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The Rockridge News

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

Happy New Year from the RCPC Board of Directors

by Zabrae Valentine, chair, RCPC

Until I joined the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) board last February, I had not realized how unusual it is for a neighborhood to have an organization like the RCPC, or how much RCPC does on behalf of Rockridge and its residents every day of the year. Here are just a few of the services RCPC provides:



RCPC Chair Zabrae Valentine.

■ Represents the interests of Rockridge residents at City Hall with regard to local land use, development, and public transit issues. Also, the board is consulted frequently on behalf of the community, and members spend several hours a month in city meetings representing local interests, submitting comment letters, and meeting with city representatives and their staffs.

■ Publishes The Rockridge News and coordinates its delivery with the help of 150 extraordinary volunteers. Without their invaluable commitment to this special

RCPC and the Community, page 9

New Swings and Play Features at Frog Park? You Can Help Make It So

Improvements for Oakland's First Community-Built Park

by FROG (Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt)

The Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt was created in 2001 after years of community effort. Under the auspices of Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt (FROG), more than 1,300 volunteers from the Rockridge-Temescal neighborhood planned and physically built the structures.

What was once fenced-off undeveloped land covered by wild vegetation has become our beloved Frog Park.

Frog Park is now a central community

New Park Features, page 12

City Responds to Public Comments on Newest Caldecott Project List; Project Funding Expands

City of Oakland staff and their consultants are finished sifting through over 100 written comments received during the six-week-long public comment period and dozens more received at public meetings in October and November. Staff and consultants will present a summary of these comments and how they will influence the Caldecott-funded projects at the RCPC Town Hall meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2014. (See agenda box, below.)

"...six more projects are expected to be funded than was reported in the December issue of The Rockridge News."

In the following cases, estimated costs may come down from those reported in October.

Project #1 (Tunnel Road/Hiller Drive/ SR-13 Intersection Improvements)

Staff is recommending a redesign that improves safety for bicyclists and accommodates pedestrians, at a lower cost than was most recently reported.

Project #3 (Bicycle Facilities on Caldecott Lane/Tunnel Road)

By reducing the bike lanes from six-feet-wide to five in limited locations, staff has reduced the amount of retaining wall needed to construct this project. A Caltrans design exception is needed and is expected to be granted.

Project #6 (Jogging/walking path on Broadway from Golden Gate to Lake Temescal)

Caldecott Comments, page 8

In Memoriam

Former RCPC Chair Kathy Walsh passed away December 10, 2013.



Fuller coverage of her history and contributions will appear in the February Rockridge News. Share your memories and thoughts about Kathy via rockridge.org by Jan. 20 for publication in the issue.

16 AGENDA: January 2014 RCPC Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, January 16 | 7:30-9 p.m. Rockridge Library

Discussion and Q&A: The Caldecott Settlement project list evolves and funding expands for some projects as public comments are heeded.

■ **Victoria Eisen of Eisen | Letunic consultants presents the city's responses to public comments gathered during the recent comment periods on the updated Caldecott Settlement project list. Eisen will discuss how some project designs have changed in response to the public input, and the resultant effect on costs and the ability to fund more projects on the list.**

Thursday, January 16 | 7:30-9 p.m. Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College at Manila



The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson

Farewell Rockridge Kids

The end of December saw the closure of one of the local businesses I've most treasured over the years, Rockridge Kids. The store and the wonderful owner, Nishan Shepherd, will be greatly missed.

I remember being at Rockridge Kids for the grand opening in 1993 with my then 3-year-old daughter, supporting Nishan and the importance of locally owned retail stores on College Avenue. Nishan was the manager of the College Avenue branch of Such A Business for about 10 years before that business closed, and he opened Rockridge Kids shortly after.

Any parent who ever shopped there learned quickly that Nishan really knew the business, valued safety and creative play above all, and made his store a welcoming place for families with children. I and many other young parents could walk there with our children, who played with the Brio train set or read books in the corner while we shopped. We knew there would be the perfect present for a birthday or baby shower, and that the very knowledgeable staff could help select the right stroller, car seat or baby carrier, giving the kind of service that few stores offer, and that is not available online.

Rockridge Kids to me exemplified the community spirit of the neighborhood. They supported the drive for Frog Park and the Rockridge Library, and helped the many local schools and nonprofits with significant cash donations as well as in-kind support for events and auctions.

When I started the Rockridge Halloween Parade 20 years ago, Nishan opened the store early on a Sunday to blow up dozens of black and orange helium balloons to mark the participating stores, and gave out stickers and small items to all the children. He continued to give generously to neighborhood causes over the years. His store was one of the things that people liked so much about Rockridge.

What happens to a community when these small stores close? We all say we love the vibrancy of College Avenue and of the community. And those stores that are owned by an individual person who had the dream of serving customers with interesting products and good services, also make decisions locally, give locally, and hire local people. So when these owner-operated stores close, the loss is much more than simply a store – it's a loss of part of the fabric of the community, part of what makes College Avenue a special place, rather than a series of chain stores and strip malls.

"It's pretty sad. I have a lot of fond memories of bringing my boys to that place when they were younger, playing with the Brio trains on the train table, changing their diapers in the tiny but well-stocked bathroom (a rarity along College Avenue!), picking out birthday presents and new-baby gifts... It's a real loss to the neighborhood." — Jennifer Vetter, Rockridge parent

That connection to the community is something no online sales entity can ever replace. Online sources may offer great deals, but they won't donate merchandise or gift certificates to your child's school auction or the community Halloween parade, and they won't be available to help you figure out how exactly to fit the car seat to your car and your child. Those are things that only come from businesses that are locally owned and a part of the community.

