THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

VOL. 29 ■ NO. 3 ■ ISSUE NO. 309 ■ March 8, 2014 ■ CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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

✔ IN APRIL: RCPC BOARD ELECTIONS; 6 SEATS. SUPPORT ROCKRIDGE: PAGE 2

New Contractors for Private Security Patrols

by Safer Rockridge representatives

We are pleased to announce the formation of Safer Rockridge, a non-profit group formed to help organize safety ideas and initiatives in Rockridge, including the security patrols. Information about Safer Rockridge and the patrols can be found at www.saferrockridge.org.

The Safer Rockridge Security Patrols are funded by concerned Rockridge community members and businesses. The main goal of the security patrols is to enhance the safety of all Rockridge neighbors and guests on our streets and in our public spaces. The security patrols will do this by:

- patrolling neighborhood streets and public spaces to deter criminal activity
- being a resource to residents and guests who may have immediate security concerns
- providing the Oakland Police Department with documentation of observations that can help them in their duties of law enforcement in Rockridge.

Security officers from Premiere Protective Service (www.ppsguards.com) will provide the patrols. They will patrol the region shown in the map below.



The security officers will be unarmed. They are trained to observe and report suspicious or criminal activity, and their

Security Patrols Revamped, page 10

20 AGENDA: March 2014 RCPC Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, March 20 | 7-9 p.m. Rockridge Library

WE MEAN GREEN: Add trees and landscaping; remove utility poles; improve the environment, health and property values. Learn how from local experts and neighbors.

Rockridge is regionally known and locally loved for its neighborhood charm. Over recent months, we've discussed making our streets safer, but how can we work with the city and our neighbors to make our streets even more beautiful and inviting?

On March 20 from 7-9 p.m. at the Rockridge Branch Library, hear from local experts and neighbors about how we can add trees and landscaping, bring down the cluttering utility poles, and make streets safer for pedestrians to walk, cyclists to ride, and kids to play by implementing traffic-calming design.

Many studies have shown that, in addition to enhancing quality of life, these improvements can have a dramatic beneficial impact on health, the environment and property values.

Our conversation will focus on what the city does, what neighbors can team up to do, and what you can do that can add up to greener, cleaner, and safer streets in Rockridge.

Thursday, March 20 | 7-9 p.m. Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College at Manila

What's the Latest at Safeway on College?


/Chuck Afflerbach

It is sometimes difficult to know what is happening at the construction site for Safeway on College. They work, they stop, they work again. Sometimes it rains.

To help keep people up-to-date, Stuart Flashman, an RCPC boardmember who along with other neighborhood group members negotiated with Safeway on project and construction design, has arranged with Elisabeth Jewel of Aroner, Jewel and Ellis (AJE) for regular construction site updates. AJE "provides local government lobbying, community outreach" and other services to its clients, according to its web site.

Here is a general look ahead for what to expect at the site in the next several weeks:

- **Site preparation continues** with the removal of more dirt. Crews have been forming the store walls and concrete pouring of foundation footings and walls.
- **Claremont Avenue will be wet** from the tire washing of all departing trucks. The street sweeper will be on hand to keep debris out of storm drains.
- **In March, neighbors and shoppers will begin to see new parking restrictions**. On Claremont, the coveted all-day casual carpool parking spots will be removed. Parking on College from Claremont up to 63rd Street will also be temporarily restricted. All restricted spaces will have signage indicating how long the spaces will be blocked off.

Notes: Safeway Construction, page 12

RCPC Election April 2014

At the April Town Hall Meeting: Candidate's Forum, Board Elections

RCPC Board Election Procedures

RCPC's annual election for the Board of Directors will be held in April. At the RCPC Town Hall meeting Thursday, April 17, candidates for the RCPC board of directors will introduce themselves and describe their platforms for Rockridge. Four incumbents and two new candidates are standing for the six available seats. Each is pictured below with excerpts from their statements. The full statements will be printed in the April issue of The Rockridge News, due out on April 5.

There will be two opportunities in April to vote for the candidates of your choice: You may vote at the Town Hall meeting **Thursday, April 17**, starting at 7:30 p.m., or you may vote **Saturday**, **April 19**, in front of the lobby of the Rockridge library, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Voter Eligibility

Persons age 18 and over who live within RCPC boundaries are eligible to vote. Verification will be by driver's license or DMV ID card showing an address within RCPC boundaries, as depicted on the RCPC website at rockridge.org.



Incumbent
Christopher Chin

Christopher Chin: I am particularly interested in promoting better communication and participation within the Rockridge community.



Incumbent
Virginia Hamilton

Virginia Hamilton: I am committed to both preserving the unique character of Rockridge, and being open to new ideas and community input.



New Cand.
Gabe Kleinman

Gabe Kleinman: I want to see how we might better understand and design solutions for the needs and desires of everyone in the community.



Incumbent
Laura Schlichtmann

Laura Schlichtmann: I have enjoyed working on RCPC's neighborhood events, participating on the Land Use Committee, and helping distribute The Rockridge News.



Incumbent
Zabrae Valentine

Zabrae Valentine: Since last year, the RCPC board has initiated several terrific projects that, as chair, I'd like to see through to completion.



New Cand.
Samantha Weaver

Samantha Weaver: I want to contribute to the RCPC's mission to provide leadership and representation of neighborhood interests.

Reward: Stolen Antique Burl Bowl

An American antique wooden burl bowl was stolen from Talisman antique shop on College Avenue in Rockridge on Saturday, December 28. It measures about 24" in diameter by 9" in height.

The burl bowl has been in the owner's family for at least eight generations. Originally a wedding gift, through the generations it accompanied the family from Illinois to Southern California, to the Sierra Nevada, and finally the East Bay. The bowl holds the family's history in America. Its loss has caused immeasurable grief to the family.



