Committee

from page 3

allowed to convert to full-scale restaurant use with no public input and no conditions, other than any that might have been imposed via the previous use permit.

RCPC thinks the idea of use permits never expiring, and for a single storefront site to have a "closet" full of different, non-conforming use permits, any one of which may be used when a new tenant comes in, defeats the purpose of having use permits at all. The idea of a use permit is that a use might be acceptable, if appropriate conditions were attached to the use.

Allowing a generic restaurant use permit issued years earlier to remain in effect when the type of restaurant and the surrounding conditions may have undergone major changes makes little sense as a way to protect the community. RCPC will be talking to groups in other CN-1 areas of the city to see if we can reach consensus on trying to convince the city to update this outdated zoning provision.

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.

Publicizing Patrol Information

Editor:

Some of the e-mails about the patrols came my way. The e-mails listed the hours that the cars will patrol. This information should never be revealed. The majority of car thefts in our neighborhood occur in the middle of the night. Twenty-four hour random patrols are necessary.

— Sally Williams

Patrol Fund Organizer Paul Liu Responds:

Patrol hours needed to be listed in the contracts and generally known so people would know what they were signing up for. However, actual patrol hours may vary, based on evolving need.

More Classified Ads– Page 14

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Wishing all a wonderful season of peace and joy! As this year comes to a close and a new year is about to begin, we want to give a special thank you to family and friends for their incredible support, appreciation for our client's trust and sharing in their life changing experiences, and gratitude to colleagues and vendors for the cooperative collaboration that helps make it all happen.

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For Sale (Jan): 3BD 2BA home, updated, large yard, close to College Ave/BART, award winning Peralta school District Price TBD

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Children's Hospital Expansion Plans Seen as More Neighborhood Friendly

City Planners Seem to Hew to a Stricter Line

by Robert Brokl

Expansion plans for Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland (CHRCO) have taken a turn for the better. The organization and its architects have adjusted the preliminary plans in ways viewed by the community as improvements.

In the latest plans, the heliport would remain south of 52nd on the new Link Building; the entrance to the parking garage would be from MLK Jr. Way and not Dover Street; and several residences owned by CHRCO would be relocated rather than demolished, or have modifications but retain their appearance from the street. Fifty-third Street would retain a residential feel and Dover may be closed to all but bike traffic.

These changes affirm the importance of a thriving neighborhood next to the hospital. More modifications and commitments are necessary, but this is progress.

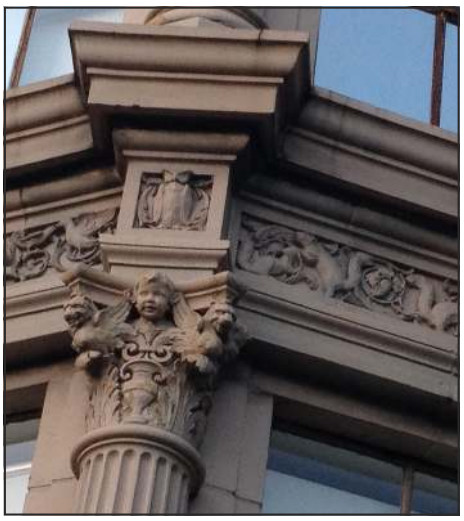
Yet to be determined is the fate of the iconic "Holdout House" at 52nd Street and MLK, whose previous owner refused to sell. CHRCO may move this house to the easterly end of 53rd Street, near two other relocated residences from 52nd Street.

For most of the public, the brick wing of the hospital – the Baby Hospital from 1926 – has only been visible from the Hwy. 24 on-ramp. And while the 160-year-old magnolia, a remnant of the McElrath mansion, would be cut down, the bays and courtyard in the proposed new entrance to the hospital would be a revelation to patients and public alike.

If only planning staff were exhibiting the same openness as CHRCO. Exhaustive new research was generated regarding the magnolia, but planning staff have so far disregarded neighbors' requests, joined by the state Office of Historic Preservation, to analyze the entire study area as part of the draft EIR to assess potential impacts and mitigations.