As the last weeks of the store neared, Nishan said to me, "I've accomplished everything I wanted to do with this business… it's time for the third act of my life." I wish Nishan the best in his third act, and am grateful for everything he has done and given to this community over the years.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue

597-5017

Hours:

Tue: 12:30 – 8 p.m.
Wed, Thu, Sat: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
Sun and Mon: CLOSED & 1/21 & 2/12

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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Jo Ellis.....Advertising & Community Calendar
Theresa Nelson.....Neighborhood Merchant
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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:

Editor: editor@rockridge.org
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The Rockridge News, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611
RCPC Voice-mail: 510/869-4200

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

Newsletter Advertising/Deadline

Publication date of the next issue is:

☛ **February 8, 2014**

☛ **February deadline is January 23, 2014**

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, January 22, 7:30 p.m, Rockridge Library meeting room. Topics will include updates on the two Safeway projects and on the two residential/mixed use projects on the west side of the Broadway/51st Street intersection. **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 Project, College and Claremont Avenues**

Negotiations between Safeway and the three community groups – Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), Friends and Neighbors of College Avenue (FANS), and Berkeleyans for Pedestrian Oriented Development (BPOD) – have continued over Safeway's College Avenue Shopping Center after Safeway made major changes to the project as approved by the city in 2012 and then submitted a building permit application to the city based on the revised drawings in violation of its settlement agreement with the three groups.

Safeway has a construction contract calling for work on the foundation of the supermarket building to begin in early January, and RCPC is hopeful agreement is reached so that construction can begin as scheduled. Construction of the retail shops building is slated to begin in early spring.

■ **Merrill Gardens at Rockridge, West side of Broadway North of 51st Street**

SRM development, a Washington-State-based developer, in cooperation with a senior assisted-living project operator, has proposed a mixed-use residential project for this central higher-density site which includes the Broadway frontage of the block from 51st Street to Coronado Street.

The project would be 120 units of market-rate senior rental housing over parking and ground-floor retail. Plans call for the project to step down towards its residential neighbors to the west. They also call for Coronado to be made two-way for a short stretch between Broadway and the project's residential parking entrance, with a barrier blocking traffic from continuing west. The project has been well received by neighbors and is being formally submitted to the city for consideration and approval.

■ **Rockridge Apartments, West side of Broadway South of 51st Street**

This project would be 130 units of market-rate residential rental over ground floor retail along Broadway, as in the Merrill Gardens proposal.

This project has had a rockier road, partly because its initial design would have violated the city's recently established height limits for zoning on Broadway. Project proponents have had two meetings with local neighbors. Concerns about its impacts were raised at both meetngs.

While the project is not within RCPC's boundaries, it is close enough to raise concerns about cumulative impacts, as well as concern over the precedent a variance to zoning height limits might set for future Rockridge projects.

Another community meeting has been set for Monday, January 13, 7 p.m., at the Temescal Creek Cohousing Community Room, 322 - 45th Street.

Please contact Ryan Leong (ryan@srmdevelopment.com) if you plan to attend.



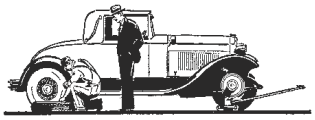
Planning Begins for Telegraph Avenue Improvements

The city of Oakland is working to improve transportation safety and comfort on Telegraph Avenue between 20th and 57th streets for all modes of travel.

Building on past studies, the current effort will result in detailed concept drawings that will allow the city to seek grant funding for some of the improvements.

Public meetings to solicit your ideas and input are tentatively planned for March and July 2014. **The city is also taking initial input via an online survey until January 31** at http://ow.ly/rnTzr.

Detailed information is available at http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PWA/o/EC/s/TelegraphAvenue/index.htm.



The Zoning Counter

The Zoning Counter is a compilation of recent applications filed with the Oakland Planning Department. Individuals may contact the case planner or the Planning Department for additional information by phone or online at http://tinyurl.com/7zh94o7.

5932 Manchester Drive

Proposal: To construct approximately 1,749 sq. ft. addition including a full upper floor and rooftop deck to existing single family dwelling.

Owner: Jay Malan

Contact Phone Number: 510/290-2028

Planning Permits Required: Regular Design Review for a residential addition.

Case Planner: Maurice Brenyah-Addow at 510/238-6342 or mbrenyah@oaklandnet.com

5500 Thomas Avenue

Proposal: Construct a 1,025 square foot second level addition and remodel to an existing 1,429 square foot single family dwelling on a 4,994 square foot lot.

Applicant: Rick Haier

Contact Person: Rick Haier 510/5583-8280 [sic]

Owner: Brook and Andrea Dooley

Planning Permits Required: Regular Design Review for additions/alterations of 1,000 square feet or more

Case Planner: Caesar Quitevis at 510/238-6343 or clquitevis@oaklandnet.com



Science Night at Claremont Middle School – Thursday, January 23

Come learn from the young scientists demonstrating nature's laws at Claremont Middle School on College Avenue (across from Trader Joe's).

✷ See and experience a fire tornado and a Faraday cage

✷ Ten scientific and interactive learning stations to visit

✷ Guest scientists

✷ Special "Earth Sciences Dinner" starts at 5:30 p.m., includes "Atomic Physics Dessert" (liquid nitrogen ice cream!) at 7 p.m.

This event is especially well suited for families with 3rd, 4th and 5th graders with curious minds.

Free to the public. Free parking on Claremont's field; enter from Miles Avenue.

7th Grade Science students Tzion Mcelroy and Jamion Hood Harbin demonstrate making GAK. /Courtesy, Kenton Lee

The Lorax Project: More Trees Near Chabot School

Children living or going to school near freeways face increased health risks. A tree wall can significantly reduce the transmission of air pollution. The Lorax project is working to plant redwood trees adjacent to the highway at Chabot Recreation Center Area and Chabot Elementary School as well as offering trees to residents on Miles Avenue between Patton Street and Presley Way.

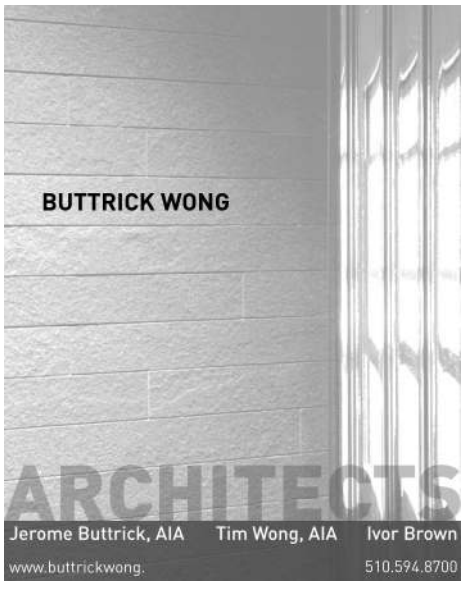
Currently there is funding to plant 23 trees, but it would be great to plant more. $125 covers the cost of one redwood tree including site preparation, planting, irrigatwion, and maintenance of the tree for two years as the roots get established.