Talisman is offering a $1,000 reward for information leading to the return of the bowl. Please contact Talisman at 510/653-7998.

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.
CLOSED *Sun and Mon*

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.

Rockridge News Production

Don Kinkead.....Editor
Ortrun Niesar.....The Muse
Barry Kaufman.....Food
Jo Ellis.....Advertising & Community Calendar
Theresa Nelson.....Neighborhood Merchant
Susan Montauk.....Business Manager
Don Kinkead.....Graphics & Layout

RCPC Board of Directors, 2013-2014

Zabrae Valentine.....Chair
Christopher Chin.....Vice-Chair
Laura Schlichtmann.....Secretary
Bernard Baltaxe.....Treasurer
Stuart Flashman.....Chair Emeritus
Andrew Charman, Jennifer Daskal, Kevin Faughnan, Virginia Hamilton, Michael Kan, William Kaufner, Don Kinkead, Lisa McNally, Greg Pasquali

Contact the board: chair@rockridge.org
For information: info@rockridge.org

Newsletter Subscriptions

To subscribe to **The Rockridge News**, send your check for $20, payable to *Rockridge News* Subscriptions, to: *Rockridge News* Subscriptions at the address below.

Contacting The Rockridge News

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

Contact us at one of the following:

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

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

Newsletter Advertising/Deadline

Publication date of the next issue is:

☛ **April 5, 2014**
☛ **April deadline is March 20, 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.)

Rockridge Community Planning Council

2013 Financial Statement
Fiscal Year January 1 – December 31, 2013

PROFIT AND LOSS	
Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributions	8,340.54
Scenic Streets	29,627.31
Rockridge News/Rockridge.org	41,962.92
Kitchen Tour	14,863.87
Legal Defense	100.00
Total Income	94,894.64
Expense	
Bank Fees	6.00
Office	3,449.09
Contractors	6,246.68
Events	694.72
Grants\Scholarships	4,339.74
Maintenance\Cleaning	936.01
Misc.	1,223.57
FROG	10,753.27
Kitchen Tour	3,876.51
Safeway EIR	1,500.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-57.15
Rockridge News/Rockridge.org	35,492.84
Scenic Streets	2,121.73
Taxes, Licenses & Fees	69.00
Legal Defense	6,175.00
Utilities	466.18
Total Expense	77,293.19
Net Income	17,601.45
BALANCE SHEET	
Assets	
Checking/Savings/CDs	
RCPC (incl. Scenic Streets)	107,793.64
FROG	54,005.49
Total Checking/Savings	161,799.13
Total Assets	161,799.13
Liabilities & Equity	
Total Liabilities	0.00
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	193,171.65
Unrestricted (retained earnings)	-48,973.97
Net Income	17,601.45
Total Equity	161,799.13
Total Liabilities & Equity	161,799.13

RCPC tax records are on file at the Rockridge Branch Library for public review.



RCPC Land Use Committee

The RCPC Land Use Committee meets Wednesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m., Rockridge Library meeting room. Topics will include an update on the Rockridge Safeway project. **Agendas**: Please check with committee chair Stuart Flashman, 652-5373, or stuflash@aol.com, the week before for an updated agenda.

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair

■ College Avenue Safeway Project
College & Claremont Avenues

Construction continues on this large and important project. Construction updates will be reported regularly in The Rockridge News, beginning this month. (See story on page 1.) RCPC and the three other community groups will meet monthly with Safeway to discuss construction progress and any construction activity issues. If you live near the store and see or hear anything you think Safeway needs to know about (and perhaps do something about), please contact RCPC at 869-4200 or info@rockridge.org.

Is Safeway for Sale?

Recent reports of the Safeway corporation being up for sale have raised concerns about how a sale would affect Rockridge's two Safeway projects. While it's impossible to predict whether the company will be sold, and what a potential buyer might decide, word has it that the two Rockridge stores have been, on a sales-per square-foot basis, among Safeway's most profitable stores. It seems unlikely a new owner would fail to rebuild the College Avenue store or continue to move forward with Safeway's approved plans for the Rockridge Shopping Center rebuild. We will report here any changes we learn about.

■ Proposal for Use Permit "Sunset" Provisions

As regular readers of this column know,

Land Use Report, page 12

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.

Soundwall Process Flawed

Editor

The city of Oakland has identified 481 homes whose residents are eligible to petition the city to fund the soundwall study. As the deadline approaches, problems have emerged regarding this petition process:

• Some of the eligible households – including my own – report that they have not received a mailing from the city informing them of the petition and how to sign it.

Process Flawed, page 13

Soundwall Process Excludes Many

Editor:

Does it make sense to sign the soundwall study petition? YES! Your signature speaks for all of us who endure the noise and other impacts, and those affected by the noise but don't get to sign.

Who are those people who are excluded? The 1,000 students, faculty and staff of Chabot Elementary and Claremont Middle schools directly across from the freeway

Process Excludes, page 10

Experience the Unique Difference...

Ortrun Niesar
510.326.2161
ortrun.niesar@sothebysrealty.com
sothebysrealty.com
DRE #01161032
I look forward to serving you!
East Bay | Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

FROG Seeks Funds for Added Park Features

Well-known to be little-known facts about Frog Park

Did you know that just 15 years ago, what is now the popular Frog Park was a mass of overgrown weeds surrounded by a chain link fence?

Did you know that the Frog Park play structures were built by 1,300 volunteers over 10 days in 2001?

We would like you to know, too, that we're trying to raise $50,000 to add toddler swings and other fun features to Frog Park. (We're off to a good start: $11,000 raised so far.)