Outstanding issues include:

- CHRCO may redesign the cinder-block wall of their surface parking lot west of MLK (they're open to the possibility) and the "park" at 52nd and MLK. However, Councilmember Kalb's office needs to be involved in discussions of the park.
- Traffic in neighborhoods *is* a planning concern. We will be analyzing the potential traffic as part of the EIR in the transportation section. However, city planners say increased traffic does not materially impair the historic significance of a building or a neighborhood, per Oakland's CEQA Thresholds of Significance.
- Staff also opposes a cul-de-sac at 53rd and Dover, even before the traffic analysis.



Corner detail of the original Baby's Hospital building on the grounds of Children's Hospital. /Courtesy Robert Brokl

Next steps include release of the DEIR and further refinement of CHRCO plans.

For more information, contact planner Heather Klein at 510/238-3659 or e-mail hklein@oaklandnet.com

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Artist and activist Robert Brokl lives a few blocks from the CHRCO project.

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Claremont Looking Good

from page 6

them."

Afterwards, I spoke to Lisa Cloud, who bypassed Claremont a couple of years ago to enroll her son at Oakland School for the Arts. Now, as she makes the rounds looking for the best place for twin daughters who attend Peralta, she had a very different take. "I'm very happy with what I see here," she said.

"It's going in a very positive direction," seconded Terrell Richard, who has a seventh-grade daughter and a sixth-grade niece at Claremont as well as a fourth-grader at Chabot.

"My wife went to Chabot; my wife went to Claremont; and my wife went to Tech," he said. "I went to Tech. We believe what is happening at Tech is going to happen here."

Judy Berne welcomes your comments and column ideas at judyberne@att.net.

College Avenue Presbyterian Church: Christmas Events

a cross-cultural congregation striving to partner with the Rockridge community in lifestyle and service.

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* Family Advent Craft Fair
Sunday, December 8, 12:30-2 p.m. at CAPC, 5951 College Avenue
Advent Craft fun; Alternative Christmas gift ideas, ages 1-99 years. More info at www.capcoakland.org.
* Winter Solstice Meditation
Sunday, December 21, 5 p.m.
* Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, December 24, 7 p.m. Family Friendly.

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11/19/13	3	1	318 Clifton	$565,000	$650,000	33	$660,000
11/20/13	3	1	35 Armanino Court	$850,000	$850,000	14	$928,000
11/26/13	2	1	5276 Redondo Avenue	$649,000	$649,000	15	$755,000
11/26/13	2	2	5319 Shafter Avenue	$795,000	$795,000	15	$950,000
11/27/13	2	2	5400 Broadway Terrace	$649,000	$649,000	34	$640,000

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Private Guards; Public Ground

from page 2

keeping your house safe? I'm part of the neighborhood."

Even the crowdfunding organizers concede that private patrols are merely a Band-Aid approach. The original plan was to try the patrols for four months, starting in early November. Yet the initial campaigns raised enough for a year.

When they kicked off the effort, organizers said they were interested in collecting and disseminating data, but they've stopped short of a clear commitment. Paul Liu, who started the first campaign in Lower Rockridge, was quoted in November's Rockridge News as saying he'd "...do what I can in terms of data." The article also quoted VMA General Manager Elizabeth Caprini: "I don't keep track of (crime) statistics."

If VMA won't collect data, who will? How will it be shared and how will success be measured? How will funders make a decision whether to continue after the four-month trial? Will anyone monitor how this experiment is affecting adjacent neighborhoods?

The increase in crime is not limited to our ZIP codes, after all. Ariel Bierbaum, an eight-year Rockridge resident, worries that hiring guards here may simply push robberies and burglaries elsewhere. This raises competing definitions of community. "I consider my community to be not just my immediate neighborhood, but Oakland as a whole. Decreased crime here at the expense of other neighborhoods is not a solution I'm comfortable with," she says.

"There are other neighborhoods in Oakland where people are truly unsafe," notes Jonathan Osler, who is raising a family in Lower Rockridge. "My perception of my own safety is linked to their daily struggle to survive. We need to start investing beyond our own ZIP code if we want to build healthy and safe communities."