All donations are tax deductible and can be made at www.lyceuminstitute.org. For more information, contact Rich (richproulx@lyceuminstitute.org) at 415/637-5890.

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Visit the RCPC Website for News and Events: rockridge.org



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Wood Tavern 654-6607
Vino! 652-6317

Letter 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.

Editor:

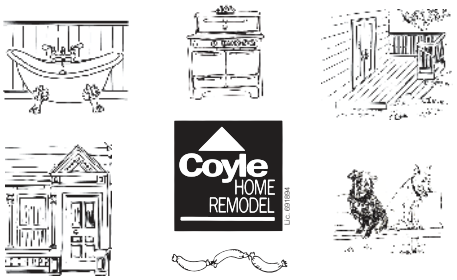
It took over a year, but a big thanks is due John Chin and his city of Oakland Traffic Engineering team for organizing new crosswalk markings at the intersection of Chabot Road and College Avenue.

With Chabot Elementary and Claremont Middle schools being just a stone's throw away, crossing unscathed during rush hour traffic would often become a pedestrian's game of Frogger, to the extent that my children nicknamed it "the crossing of death"!

Let's hope this small addition will help keep College Avenue traffic in check and restore the pedestrian right-of-way balance.

— M. Read

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RDA Corrects Avenue Tree Well Trip Hazard



Far left: a College Avenue tree well showing existing grade differential and caution tape before re-grading.

College Avenue tree well re-graded to sidewalk level with decomposed granite (DG). DG forms a stable path or walkway when compressed, and remains permeable to irrigation water.

/Chris Jackson

by Chris Jackson, RDA operations manager

After working four years with the city of Oakland, the Rockridge District Association (RDA) gained permission to bring College Avenue tree wells to grade.

These wells have been a safety issue for years, largely due to the tree well enlargement program on College and in other areas of Oakland. The contractor performing the work failed to backfill the wells to sidewalk height, creating sharp drop-offs at the well edge, leading to many turned ankles and broken bones. The problem also exists on Piedmont Avenue.

Although decomposed granite was chosen as the most cost-effective solution, RDA spent well over $14,000 fixing 130 tree wells. RDA expects the filled wells will create a more pedestrian-friendly and easier-to-navigate sidewalk for College Avenue and help prevent injuries. As a bonus, the filled wells provide more sidewalk space. The decomposed granite is a suitable walking surface which also allows irrigation.

Another RDA project to look forward to is the replacement of several trees blown down in that unusual November windstorm.

Learn more about RDA at: http://rockridgedistrict.com/Home.

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Eyes on Rockridge

New College Avenue Restaurants Opening at Record Pace Challenge Columnist's Goal

by Judith Doner Berne

Last year, after eating my way up College Avenue from Broadway to the BART station, my 2013 New Year's resolution was to do the same from BART to the Berkeley border – thereby conquering Rockridge's Restaurant Row.

And last year, I also suggested that it would be easier since "fewer restaurants await us and, yes, we have already been to several."

But, who knew that what is said to be a record number of new restaurants – 10, count them, 10 – would open along College in 2013, according to Chris Jackson, Rockridge District Association (RDA) operations manager.

Still another, the vegetarian Chinese restaurant, Great Wall, has a new owner, while retaining its name and chef; and Toast, the wine bistro with the popular front patio, more than doubled its indoor space when it expanded into the space formerly occupied by Somerset Restaurant.

"It's the most restaurants that have ever been on the Avenue," says Annette Floystrup, a long-time Rockridge resident and a former RCPC board member. That totals 40 – count them, 40 – and that doesn't take into account any of the coffee shops and bars where food may be served.

Although the newbies opened throughout the year, a couple debuted in November and December, making my goal of trying them all quite challenging.

As I start to write this, in early December, I have one established restaurant to go that is north of BART and two new ones to its south. So you will have to read to the end of the column to see if I can get to them all before my Rockridge News deadline. Bets can be laid at this time.

New to town, north of the BART, we have Osmanthus with its pan-Asian specialties; Box and Bells, a down-home spin-off of Michelin-starred Commis; Jules Thin Crust with its surf board-shaped pizzas; and the Ramen Shop, created by three former Chez Panisse employees.

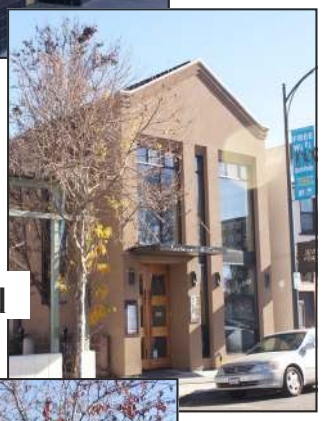
They add variety to restaurants that have stood the test of time: the very popular Wood Tavern; lines at all hours, Zachary's Chicago Pizza; Asian fusion in noodle form, Noodle Theory; be sure to sit at the sushi bar, Takara Sushi; best fried chicken salad in town, Southie; and the casual, but satisfying fare offered at Barney's on College, Claremont Diner and Old Brooklyn Bagels and Deli.

South of BART, new restaurants that I have sampled are Bourbon and Beef, featuring Latin American small plates; A16 Rockridge, echoing its San Francisco namesake; Homespun Fare, headlining the kind of meals you make in your own kitchen; and Pucquio, dishing up Peruvian street food.

Rockridge's restaurant row includes three winners of the East Bay 2014 Michelin Bib Award: Chu, Ramen Shop and Wood Tavern. The Bib award honors the best restaurants offering two courses and a glass of wine or dessert for $40 or less.