Sustained over the years by volunteer maintenance and generous donations, Frog Park is a testament to the power of a community-driven vision. It's a local treasure that started with the simple notion that our neighborhood needed a safe place for kids to play. Let's finish what we started. Donate via www.frogpark.org/ or mail checks to: "FROG," 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611



In a 10-day construction push in 2001 – the Big Build – Frog Park climbing and play equipment were built, creating the backbone of the park. /FROG PHOTO

FROG Save the Date: April 26 Earth Day and Frog Park Family Fest

Celebrate Earth Day at Frog Park and the Greenbelt, a city of Oakland featured volunteer site sponsored by FROG and the DMV Neighbors Association. Come to a family-friendly cleanup and stay for a special FROG Family Fest with great kid activities.

Let's get our park ready for summer fun, 9 a.m.-12 noon. Help replant the butterfly garden, sift sand, clean up, and prepare the pond and creek bed for the creek turn-on.

Frog Park Family Fest, page 10

The Lorax Project Plants Over 100 New Trees in Rockridge

by Rich Proulx

In December 2013, the Lorax Project was announced in the pages of The Rockridge News. Three months later, a line of redwood trees has been planted and is taking root along Highway 24.

Concerned by scientific research that demonstrates negative health effects from exposure to pollution for people who live, work, or attend schools near major freeways, Lorax Project founders sought to create a tree barrier which research has shown significantly decreases the transmission of air pollution.

Members of the Claremont Club on Hillcrest Avenue generously hosted a community meeting on December 15 for neighbors to learn more about the project. Speakers included Children's Hospital Supervising Physician Gina Lewis and Chabot Elementary PTA President Laura Burnett. Neighbors then formed a committee to support the project. Pledges from meeting attendees were enough to plant 22 trees.

Over the course of the next few weeks, more than 70 neighbors donated. The project found a key partner in Oakland non-profit Urban Biofilter, who donated many trees and provided tools and key volunteer support. "Urban Biofilter is thrilled to have contributed to the Lorax Project's success," stated Sydney Moss of Urban Biofilter. The Sierra Club also provided a great deal of expertise and volunteer assistance.



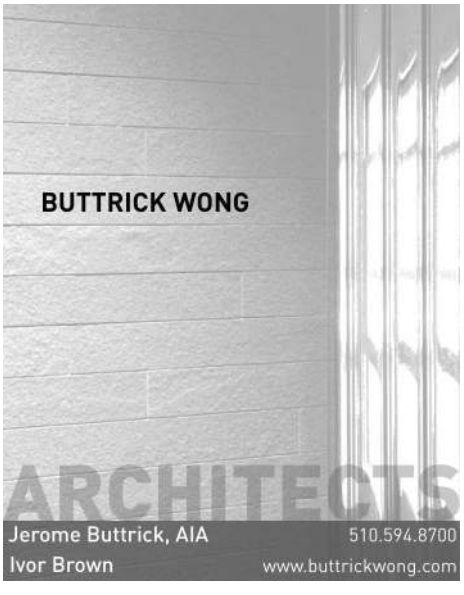
/LORAX PROJECT

While the project had the support of Chabot Elementary for some time, it became apparent shortly before the planting date that necessary Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) approval was lacking. Oakland Board of Education member Jody London helped secure passage of an OUSD board resolution in January to keep the planting date intact.

Thirty-five volunteers braved the rain on January 8, pre-digging the holes to ensure a successful planting. Using picks, digging pry bars, and five jackhammers, volunteers broke up the tough soil laden with rubble from the construction of Highway 24.

Lorax Plants a Forest, page 8

GARDEN CLEANERS
$5 FREE *DRYCLEANING with garment orders over $28*
or $3 OFF orders over $15
Dry Cleaning only ☛ Present with incoming order
EXPERT SHIRT LAUNDERING!
Garden Cleaners
5808 College Avenue, Oakland
601-1188
Mon – Fri 7 – 7 • Sat 8 – 6
Across from Trader Joe's and Zachary's Pizza



Tech Engineering Academy: Bridges to Learning

by Ronnie Spitzer, Tech parent

It's so quiet, you can hear a bridge break. Two hundred collectively held breaths finally release when the balsa and glue creation collapses with a *crack* under its load. Once "8 lbs for bridge #50" gets recorded, the annual Engineering Academy Bridge Competition officially ends.

Started 19 years ago in a collaboration between Tech and the American Society of Civil Engineers, the competition quickly became a most beloved tradition at Tech. Using supplied materials, academy juniors – joined by sophomores and seniors – must construct a bridge as a class project. As many as 100 academy students work together on the final 50 bridges typically constructed until one is declared the strongest.



Bridges built by Oakland Tech Engineering Academy students.
/From the Oakland Tech website

The academy grew out of Oakland's now-defunct school vocational training program. A multi-classroom area once filled with lathes, milling machines, welding stations, drill presses, and drafting tables has been transformed with workstations and a 3-D printer.

The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) developed the academy system in 1986 to help students achieve college readiness; the Engineering Academy followed in 1987. Two Tech teachers created the rigorous curriculum in use today, designed to teach visualization skills and the connection between mathematics and physics to budding engineers through project-based learning.

Parker Merrill, an original Academy co-founder, continues as program director. Raised on a New Jersey farm, his curiosity about how things work evolved into his college major, Industrial Arts. He comes

Tech Engineering Academy, page 5

Chabot's Spring Fling Auction: Online Access to Amazing Items

by Chabot PTSA members

Chabot Elementary's annual auction is just a month away, and this year's Spring Fling event has a goal of raising $150,000 through an online auction and gala event.

This is a community-wide effort that raises funds to support Chabot's music, science, art, media, library, gardening, P.E. and Spanish programs that are offered to nearly 600 students in Kindergarten through 5th grades. These programs are an essential part of what makes our local public school a place where creativity, curiosity and intellect are nurtured.