An informal group of neighbors has been organizing to make sure the whole community knows about the patrols, to survey people on their views, to ensure that the results are transparent, and to develop alternative ways to fight crime that we can all get behind.

There are many short- and long-term options: installing street barriers to block easy freeway access or putting cameras by on-ramps; boosting neighborhood watch; improving street lighting; increasing foot traffic in structured ways; pressuring smart phone manufacturers to build their products with instant "kill" switches; drafting a ballot measure to expand the number of trained police officers. The Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) has been exploring some of those strategies, and the Bushrod/Shattuck area also has a proactive NCPC. A good piece of news is that burglaries there are down 35 percent so far this year, and robberies are down 6 percent, according to OPD statistics.

We agree that crowdfunding is a powerful tool and can be used in many ways to bring us together. For example, the national group GunByGun (https://www.gunbygun.org/oakland-gun-buyback) organizes crowdfunding campaigns for gun buybacks. Oakland's Youth UpRising is hosting one on December 14 (www.youthuprising.org/get-involved/gun-buy-back).

If you'd like to help make Rockridge—and all of Oakland—safer for everyone, e-mail us: saferoaklandforall@gmail.com.

Laura Counts, Nicole Aruda and Susette Min are active Lower Rockridge residents raising their children here. Between the three of them, they've lived in the neighborhood for 41 years.

Paul Liu and Other Patrol Organizers Respond

responses coordinated by Paul Liu

The opinion piece above contains a number of mischaracterizations:

Degree of Participation

The original crowdfunding campaign was launched with the support of many neighbors. We held a neighborhood block meeting following the daytime armed robbery of two of our neighbors, and all expressed interest in a private security patrol. A similar discussion took place on a neighboring block's e-mail list and the response there was also very supportive. That several hundred households subsequently joined in the campaigns indicates to us a deep desire to take concrete actions towards improving public safety in our neighborhood. As the OPD has stated, "Any help that we can receive to reduce crime in our city is good for all of us."

Patrols as the Only Solution

Security patrols are not an "either-or" proposition. There is no reason not to look into other options for reducing crime as well. We welcome any and all efforts to reduce crime in our neighborhood and throughout Oakland.

Likelihood of Profiling

The concerns of racial profiling are unfounded. VMA Security Group is an African-American-owned, Oakland-based firm that has been retained by the Rockridge merchants' association and many Oakland businesses. Over 95 percent of VMA's employees are Oakland residents, the great majority of African-American or Latino background, and the company has stated that they do not and will not racially profile.

Analyzing Patrol Effectiveness

Using crime data from the OPD-recommended website, early results suggest that burglaries and robberies in Lower Rockridge have declined by 50 percent relative to what would have been expected absent the patrols. This is based on burglaries and robberies in Lower Rockridge before and after the patrols, compared to other similar neighborhoods in Oakland and Berkeley (Elmwood, Temescal, Piedmont Avenue, and Grand/Lakeshore).

Questions or Comments?

Anyone with comments, concerns, or suggestions, or wishing to sign up for a private patrol, can contact the organizers at saferrockridge@gmail.com, and/or VMA Security, security@vmasecurity.com.

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Scenic Streets

from page 3

Nearby DaVita Dialysis Corporation has offered to fund the three concrete cans with the graffiti resistant mosaics of local artist Juan Lopez who has decorated most of the cans in the Temescal shopping district.

Scenic Streets is seeking an additional sponsor for one older receptacle in front of Cost-U-Less Insurance opposite the DMV offices. The volunteer group purchased a can with its own funds last year. It has dramatically reduced littering in front of the agency, but the insurance company's headquarters has declined to fund the $500 artwork upgrade.

Ayala Park, a pocket park at Ayala Avenue and 57th Street, suffered extensive damage during November's strong and sustained winds.

Created by long-time Rockridge resident John Wagers, the park is maintained by Wagers and Ayala Avenue residents. Resident Constantine Cherkashyn photographed the damage and helped with cleanup.