Wood Tavern



Chu

/Don Kinkead



Ramen Shop

Rockridge's restaurant row already includes three winners of the East Bay 2014 Michelin Bib Award – Chu, Ramen Shop and Wood Tavern - which honors the best restaurants offering two courses and a glass of wine or dessert for $40 or less.

Although open less than a year, Ramen Shop was named to the prestigious list. And I bet that at least one more among the newbies might be in next year's batch of winners. My personal prime candidates are Box and Bells and A16.

I can still taste Box and Bells' chicken liver toast with grilled shallot jam and chicory appetizer; and my husband loved the box burger, perfectly sized – as in not overwhelmingly big – with caramelized onion and gruyere on a sesame pretzel bun.

We have been to A16 twice, and although I know there are lots of amazing dishes on their menu, it's hard for me to resist their Montanara Rockridge pizza with its lightly fried dough, smoky tomato sauce (and it is delightfully smoky), burrata and basil.

A lovely surprise is Pucquio, which was one of the many restaurants which had two-week stints during the year-and-a-half life of Guest Chef, and has now taken over the space. Sit at the bar and watch owner-chef Carlos create magical Peruvian dishes which he says pay "homage to my homeland." His wife Lisette manages the front of the house.

I found out that not everyone is excited about the restaurant surge. Floystrup worries about the effect on retail, particularly when restaurants aren't open for lunch, creating "side by side holes in the retail fabric."

"We're going through what the Mission is going through," Jackson says, when residents can't afford to eat at the restaurants in their own neighborhood. But he also sees that "retail is a real tough row to hoe these days. You can't buy the restaurant experience online."

So this is my story. My husband and I left after waiting a half-hour for a table on a cold Tuesday night in early December at Barclay's Restaurant and Pub, our last untried eatery north of BART. The beer list, as you may know, is extensive and the food

Columnist's Goal, page 7

DaVita Invests Again in Gateway Renovation Project

by Nancy Schaaf, Rockridge resident



When volunteers from Scenic Streets convinced the city to place three sidewalk trash receptacles along the southern part of Claremont Avenue last fall, it was a mixed blessing; littering along the busy roadway would be significantly reduced, but the concrete boxes often attract graffiti.

The solution lay in a good idea borrowed from the Temescal district: Scenic Streets sought out local artist Juan Lopez who covers receptacles with paint-resistant mosaic tile. The only problem then was funding.

"The majority of our donations are earmarked for the upcoming renovation of Hardy Dog Park," says Peter Lund, the group's founder. "That budget is tight and we really couldn't spare a dime to pay for the mosaics."

Lund called Ricardo Sanchez de Tagle Aduna at DaVita Dialysis Corporation which operates one of its 25 East Bay treatment centers at the corner of Claremont and Clifton; the company agreed to provide $2,000 which will pay for mosaics on four cans.

In the past two years the company has gone from a little-known occupant to a key supporter of the Rockridge-Temescal Gateway renovation.

DaVita recently completed a major landscaping overhaul of the former supermarket that greets visitors at a main entrance – Claremont Avenue at Clifton Street – to our neighborhood. The final $65,000 cost is more than twice the project's original budget. It's an impressive move considering DaVita only leases the property and would recoup nothing if it vacates.

"We wanted to make some upgrades to the property from the time we moved in," says Sanchez de Tagle Aduna. "The community helped us determine what should be done, and we're pleased everyone seems to love the result." Scenic Streets partnered with DaVita to guide the project.

A welded fence has replaced chain link, and lush shrubs are growing where debris had sat for decades. Exterior ornamental lighting improves safety at night, and fresh asphalt makes for a more enjoyable farmer's market, which DaVita hosts when the DMV next door is unavailable. Nine new sidewalk trees add some green around the once barren property.



Graffiti-resistant tiles for new Claremont Avenue trash cans.

The new mosaics for the sidewalk trash cans will add a splash of color to the area. The unifying theme will be California flora and fauna. Final designs and locations will be posted on scenicstreets.org in late January.

PHOTOS: TRASH CAN/JUAN LOPEZ
ALL OTHERS/DAVITA CORP

Columnist's Goal

from page 6

looked great. The staff couldn't have been nicer, but our hunger got the best of us. (We ended up in the new dining space at Toast.)

So, no, I didn't fulfill my resolution. We are starting 2014 with a trio of restaurants at which to dine, headed by Barclay's. South of BART, we didn't make it to Suko Thai, which moved into the space vacated by Pearl of Siam. And the long-awaited Barrel Room, another San Francisco transplant, opened the second week in December – too late for my deadline (out of town company over the holidays) for this column.

So, alas, as with many resolutions, this one will slip over to another year. Meantime, Happy 2014 to you and yours.

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



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Caldecott Comments

from page 1

After reviewing comments and meeting with neighbors, staff has re-envisioned this project to accomplish its goal of improving walking conditions to Lake Temescal in a way that is considerably less expensive than the original design.

In addition, staff has pledged to look for outside funding opportunities to fill gaps in the existing continuous sidewalk on Broadway between the Kay Overcrossing and Lake Temescal.

Projects #10, 11, 15 and 20 (College/Keith and College/Miles Intersection Improvements, Bike Route Signage at Rockridge BART and Rockridge BART Bicycle Parking)

A Safe Routes to Transit grant has been recommended for these projects, which significantly reduces the amount of Caldecott funds needed to fund the four projects.

Projects #12 and 13 (Intersection Improvements at Broadway/Ocean View and Broadway/Lawton, respectively)

A preliminary design concept for these projects was presented to a group of over 50 residents at a public meeting in November. Feedback was generally quite favorable for the projects, which are being designed in conjunction with intersection improvements at Broadway/Taft, Broadway/Kales and Broadway/Ada, and a proposed lane reconfiguration on Broadway between Broadway Terrace and Keith, all of which will be funded from other sources.