Bid on hundreds of fabulous auction items available online from March 26 through April 3. Log on at http://auctions.readysetauction.com/chabotelementary/home, create a bidding profile, and start bidding.

Chabot School Spring Fling, page 10

Mayor's Town Hall Meeting, OPD Area 2

April 19, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
North Oakland Senior Center,
5714 Martin Luther King, Jr Way

Mayor Jean Quan, Interim Police Chief Sean Whent, Area 2 Captain Toribio, OUSD Superintendent Gary Yee,

Community Mtg, page 10

Filippo's
Serving Rockridge since 1992
5400 College Avenue at Manila

a cross-cultural congregation striving to partner with the Rockridge community in lifestyle and service.
College Avenue Presbyterian Church
5951 College Avenue, Oakland 510 658-3665
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM • VISIT: CAPCCHURCH.ORG
OUR WONDERFUL COMMUNITY MEAL, FRIDAYS, 6-7PM
A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

piedmont dental | BY DESIGN
Dale Herrero, DDS & Jill Martenson, DDS
IMPLANT, AESTHETIC & FAMILY DENTISTRY

"Hi! Jenner and Erin here with mommy and daddy reminding you to take good care of your teeth!"
New Patient Special : $149
CALL TODAY!
INCLUDES A COMPLETE COMPREHENSIVE EXAM, FULL MOUTH DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHS & A SMILE EVALUATION.
a $300 value!
Dr. Jill Martenson : Rockridge neighbor since 1999
1331 GRAND AVENUE, PIEDMONT, CA 94610 T 510 652 2911
piedmontdentalbydesign.com

Rockridge Optometry
Your neighborhood family eyecare providers since 1947
Dr. Donald Sarver
Dr. Larry Sarver
Dr. Scott Yokoi
Dr. Cindy Sakai
5321 College Avenue, Oakland
510-655-3797
www.rockridgeoptometry.com

Eyes on Rockridge

Local Masonic Lodge Master Digs Deep to Uncover Its Past

by Judith Doner Berne

When the all but forgotten gravesite of a two-time Oakland mayor is re-dedicated at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 29 in Mountain View Cemetery, David A. Forsyth will have completed his quest.

The Rockridge resident, who incidentally is my backyard neighbor, is the current Master (think president) of Oakland Durant Rockridge Lodge 188 F.&A.M. (Free and Accepted Masons). Founded in 1917, the Lodge is located in the award-winning landmark building on the west side of College between Kales Avenue and Taft Street. The building was constructed in the 1920s by the Lodge.

Forsyth, born in Edinburgh, Scotland, immigrated to the United States when he was 22 and later became a Mason, like his Scottish grandfather before him.

"When I joined Oakland Durant Rockridge Masonic Lodge seven years ago, I always wondered about the portrait that hangs on the wall of our beautiful Lodge room," he says.

It was obviously old, had dates on it, but no name. As "a keen amateur historian," Forsyth says, "I wanted to know about this man; who he was and why had he such a place of honor on our wall?"

From a list of past masters he determined it was Nathan Weston Spaulding, the first master of Oakland Masonic Lodge 188 – which combined with the Rockridge and Durant Lodges in the 1980s.

"I always intended to dig more," but work and family took precedence, he said. Turning to business, Forsyth formed UIB Insurance Brokerage Services, Inc. in 2009 and, later, married Batya, a partner in Hanson Bridgett, a San Francisco law firm. Their daughter Hannah is five.

"Masons don't do anything quickly," he also noted. "Everything is pursued with patience."

Then, two winters ago, a leak from the building's water heater threatened the Lodge archives. As Forsyth and other Lodge members worked to move them to drier ground, "The first one I pulled out was the oldest book," Forsyth told me. "And I was looking at the page record that started everything we have here."

He had happened upon the March 1868 minutes of a group attempting to start a new Masonic Lodge in Oakland. The first name on the page was Nathan Weston Spaulding.

"It was one of those moments you realize that this was meant to be," Forsyth said. "I was about to start the journey which has taken me from Maine (where Spaulding was born in 1829) to California (where he was lured by the gold rush in 1851) and ended at Mountain View Cemetery (where he was buried in 1903)."

Turning to the Internet, Forsyth learned that Spaulding was indeed a man for all seasons who greatly contributed to the growth and stature of Oakland.

A carpenter by trade, Spaulding built and opened the first hotel in Campo Seco, one of the early gold mining camps. After marrying, he moved to Sacramento to manufacture inserted-tooth saws and later invented and patented "the Spaulding saw," said to have revolutionized the circular saw business.

Then it was on to San Francisco, where he established the Pacific Saw Manufacturing Co. and N.W. Spaulding & Bros. in Chicago with two of his brothers.

But Oakland beckoned in 1866. There, according to news accounts, he served on the city council, and, as chairman of the streets committee, helped lay out, pave and light the city's streets. Elected mayor twice without opposition, Spaulding also reportedly initiated the move to relocate the county seat from San Leandro to Oakland.

"He was a huge philanthropist, donating all of his mayoral salary to charity, adopting an orphan boy and serving on the first board of Stanford University, started by his friend Leland Stanford," Forsyth recounted. Spaulding also served four years as Assistant U.S. Treasurer, appointed by President James A. Garfield.



David A. Forsyth, Lodge Master, researched the history of the long-ago Mason in the framed painting, above, who turned out to be one of the founders of today's College Avenue Masonic Lodge. /Judy Berne

Once Forsyth found out that Spaulding was buried in Mountain View Cemetery, he could have turned to cemetery records to uncover the gravesite. But he wasn't looking for an easy quest.

"My wife, daughter and I love to go rambling through the cemetery on weekends," he told me. "I had uncovered so much and I wanted to find the last piece of the puzzle myself. There's a treasure hunt aspect to it."