RCPC in 2013

from page 1

of The Rockridge News.

In 2014, RCPC has several exciting Town Halls planned, and will publish the 2014 agenda in January.

If there are issues you want to know more about or ideas you'd like to share in the coming year, please contact us at info@rockridge.org.

Thank you for your broad and generous support.

RCPC's Activities in 2013

Town Hall Meeting Topics

Jan Soundwall Study Petitions & Oakland History
Feb Caldecott Settlement Improvements and Rockridge Shopping Center EIR
Mar New RCPC Website Unveiling
Apr Meet Councilmember Dan Kalb & RCPC Board Candidate Forum & Elections
May Communication in Rockridge
Jun RCPC-NCPC Joint Meeting: Mayor Jean Quan and Chief Sean Whent
Jul No Meeting
Aug No Meeting or Newsletter
Sep Peter Calthorpe: Of Cities and Survival
Oct FROG Park Improvements & Caldecott Project Costs
Nov Fight Crime One Block at a Time: Neighborhood Watch
Dec No Meeting

Land Use and Community Issues

• Continued to encourage the city to keep retail businesses on College Avenue street frontage.

• College Avenue Safeway: Enforced and monitored construction compliance, including meeting with Safeway representatives.

• Rockridge Shopping Center Project: Worked with city and community organizations to craft an improved pedestrian-friendly design, with neighborhood mitigations.

• Mediated several disputes between College Avenue merchants and neighboring residents

• FROG Park: Prioritized goals and identified park feature improvements and enhanced maintenance; Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) landscape plantings replaced; repaired park equipment; coordinated with city and community groups.

• Fourth Bore Coalition (FBC): work with city and community to review Oakland settlement project issues and designs; oversee FBC settlement agreement provisions and projects.

• Transportation: Responded to concerns about Rockridge transportation issues, e.g. AC Transit Line 51 re-routing.

• Other groups: worked with Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League (PANIL), Rockridge District Association (RDA), Urbanists for a Livable Temescal-Rockridge Area (ULTRA), and Standing Together for Accountable Neighborhood Development (STAND).

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The Perfect Holiday Gift

Searching for the perfect gift? "Date-Night Dance Class" gift certificates now available for 2014! Friday night classes start Jan. 10 in Glenview. Interested? Contact David Kelso & Chris Mehling 510/530-7671 madeinca2d@earthlink.net

St. Peter's Parish, Lawton/Broadway

Sunday Mass 8am & 10am, Wed noon, Evening Prayer Thurs, 6:30pm w/Bible Study following; **CHRISTMAS EVE** *Organ concert w/ carols* 9:30 p.m., 1st Xmas Communion 10pm; **CHRISTMAS MORNING** *Low Mass with Hymns* 10am. **XMas Children's Pageant 10 a.m. Sunday 12/22**.

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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 Thurs. each month (12/12), 7 to 8:30pm. 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

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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.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **Junior Center of Arts & Sciences "In the Style of..." Workshop:** 12/12, 4 to 5:15pm. Learn more about an artist and create your own art in the style of one of their masterpieces. Faith Ringgold's collage-painting "Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky" will be the inspiration on 12/12. Phone or stop by the Children's Desk to reserve a spot.
- **Make a Snow Globe:** Saturday, 12/14, 2 to 3:30pm. **All ages welcome**. Bring a small glass jar with a lid; other supplies provided.

FOR TEENS

- **Teen Screen Printing Workshop:** Create your own t-shirt or tote bag with help from a talented artist from the **Rock, Paper, Scissors Collective**. Wed., 12/11, 2 pm. All supplies provided.
- **Teen Advisory Board** (ages 14-18): Advise the library how to better serve teens. Get community service credit for school. **Snacks provided.** 1st Saturday each month, 1 to 2pm.
- **Rockridge Ninjas**: watch Anime, 5-6:30 pm; 2nd Tues. each month.
- **Teen 'Scape**: Join other teens each Wed. after school, 2:30 - 4:15pm. Play video & board games, make crafts, enjoy light snacks.