Beyond these changes, the result of the soundwall study petition process will determine if the combined $1.5 million studies will move forward or if this funding will instead be used for capital projects further down the list. Not including this potential change, the net effect of the changes listed above is that six more projects are expected to be funded than was reported in the December issue of The Rockridge News. As always, the exact projects that will be funded with Settlement Agreement funds will not be known for certain until projects are fully designed and the city has obtained construction bids.

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

CITY OF OAKLAND

Caldecott Tunnel Settlement Agreement
Final Project List

No.	Name	Original cost estimate	Revised cost estimate	Newest cost estimate	Cumulative Total
1	Tunnel Road/SR 13/Hiller Drive Intersection Improvements	$950,000	$1,573,000	**$1,333,000**	
2	Pedestrian Facilities on Caldecott Lane/Tunnel Road	$850,000			
3	Bicycle Facilities on Caldecott Lane/Tunnel Road	$290,000			
2&3	*Pedestrian & Bicycle Facilities on Caldecott Lane/Tunnel Road*		$1,250,000	**$1,075,000**	
4	Caldecott Lane/Kay overcrossing Intersection Improvements	$100,000			
5	Bike facilities on Broadway from Brookside Avenue to Kay OC	$410,000			
6	Jogging/walking path on Broadway from Golden Gate to Lake Temescal	$275,000			
4-6	*Pathway & Bicycle facilities on upper Broadway*[1]		$1,100,000	**$ 639,000**	
7	Soundwall study: Eastbound between Vicente Way and Broadway	$554,000	$ 704,000 [2]	$ 704,000 [2]	
8	Soundwall study: Westbound between Ross Street and Telegraph Avenue	$628,000	$ 778,000 [2]	$ 778,000 [2]	
9	Broadway/Keith Intersection Improvements	$840,000			
9&14	*Broadway bike & ped improvements, Keith Avenue to Brookside Lane*		$2,100,000	$2,100,000	
10	College/Keith Intersection Improvements	$235,000	$ 235,000		
10,11,15,20	*Rockridge BART Station Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements*[3]			**$ 635,000**	
	Safe Routes to Transit Recommended Grant Award and contributions[4]			**- $ 485,000**	
11	Bike Route Signage at Rockridge BART	$ 20,000	$ 20,000		
12	Broadway/Lawton Intersection Improvements	$400,000	$ 400,000	**$ 335,000**	
13	Broadway/Ocean View intersection improvements	$400,000	$ 400,000	**$ 30,000**	
14	Broadway/Brookside/SR 24 On-ramp Intersection Improvements	$295,000			
15	Rockridge BART Bicycle Parking	$100,000	$ 100,000		
16	On-street Bicycle Parking in Commercial Areas	$ 30,000	$ 30,000	$ 30,000	
17	52nd/51st/SR 24 ramps/Shattuck Intersection Improvements	$635,000	$ 635,000	$ 635,000	**$8,059,000** [5]
~~18~~	~~Soundwall study: Westbound between Patton Street and Ross Street~~ [6]	$179,000	$0		
19	Alternatives' Analysis of Lake Temescal - Tunnel Rd Bike/ped connections	$200,000	$ 200,000		
20	College/Miles Intersection Improvements	$160,000	$ 160,000		
21	Claremont/Hudson/SR 24 On-ramp Intersection Improvements	$180,000	$ 180,000	Orig. funding line [7]	
22	College/Manila intersection improvements	$200,000	$ 200,000		
23	Pedestrian Scale Lighting on Telegraph from 42nd Street to Berkeley border	$240,000	$ 240,000		

Notes

Bold project costs indicates cost has changed since first revised estimates.

1. Project includes improvements to the Kay Overcrossing, bike facilities on Broadway from the Kay Overcrossing to Keith Avenue, and pedestrian improvements from Golden Gate Avenue to Lake Temescal.
2. Includes $150,000/yr/study Caltrans oversight. Studies cannot be separated; both locations must be studied, or neither. Subject of petition process that will conclude 3/12/14.
3. Current estimates are lower for projects #s 11 and 15 and higher for #s 10 and 20.
4. Includes $417,000 grant (finalized 1/2014), $18,000 BART contribution and $50,000 contribution from Fourth Bore Coalition.
5. Includes $250,000 for consultant fees to develop the project list and companion fact sheets, coordinate the public/community process and plan and facilitate community meetings to determine ultimate design of specific projects.
6. Found to be infeasible.
7. Projects #24-37 hidden to allow notes to be seen. Please see earlier list versions for projects farther down list.

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RCPC and the Community

from page 1

service, the newsletter would not have the wide readership it enjoys.

■ Provides public town hall forums on issues of local interest including candidate and issue panels at election time; presentations on controverial events affecting our neighborhood such as the College Avenue Safeway and Caldecott Fourth Bore Settlement; other concerns from earthquake and disaster preparedness trainings to lectures on local architecture.

Currently, we are collaborating with the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), the Rockridge District Association (RDA) and others to provide targeted information related to public safety, and we'll continue doing so in 2014. (What other issues would you like to learn about? E-mail www.rockridge.org, or write RCPC, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611).

■ Offers the benefit of non-profit status to important local projects like FROG Park and Scenic Streets.

■ Supports our local schools and the Rockridge Branch library.

■ Organizes the annual Halloween Parade with RDA.

■ Orchestrates the biennial Rockridge Kitchen Tour (RCPC's only formal fundraising activity).

RCPC is an all-volunteer organization, supported by hundreds of additional volunteers who make all of the above – and more – possible. But even with a shoestring budget it costs money to operate. We also try to keep funds on hand to enable timely legal action related to land use decisions, as well as to support neighborhood improvements such as the upkeep and ongoing improvements to FROG Park, and the new Rockridge BART plaza.



Please consider us for a New Year's contribution; we will use it wisely on projects that keep Rockridge a great place to live. RCPC is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, so your contributions are tax-deductible. You can contribute via PayPal, or send a check made out to RCPC to: Rockridge Community Planning Council; 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. If you already made a gift in 2013, we thank you for your generous support.

A gift of time is always welcome. Consider running for the RCPC board of directors. Elections are held every April, with occasional interim appointments. There are also volunteer opportunities to deliver the newsletter, volunteer to be a Kitchen Tour docent, and more. Watch for announcements in The Rockridge News.