It took six months to discover it among Mountain View's 175,000 graves. "We came upon an amazing clover leaf-shaped site, big by today's standards," but somewhat

Masonic Lodge History, page 7



REALTY ADVOCATES
24 Years in Rockridge
Highest Sales Prices + Lowest Commissions
(510) 428-0757 realtyadvocates.com



/David A. Forsyth

Grave of Nathan Weston Spaulding, Mason and two-time mayor of Oakland, in Mountain View Cemetery.

Masonic Lodge History

from page 6

deteriorated, Forsyth described. "Although it showed no outward Masonic symbols, the site is Masonic in its setup. The checkered pavement and central altar give it away."

When attempts to find any living relatives fell short, the Lodge elected to have the fallen urns, cracked walls and foundation repaired. An inscribed one-by-two-foot open book, fashioned from Sierra white granite, will be added to mark the rededication.

"It's very special that someone outside the family wants to do this," says Ray Ortner, Mountain View's sales manager. "David had a lovely vision. It shows the tribute the Lodge wants to bestow upon this gentleman."

"David has been a one-man band," says Lawrence Altomare, who has been Lodge secretary for 14 years. "He got us to learn about our history in the community and that we have connections to both major universities in the Bay Area." (Henry Durant, another early Lodge member, co-founded UC Berkeley and was its first president. Durant also was a twice-elected mayor of Oakland.)

"David discovered that the governor of California during the 1906 earthquake, George Pardee, was a member of our Lodge too," Altomare says, and was mayor of Oakland, like his father before him.

And when Forsyth was doing research at Oakland's City Hall, "He also saw that the city was missing one portrait in its mural of past mayors," Altomare says. Yes, it was Spaulding.

A copy of the Lodge's picture of Spaulding will be donated to the city to complete its mural at the rededication. Mayor Jean Quan and the head of the state's Masons have said they will attend. Stanford University President John L. Hennessy and Secretary of the Treasury Jacob J. Lew are other dignitaries who have been invited.

"The theme of my year was to review our history and show we are standing on the shoulders of giants," Forsyth says. I think we'd all agree: Mission accomplished.

Your comments and suggestions for other columns are most welcome. Please email judyberne@att.net.

More About the Lodge

The Lodge website describes how, in 1917, the Rockridge Lodge was founded, later receiving its charter on October 11, 1918. After holding its first few meetings at Brooklyn Lodge #225, on East 14th Street near downtown Oakland, the Lodge moved into a building (since replaced) at the corner of College and Keith, where Market Hall now stands. In 1926-27, the Lodge constructed and moved into the landmark building which is still home to ODR (Oakland Durant Rockridge) Lodge.

Have a look at the Lodge's art deco interior on Saturday, April 26, when the Lodge co-sponsors its annual pancake breakfast to benefit Claremont Middle School, one of its charitable endeavors to aid education.

Find more Lodge history on its website at http://www.odr.org/

Still here for you!



While we await the return to normal parking conditions, your support means more than ever.

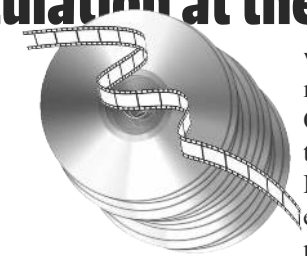
Yasai Market 655-4880 • Southie 654-0100
Ver Brugge Foods 658-6854 • Wood Tavern 654-6607 • La Farine 654-0338
Trappist Provisions 594-2339 • Vino! 652-6317



MAXI LILLEY
THE ROCKRIDGE REALTOR® WITH A
designer's eye
Red Oak Realty
REALTOR® – DRE# 01919653
510.919.8997
maxi@redoakrealty.com

Changes for DVD Circulation at the Rockridge Branch Library

by Jon Gabel and Annette Floystrup, co-chairs, Rockridge DVD Project



The Oakland Public Library (OPL) has announced that DVDs can now be requested from any branch of the Library and delivered to the branch of your choice. Up to now, only books could be requested from other branches. For Rockridge patrons, this means easy access to the large DVD collection at the Main Branch, as well as to the many television series DVDs at the Piedmont Branch. As part of the new policy, DVDs will "float" throughout the OPL system. This means that DVDs will be shelved at the branch where they were returned.

We want contributors to the DVD Project to be kept current on policy changes that affect the collection, especially when they are as positive as this. This new policy is consistent with the deal made with the OPL as part of the Rockridge DVD Project. In exchange for the right to float all DVDs at some future date, OPL paid for the cataloging of all the DVDs that the DVD Project brought in. As the cost of the cataloging would have been more than that of the DVDs themselves, we considered (and still consider) this to be a terrific deal.

For several years, OPL patrons have only had access to the DVD Project materials at the Rockridge Branch, but now these materials will circulate system wide. If patrons from other branches request DVDs from Rockridge, those DVDs may temporarily end up on the shelves at other branches, but those same DVDs can also be requested right back to Rockridge. What will be lost is the ability to browse all titles just by looking at the shelves. What will be gained is that there will be more – and different – titles available here as Rockridge patrons request DVDs from other branches and return them to Rockridge.

The Rockridge DVD Project expanded the DVD section to both sides of a full aisle in the stacks. There are now so many DVDs on the shelves that the number of DVDs which can be checked out at one time has gone from four to ten. With the new float policy, there could actually be more DVDs in the Rockridge Branch than under the old policy. It will depend on how many DVDs Rockridge patrons request from other branches.

Lorax Plants a Forest

from page 4

Brian Carthan, manager of the Public Works Park and Tree Services Division, contributed to the success of the project by permitting his staff to dig the holes at Chabot Recreation Area.