FOR ADULTS

- **Writers Support/Critique Group:** All writers welcome. Bring 17 copies of up to 5 pgs. (double-spaced, MS margins) of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (also welcome to come empty-handed). Third Saturday each month; 1 to 5pm. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch. 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:

Dec: **Darril Tighe**: Abstract Paintings

Jan: **David Platford**: Silk-screened images

Lobby Display Case:

Dec: **Peter Langenbach**: Whimsical Sculpture AND Kwanza Display

Jan: **Cynthia Jacobs**: Handmade puppets

December at the Circulation Desk: See samples of the Arts & Crafts Workshops we'll be doing with children in December.

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 12/24, 12/25 and 1/1/14.

St. Albert Priory Christmas Concert

The **Schola Cantorum of St. Albert Priory** and the **Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble (WAVE)** will present their annual Christmas concert following the customary format of a Festival of Lessons and Carols, as sung at King's College, Cambridge, England since 1918. An evening of ancient and traditional holiday music includes Sarum chant from the 12th century; music from the 13th to 15th centuries from England and France; works by Ravenscroft, Ord, Mouton, and Michael Praetorius; and traditional Christmas carols with audience participation. Sat., 12/ 21, at 8pm; ($20 General/$15 Students/Srs). All tickets sold at the door. St. Albert Priory Chapel, 6172 Chabot Road. More info: 596-1800.

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.

- **BART Tickets on sale for $9** (a **$24 value**) for seniors 65 and over.
- **New Zumba Gold for Seniors:** Thursdays,1-2pm ($5/class); through Dec. 19.

Annual $12 membership entitles seniors 55 + 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.

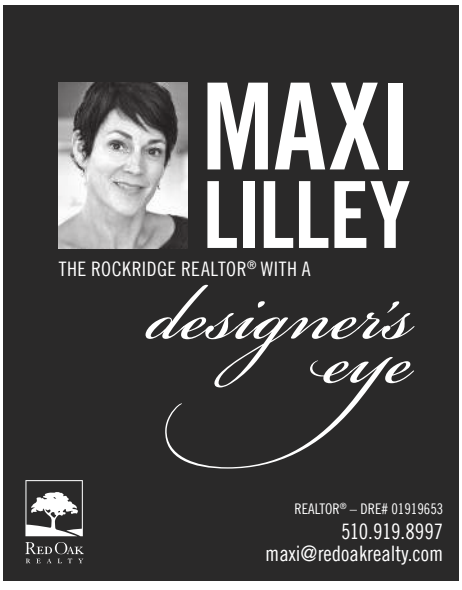
Get Into the Holiday Spirit: Deliver the Rockridge News to Your Neighbors

Here are two blocks in Rockridge that will sorely miss The Rockridge News if we don't find block captains for them. If you live close to either of these routes and wish to give a gift to your neighbors please let us know:

- **Route 03C: Along Eucalyptus in Oakland boundaries. Odd numbers along Eucalyptus from 33-99; Even numbers along Eucalyptus from 32-100.**
- **Route 06D: Both sides of Rockridge Boulevard South from 6101 to 6184.**

E-mail smontauk@gmail.com or call 510/547-3855 and name your route.

Happy Holidays!







Terry Kulka & Julie Bartlett

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I want to tell you how thankful I am this year. My business in Rockridge has grown every year. I just went over the $100,000,000 mark in sales of homes in Rockridge alone. I have sold and closed over 130 transactions in Rockridge and since I live and work here, it makes this success even better.

One of the biggest joys is how the RCPC News has changed since I moved here in 1987. In 1987, no one ever mentioned a public school in Rockridge. I found this fascinating. And now, after all of these long years and tireless efforts of many neighborhood families, it seems that every issue is full of news about Peralta, Chabot, Claremont and Oakland Tech. My son is senior at Oakland Tech and I could not be more proud of him and the other students there. He accomplished so much at a great and often underappreciated school. It has given him every possible chance to succeed. He will be able to land anywhere in the world with excellent social skills and a good education. There is so much to be thankful for living here in Rockridge. I am almost speechless.

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