Best wishes to you in 2014.

Join The Rockridge News Family of Volunteers

Over 150 volunteers are responsible for delivering The Rockridge News to your doorstep each of the 11 months of the publishing year. Some volunteers have provided this community service for over 25 years.

Occasionally, volunteers move or need a break from their jobs and that's when we extend an invitation to our readers to step in to replace those stalwarts.

Eileen Marrinan, Lynn Crosby and Tony Velebil retired from their delivery positions a couple of months ago and we have not yet heard from the public. We don't like to deprive anyone in the Rockridge area of our community newsletter, so please think about volunteering to deliver on the blocks listed below:

Route #	Description
03C	Along Eucalyptus in Oakland boundaries
06D	Both sides of Rockridge Boulevard South from 6101 to 6184
01B&D	Chabot Road beginning across from public tennis courts at 6885 extending to just past Marie Way.

Contact Susan at 510/547-3855 or smontauk@gmail.com. Be sure to name the route you are interested in.

Thank you.

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As the new year begins, we are already seeing signs that our local market remains very stable and desirable to homebuyers. Inventory of homes is at a typical low for this time of year with demand still strong. If you would like an approximate value of your home, feel free to contact me. New Year's Resolution: More laughs, kindness & balance.

Pending Lease: 3BD 2BA home, gourmet kitchen, period built-ins, bay/city views, Chabot Dist, 3 blks fr College Ave, $4,300/mo inc util
Coming For Sale End Jan: 3BD 2BA home, updated, large yard, close to College Ave/BART, award winning Peralta school
Coming For Sale End February: 4+BD 2.5BA home, plus bonus spc, close to College Ave/BART, award winning Chabot school

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November Winds Uproot Huge Eucalyptus Tree on Keith; Caltrans Action Pending...

by Michael Kan, Keith Avenue resident

It was a dark and stormy night the evening of Thursday, November 21, when Oakland and the Bay Area experienced a number of damaging events caused by unusually high winds gusting up to 35 mph locally.

Two people died and thousands throughout the Bay Area lost power. [http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2013/11/21/much-of-bay-area-under-wind-advisory-with-strong-gusts-expected/].

Rockridge had its share of wind damage in several areas. Perhaps most noticeable were the fallen street trees at College Avenue at Ocean View Drive, and on Keith Avenue near McMillan Street.

At about 7:15 p.m. that evening, a tall and venerable eucalyptus tree growing next to the freeway on apparent Caltrans right-of-way, fell across Keith Avenue, severing power lines, hitting at least one parked car and trapping another in the debris. The trapped car, a silver Toyota Prius, was occupied by a couple and their infant baby. No one in the Prius was harmed but the family was trapped in the vehicle.

Keith Avenue neighbors and residents worked to help free the family until OPD and Oakland Fire arrived to take over. Due to the downed power lines, OPD required residents to return to their homes and other folks to vacate the area.

PG&E arrived later and worked through the night to repair power lines and clear part of the fallen tree so repair crews could reconnect power lines safely.

The next morning, the tree still blocked one lane of the two lane street, barely allowing for a single lane of traffic to pass.

City crews, busy clearing debris from other areas of town, arrived later in the afternoon, only to determine it was too dangerous to clear the debris with no traffic control in place.



A family trapped in this Prius when the tree fell was freed later, uninjured. *Top:* Splintered remains of the fallen eucalyptus. Plans for its removal are unknown to nearby residents. Michael Kan | *Top:* Don Kinkead

Caltrans personnel were not personally seen to inspect the damage and debris, so

Tree Stump Awaits Removal, page 11

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Parent of Tech Graduate Finds Much to Like in the Tech of Today

by Ronnie Spitzer

As my son prepares for college, we mull over the changes in Oakland Technical High School since he started in 2010.

Academically, Tech cemented its position as the premier Oakland comprehensive public high school. Academic Performance Index (API) scores rose dramatically, climbing to a score of 737 in 2013, from 685 in 2010. Other Oakland comprehensive high schools lag behind; Skyline High's 2013 API of 638 and Oakland High's 634 remain virtually unchanged over the same time interval.

Student enrollment soared from roughly 1,700 to over 2,000 in 2013, reflecting Tech's increased popularity. Prospective student tours were at capacity this year, unlike prior years. Demographically, the Tech student body ethnic/racial composition is now 36 percent Black, 17 percent Asian, 19 percent Hispanic, 23 percent Caucasian, and 4 percent other, a truly diverse urban school reflecting the Bay Area's vast range of racial, ethnic, educational, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Advanced Placement (AP) classes constitute another measure of a school's academic rigor and college preparation. In 2013, over 350 Tech students took over 600 AP exams with a pass rate above 69 percent, higher than the California average. And the number of students continues to grow, up 45 percent in four years.

Oakland's AP program began at Oakland Tech. In the mid-1980s, only one Honors English class and no AP classes were offered at Tech. Tech's Paideia program, established in 1986, changed everything. Students who enrolled in these integrated history and English classes were first encouraged to take the AP History test, and then the AP Government exam. The high pass rates demonstrated that the Paideia curriculum was robust, and the upper level classes soon obtained an AP designation. Thus began the district's AP program.

Many Advanced Placement offerings have been added since then. Students can now choose from Physics C, Chemistry, Biology, Environmental Science, Spanish Language, Chinese Language, Calculus AB & BC, Statistics, Computer Science, and English Literature, as well as U.S. History and U.S. Government. The latter two classes are offered now both through the Paideia program and as non-Paideia classes, making the subject material available to all students.

As offerings increased, more teachers have signed up to lead these classes. I asked Maryann Wolfe, the Tech AP teacher lead, what motivates these teachers, since the district provides no extra compensation for additional preparation time or the increased work load. She believes teachers offer AP classes because they love their subject areas and enjoy the intellectual challenge inherent in teaching higher-level material. Students eagerly enroll in these classes in increasing numbers, enjoying the ever-expanding courses.