On February 15, 45 volunteers arrived for the tree planting. London and City Councilmember Dan Kalb spoke to the crowd and planted the first tree. In all, over 100 trees were planted (chiefly redwood trees) at Chabot Recreation Area, Chabot Elementary and at residences located on Miles Avenue. The project also donated over a dozen trees to the Broadway Pollinator Garden at the corner of Broadway and Keith.



Councilmember Dan Kalb and OUSD Boardmember Jody London ready to plant the first Lorax Project tree. /Lorax Project

There are other tree planting projects in Oakland on the horizon. "The Sierra Club tree team has a big piece of Urban Biofilter's original request for 500 trees and is planning to plant at three West Oakland schools (Lafayette, Prescott, and Hoover) on March 15, 22, and 29," stated Arthur Boone of the Sierra Club. Added Moss, "There is much more work to be done and we look forward to continuing to work with our amazing volunteers to plant more trees."

Rich Proulx is the director of The Lorax Project and can be reached at richproulx@lyceuminstitute.org. For more information about future planting efforts, contact Arthur Boone at arboone3@gmail.com.

Darin J. Worm
BROKER
510.504.4960
djworm@centurioninsurance.net

Centurion Insurance Agency
Commercial + Personal + Life + Health

An Independent Insurance Brokerage providing cost effective, comprehensive Insurance products and services since 1947.

www.centurioninsurance.net
Lic. #0670129

DANIEL'S ROCKRIDGE LISTINGS!



5600 Oak Grove | 5330 Manila | 3 Eton | 5370 Bryant

SRG STEA REALTY GROUP
stearealtygroup.com

Daniel Stea
Broker / Owner / Attorney
510.867.4094



Advocacy & Integrity Since 1997

2987 College Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705 ◆ BRE #01452156

Asphalt Trips Up Hardy Dog Park Renovation



Pernicious mud puddles at dog park gates make access difficult and dangerous for users. Layers of old asphalt cause rainwater and other runoff to puddle up for months on end. /Scenic Streets

by Becky Alseth, Rockridge resident

Patrons, residents and local businesses joined forces last August to raise over $13,000 to renovate dilapidated Hardy Dog Park, but the project has run into a tough obstacle: asphalt.

Before it became Oakland's first dog run, the area had been a Caltrans equipment yard. Three thousand square feet of the original asphalt still remain, damaging dogs' paws when they run and breaking teeth when they fetch. It's also a key contributor to the park's notorious mud puddles.

"The disabled and elderly have particular difficulty accessing the park," says Peter Lund, founder of Scenic Streets, the group leading the project. "Rainwater and hose runoff are deflected by the asphalt and create mud which can take months to evaporate in this shady space."

City planners determined that if the park was going to be renovated, it would need to be more ADA compliant. The old asphalt would need to be removed so a smooth gate-to-gate path could be installed. Upgraded gate latches would also be required. The additional cost would be $10,000 more than Scenic Streets had raised and the asphalt work must be completed before any other improvements could begin.

Ironically, City Hall does have an ADA budget on-hand, but Lund says his group was told the fundamental fixes Hardy needs don't qualify for funding. So even though the dog park had never been compliant, the community would need to pay to make it so if any other renovations were to proceed.

Organizers have been scrambling to find a solution. Caltrans still owns the land, but its contract with the city releases it of any responsibility. Councilman Dan Kalb's office has gotten involved and hopes to encourage one of the city's asphalt contractors to step in pro bono.

"It's been a bit frustrating" says Lund. "We're so close to bringing this popular amenity up to community standards.

"We also hope community members with ideas or resources will step forward with ideas and referrals. I can be reached by email via peter@scenicstreets.org."

have you been away from your faith for a time?
you are missed.
st. augustine catholic church
join us for mass on saturdays at 5 pm, or
sundays at 8 am, 1030 am, or 6 pm.
400 alcatraz (between college and telegraph) oakland 94609
http://staugustineoakland.com
questions? call the parish 510.653.8631

Frank Silver Remodeling
Cal. Lic. #522497
146 Wildwood Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94610
Phone: 510/547-6111 Fax: 510/547-6115
E-mail: fmsprojects@sbcglobal.net
Web: www.fmsprojectsinc.com
FMS Projects, Inc.

Specializing in Rockridge Real Estate
$20 million+ in Oakland/Berkeley transactions in 2013
Wow!! The market continues to show strong demand in Rockridge with a low inventory of homes. Rates remain reasonably low but economic pressure is building for them to increase this year. Interestingly, these factors make it a good time to both sell or buy. Reminder: Average and median statistics on home sales are just that, averages. They don't dictate at all what would happen with a specific home as there are variables including pricing, showing conditions, marketing strategies and timing factors on every property.
Sold: 6130Colby.com listed by Claudia Mills & Perry Riani, 3BD 2BA, $879K list, 11 offers, Sold for $1,325,000, 50% over list
Available for sale: 4+BD 2.5BA home, plus bonus spc, close to College Ave/BART, award winning Chabot school $1.1M list.
Available for Lease: 3BD 2BA Craftsman, big kitchen, period liv rm, detached garage, 2 blks fr College Ave, $3,800/mo
A proud long time supporter of our Rockridge community and schools

Happy Spring!!
Call for a real local expert opinion.
Perry Riani, Senior Real Estate Specialist
Lawton Associates BRE# 01402540
510.813.3799
priani@earthlink.net
LAWTON ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

You've cleaned up your act, now clean up your record
• EXPUNGEMENTS
• MISDEMEANORS • FELONIES
• INFRACTIONS
Aggressive & Compassionate Criminal Defense.
www.elizabethgrossmanlaw.com
510.548.5106
FREE CONSULTATION

Chabot School Spring Fling

from page 5

A sampling of some of the generous offerings includes:

Local Businesses: Gift Certificates to Diesel, Pegasus, and Shawl Anderson Dance

Restaurants: Gift certificates to A16, Chez Panisse, Comal, Dopo, and Zachary's Pizza

Getaways: Kings Beach Cabin in Tahoe; Overnight in a restored vintage Airstream in Rockridge; A Week in Home in Todos Santos, Mexico

Local Fun: Chabot Space & Science Center, Taro's Origami Studio, Oakland Ice Center, and Fairyland

Sporting Events: tickets to the Oakland A's, San Jose Sharks, and SF Giants

A special thank you goes to this year's sponsors, who stepped up to ensure the event is a success. Sponsors include Jeff Robarts and Hope Broderick of The Grubb Company; Tom Nitsan at MPR Financial; Ruth Goldstone of Marvin Gardens Real Estate; Jill Martenson at Piedmont Dental by Design; Maxi Lilley of Red Oak Realty; Faramarz Moeen-Ziai at Bank of Commerce Mortgage; Adventure Time; Bakesale Betty; La Farine; 4by6.com and Antidote Juicery.

As you look for local business to patronize, please keep these generous people in mind.

Chabot relies on the generosity of its local communities to make the auction a success. We appreciate the support of our entire community and we look forward to seeing you – virtually – on our online auction site.

Security Patrols Revamped

from page 1

first response to any criminal or safety concern will be to contact the Oakland Police Department. They will then observe, report, and assist anyone in need when it is safe to do so.

Safer Rockridge Security Patrols will provide service to all residents and guests in the service area and are supported entirely by community contributions. The amount of patrolling provided will be directly proportional to the amount of funds raised. Safer Rockridge's goal is for enough households to participate to support two patrol cars for 12 hours per day, every day of the week. To meet this goal, 630 households will need to contribute $30/month. While $30/month is the suggested contribution level, households can contribute at any level.

During the month of March, a limited patrol will be supported using remaining funds from the CrowdTilt fundraising last fall. Safer Rockridge is now raising money for full patrols for April, May, and June. Please see www.saferrockridge.org to contribute.

Please send comments and questions to Safer Rockridge by emailing saferrockridge@gmail.com.



Frog Park Family Fest

from page 4

Bring your own tools or use ours. Coffee and refreshments provided. Stay for half an hour or the entire morning, rain or shine.

Then, party at the FROG Family Fest. Bring your family, kids, and your picnic lunch and blanket to Big Frog Park between 12 noon and 2 p.m. Expect loads of entertaining games, bubble-making, face painting, crafts, and more.

When: Saturday, April 26 from 9am-12 noon (Family Fest 12 – 2pm)

Where: Big Frog (Hardy Circle near Miles) or Greenbelt (Redondo Avenue at Cavour)

Who: Community members and kids of all ages

Contact info@frogpark.org with questions or to volunteer.

Process Excludes

from page 3

have no voice in soundwalls, despite noise measurements of weekday maximums of almost 80 decibels. Excluded, too, are those who use Frog Park: families with children, caregivers, dog park users, and walkers. And everyone who lives more than two blocks from the freeway: also excluded.

The 5-7 decibel reduction will make a huge difference to everyone who lives, studies, works or plays near the freeway. Decibels are a logarithmic scale: 80 decibels is four times as loud as 60 decibels (80 decibels is like standing next to a blender, 60 like being next to a vacuum cleaner).

I urge readers to sign the petition, and help everyone affected by the freeway noise.

— Theresa Nelson

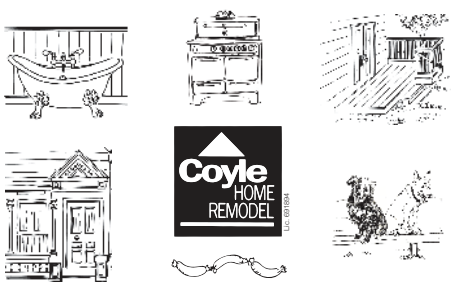
Community Mtg

from page 5

and Councilmember Dan Kalb will gather community feedback for the purpose of growing police-community collaboration. Topics to be covered:

- How we can strengthen community policing.
- How we can work with our schools.
- How we can improve employment opportunities.

Additional details will be in the April issue of The Rockridge News.



Martin Coyle 510-655-8717 Mike Tracy
5221 James Ave. Oakland Ca. 94618
www.coylehomeremodel.com

Rockridge Dental™
510.653.6677 rockdent.com
3rd Floor
Market Hall
Ste. 312

Bruce D. Fong, D.D.S.
Filippo Cangini, D.D.S, M.S.

Advanced Preventive, Restorative, Periodontal Gum Care, and Dental Implants.

Rockridge Real Estate: 2013 Review

by Ortrun Niesar, Rockridge News Contributor

In reviewing real estate statistics for 2013, we are happy to announce that Rockridge home values have clearly returned to pre-recession levels. In fact, we have recovered better and more quickly than most other neighborhoods in Oakland or Berkeley. It seems that, despite our endemic urban problems, Rockridge retains its appeal as a vibrant premier residential neighborhood in the East Bay.

Much of the popularity of Rockridge can be credited to a unique blend of natural attributes of the area. We enjoy excellent climate and a natural setting. Location, yes, but people, too, make the difference. The general respect for the Arts and Crafts heritage has preserved a friendly, small-town atmosphere and relatively open spaces even though the population density resembles that of nearby more urban environments.

Neighborhood streets are walkable, lined with attractive historic cottages. College Avenue supplies a lively restaurant and shopping scene as well as an easy commute to the City and UC Berkeley. There is also good availability of necessary services, such as hospitals, public transportation and public and private schools. All of these factors help to make this a great place where people want to live and raise their families.