Many more changes, as chronicled in The Rockridge News, have occurred at Tech over the past four years. Whether winning robotics competitions, playing on one of the athletic teams, attending the new Fashion Arts and Design Academy or receiving over $1.8 million in scholarships, Tech students continue to display the drive to excel.

We are proud to have been members of this diverse and exciting school community.



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Tree Stump Awaits Removal

from page 10

it could not be determined if they were even aware of the situation. However, at about 7:30 p.m. on November 22, private tree contractor Davey Tree arrived to cut and clear the fallen tree enough to open the traffic lanes.

Since that time – almost a month-and-a-half ago – the huge stump and its root structure remain on the side of Keith Avenue next to the freeway.

Drivers and pedestrians no longer stop to observe or photograph, but the tree has served as an infrequent facility for vagrants and homeless persons, some of whom have been observed napping, urinating or defecating behind the towering root structure.

How much longer this fallen tree will remain is unknown. Neighbors continue to phone Caltrans and to log reports, but feel there is no schedule planned for the tree's removal.

New Park Features

from page 1

attraction. Families hold picnics, birthday parties and "run-off-some-steam" excursions throughout the year; children play happily on the unique play structures; visitors and friends stroll the pathway, discovering the public art or the creek.

How It Came to Be

Frog Park and the Greenbelt were developed in phases based on the master plan created by two community members with overall design by landscape architecture firm Moore, Iacofano, Goltsman (MIG). City personnel oversaw construction of the park and FROG orchestrated a 10-day "Big Build" in October 2001 – Phase I – when numerous volunteers helped build the custom-designed play structures. Not only did it take a community's vision, determination and hands-on action, it took nuts and bolts, excellent planning, volunteer recruitment, extensive fundraising, marketing, public relations, tools and more to make the park a reality.

Phase II was built in 2006 and required additional community input, planning and fundraising. Much-needed swings, a drinking fountain, picnic table, Lily Pad plaza, and play elements accessible to disabled children were built. Then, in 2011, a permanent bathroom was built to replace the Porta-Potty.

FROG continues to work on improvements the community wants to see and on much-needed maintenance. Partnerships with community volunteers and groups have been vital to keeping up with custom repairs, clearing weeds and fallen debris.

More Swings, Please

Often there are lines of children waiting for a turn on the existing swings, one of our most popular features.

Past funding constraints kept us from adding more swings and play features, a situation that continued until the Fourth Bore Coalition (FBC) provided $100,000 toward Frog Park improvements from its settlement with Caltrans. With money in hand, FROG surveyed the community to learn top planning priorities. The clear answer: more swings.

We visited other playgrounds to evaluate play equipment as well. FROG worked with MIG on designs and incorporated features most appealing to kiddie testers. Once the options were drafted, park users were asked to rate preferences via a Swings and Play Features survey available online and in person. The 160 responses showed overwhelming support for the proposed new park features and options.

After swings, the most desirable play feature was a triangular merry-go-round with climbing web, followed by the see-saw, a group swinging disc, and spinning poles.

Layout option C (see graphic, page 13), with the most play features, received the highest average desirability ratings, followed closely by option D (group swing substituted for a see-saw). Both options include the climbing web merry-go-round, regular and toddler swings and spinning

New Park Features, page 13









New Park Features

from page 12

pole, with initial costs around $95,000. Complete survey options can be viewed at www.frogpark.org.

We're Getting the Ball Rolling

To make the community's vision a reality, FROG has begun working with the city's Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments, and planning with our city project manager.

Oakland Parks and Recreation will fund much of the project management costs. We hope to start construction within a year, but need funding to secure all desired features.

Refining estimates and tasks, we realized the FBC's $100,000 will not cover costs for building contingencies nor the required bid and construction documents, among others.

◗ Park Improvement Plan C

Layout option C (graphic at right), with the most play features, received the highest average desirability ratings, followed closely by option D (group swing substituted for a see-saw). Both options include the climbing web merry-go-round, regular and toddler swings and spinning pole.

Can You Help Us Make It So?

We need your support to raise an additional $20,000 to secure all play elements. Make your dollars count! A mystery donor has generously offered a $5,000 match to help us kick off our campaign.

Please donate now to help make this vision a reality.

Yes, I want to help complete the FROG Park swing area Gifts of any amount are welcome. For donations of $250 or more, your company or family name will appear on the main park plaque.

❑ My check is enclosed

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Please make your check payable to FROG Park and send to: FROG, 4123 Broadway, PMB #311, Oakland, CA 94611

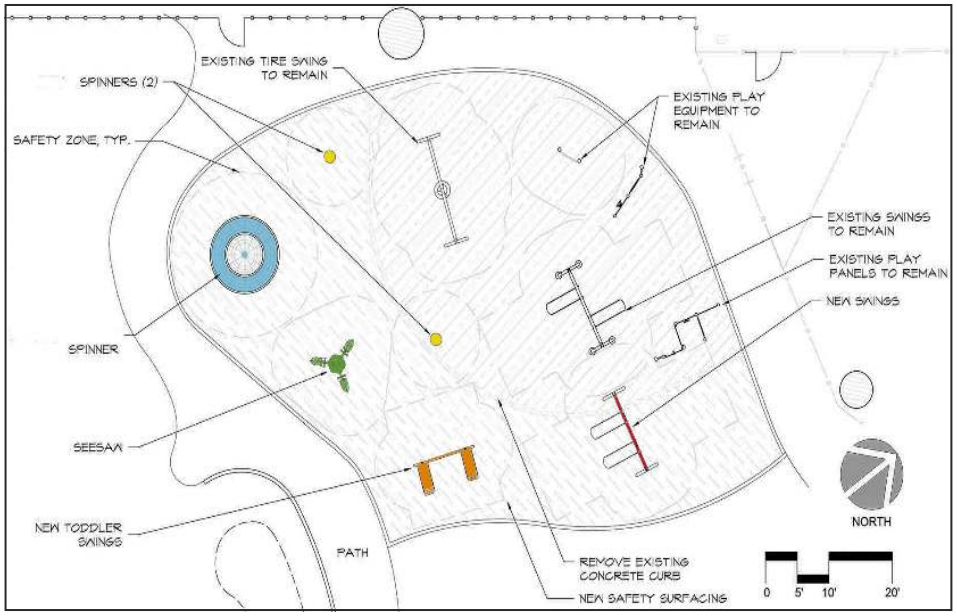
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E-mail *Rockridge News* Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210 (after noon), or mail to: *Rockridge News* Community Calendar, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the month.

Compiled by Jo Ellis

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

Residents and business members engage in discussions about crime and public safety with representatives of OPD. 2nd Thurs. each month, 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

**** Free computer help & tutoring (for all ages)**.

Internet, e-mail, Microsoft office, EBook download, and more. Tuesday's 4--6pm and

Saturday's 1-3pm. See Vicky Chen.

****NOTE: All ages are invited to make & contribute a 90-second film to the 90-second Newbery Film Festival that will show at Rockridge in February. The deadline to submit a film you made yourself is January 20th (online). For details, please see: http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/blogs/childrens-services.**

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 for Kids: all ages welcome.

- **Friendship Bracelets:** Thurs., & Sat., 1/16 & 1/18 from 4– 5pm. Celebrate the Season of Peace & Nonviolence by making a bracelet for a new or old friend. All materials & instruction provided. Best for kids ages 8 and up. Attend one or both sessions.
- **Traveling Planetarium from Chabot Space & Science Center:** 1/23, 4– 5pm. See the stars as they were seen by the ancient Greeks and Chinese. Hear the stories they told to explain the movements in the heavens, and learn how astronomers are discovering answers to age-old mysteries.
- **Make Valentines:** Thurs., 2/6, 4 – 5pm. Invite a friend. All materials provided, but bring any colorful scraps of paper that please you. Bring your list of classmates' names to make a valentine for everyone.
- **90-second Newbery Film Festival:** Sat., 2/8, noon– 1:15pm. Each very short film tells the story of a Newbery-award-winning book. Hosted by authors **Jennifer Holm** & **James Kennedy**. Best for ages 7 to 15.

FOR TEENS

- **Teen Advisory Board** (ages 14-18): Advise the library how to better serve teens. Get community service credit for school. **Snacks provided**. 1st Saturday each month, 1 to 2pm.
- **Rockridge Ninjas:** watch Anime, 5-6:30 pm; 2nd Tues. each month.
- **Teen 'Scape:** Join other teens each Wed. after school, 2- 3:30pm. Video & board games; crafts; 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. Sponsor: Cal 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). **Note:** Volunteer lawyer leaves before 7pm if no more people present.

ART EXHIBITS (subject to change; call to confirm)

Gallery:

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

Feb: **Jeff Lichtman:** Urban photography.

Lobby Display Case:

Jan & Feb: **Cynthia Jacobs:** Handmade puppets

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, 1/21 and 2/12.

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings/ Events

All FREE and open to the public.

- Wed., 1/8, 7pm. **Kevin Fisher-Paulson:** *A Song for Lost Angels*.
- Sun., 1/12, 3pm. **Chang-Rae Lee:** *On Such a Full Sea*.
- Mon., 1/13, 7:30pm. **Amnesty International Meeting** (**2nd Mon. each month**): All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Sun., 1/19, 3pm. **Vicki Robin:** *Blessing the Hands that Feed Us: What Eating Closer to Home Can Teach Us About Food, Community, and Our Place on Earth.*
- Thurs., 1/23, 7pm. **Ian Rankin:** *Saints of the Shadow Bible*.

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

Jazz at the Chimes

Featuring vocalist **Jamie Davis** with **Roger Glenn** on sax and vibes, **John Groves** on piano, **Andrew Emer** on acoustic bass and **Larry Vann** on drums. Sunday, 1/19, 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. Hear selections at http://www.unity-music.net/. 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/.

Volunteer Opportunities at Chabot Space & Science Center

Orientation: January 11, 10am - 2pm. **RSVP now to Register.** Chabot Space & Science Center volunteers make earth and space science come alive for visitors through interactive and hands-on experiences. Extend your sense of wonder and increase your knowledge through our dynamic volunteer program. You don't have to be a scientist or a physicist; we'll teach you. Learn to operate our historic telescopes; educate and inspire over 50,000 school children that visit each year; assist with special events. Shifts available Tuesday through Sunday daytime and Friday and Saturday evenings. Volunteers contribute **8 hours per month** for at least **one year**. More information on our volunteer program and to **RSVP for orientation:** http://www.chabotspace.org/adult-volunteers.htm or volunteers@chabotspace.org or 336-7304.

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.

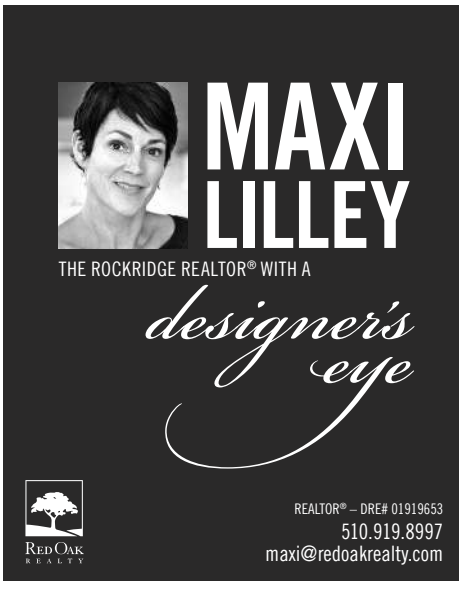
- **Yosemite by Amtrak:** April 29, 30, and May 1st (3 days, 2 nights), $375 per person double occupancy. **Deposit deadline: Feb. 1**. Select a roommate and reserve your space now.
- **UC CalFresh: Staying Healthy & Active. 6 FREE nutrition classes** to help seniors live well and reduce the symptoms of chronic conditions. Free giveaways, recipes and samples. First Tuesdays: January 7 through June 3. 10:30am-12 noon. **Pre-register now** at 597-5085.
- **BART Tickets on sale for $9** (a **$24 value**) for seniors 65 and over.

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 growers; 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.

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