Market Analysis

It is safe to say that the area has made a real recovery, one that will last. It is hoped 2014 will finally bring us a sane, more balanced housing market.



The number of homes sold in Rockridge in 2013 rose to levels experienced before the recession: 122 homes and a good 30 percent over the previous year. It is hoped that number will rise even higher in 2014.

With mortgage rates still at historic lows and the presence of a large number of cash buyers, it would not be surprising if overbidding were the norm again this year. In 2013 the average increase over list price was about 10 percent, but a whopping 83 percent of the sold prices were up to as much as 30 percent over asking. More homes on the market would help to keep prices more realistic and in line with affordability. Nobody wants to see another bubble.

What's different about the 2013-14 market? Cash purchases are the wild card. They have the advantage of by-passing the appraisal contingency and assuring quick and easy closes. In 2013, 30 percent of buyers purchasing two-bedroom homes in Rockridge did so with cash, skewing the market numbers. Cash buyers won't go away soon as long as the tech industry keeps going strong. In fact, to accommodate cash buyers, new mortgage banking programs are available that allow a conversion to a mortgage within a narrow window after the purchase has been completed.

Is this going to cause another meltdown or a bubble? Not very likely. The good news is that new banking regulations seem to be working. There is real money behind those sales. Will there be a ceiling on those rising home prices? Most forecasts say yes, since salaries are not rising to keep pace and economic uncertainties still abound worldwide. But here in Rockridge, San Francisco's burgeoning tech industry and high housing costs need to be factored in. 2014 will be a good year.

Average Sales Price by No. of Bedrooms

Year	2BR	3BR	4+BR	No. Homes Sold
2005	802,513	956,722	1,466,920	124
2006	760,782	962,488	1,498,687	112
2007	780,268	986,895	1,330,031	127
2008	757,011	921,476	1,329,080	98
2009	711,967	840,074	1,388,314	79
2010	680, 617	876,609	1,330,676	90
2011	702,011	924,398	1,126,722	87
2012	751,185	943,017	1,325,490	88
2013	796,082	1,009,302	1,500,740	122

Rockridge Cumulative Home Sale Prices 2005-2013

Year	Avg. Price	Percent Change	Median Price	Percent Change
2005	1,032,139	14.4	930,500	15.6
2006	1,111,317	7.6	903,500	-3.0
2007	1,106,186	-1.0	1,000,000	10.3
2008	1,029,153	-7.0	905,000	-9.5
2009	904,954	-12.0	850,000	-6.0
2010	962,757	6.4	838,000	-.02
2011	907,628	-5.7	837,000	0
2012	975,426	7.5	905,000	8
2013	1,030,674	5.7	911,500	.7

What Your Home Is Worth

Here is an update from the previous year. Criteria for evaluating a home differ greatly depending on the overall profile of the home. It is best to work with your local realtors, appraisers and mortgage brokers to get a proper evaluation. However, you can get a good snapshot yourself by going to open houses of homes of similar size, condition, amenities and applying a per square foot measure to your property.

Today, a good measure for a well-maintained two-bedroom bungalow (about 1,222 sf.) would be about $650 per square foot, considerably higher than last year. A good average measure per square foot for a medium sized (1,855 sf.) three-bedroom home is about $544, but it is likely your home could fetch a much higher price based on its appeal, condition, scarcity and location. Four-bedroom homes (about 2,695 sf.) sold at an overall average of $456 per square foot in 2013, but homes of four bedrooms or more tend to be much larger, newer homes or historic homes that traditionally fetch prices well above that depending upon the total number of bedrooms, the overall size and desirability of the home.

Whether it is new or old, worth a lot or not so much, enjoy your Rockridge home.

This analysis covers Rockridge single-family-home sales from the Berkeley border in the north, south to Broadway Terrace and 51st Street, west to Telegraph Avenue and east to Highway 13. Information supplied by East Bay Regional Data (EBRD) for 2013 is deemed to be reliable but not guaranteed.

Ortrun Niesar is a realtor with East Bay Sotheby's International Realty: ortrun.niesar@sothebys-realty.com.

Happy? Glad to be in Rockridge!

Community-Sponsored Benches Now Grace Library Yard

by Sarah Washburn, FORL board member

When Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) Co-Chair Kathy O'Neal noticed people using the library wi-fi outside the building walls, she had an idea: What if FORL funded a seating area to provide a more comfy spot to surf the web, wait for a friend, or enjoy a good library book?

This thought set in motion a series of events we're calling: It takes a village to provide a bench.

FORL Co-Chair Carol Bieri contacted Chris Jackson from the Rockridge District Association (RDA) to learn more about the benches that line College Avenue. Bieri shared, "Since the benches were already city-approved and had held up well, and we weren't interested in introducing another design element to the streetscape, we thought finding out where the existing benches came from was a good idea."

She was right: it turns out that surplus benches were languishing on top of a container in the City of Oakland Corporation Yard, and Jackson generously and enthusiastically donated a few to FORL.

With the help of Chris Holt, acting manger of the yard, a forklift, some donated cement, FORL board member Brett Young's construction expertise, and the steadfast support of the project by Director of Library Services Gerry Garzón, I am thrilled to announce an installed and already well-loved bench near the library's driveway on Manila Avenue.

Please enjoy it, and be on the lookout for more improvements to the library compliments of FORL and the wonderful "village" of Rockridge.

To learn more about how the Friends of the Rockridge Library support the library and how you can share your ideas, visit www.friendsofrockridgelibrary.org.

Notes: Safeway Construction

from page 1

■ **Expect busy truck traffic** on Claremont once concrete pouring begins. All trucks will enter from and exit off of Claremont. Construction hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Weekly construction updates can be found at www.safewayoncollege.com For more information, call Safeway's community affairs consultant, Elisabeth Jewel, at 510/306-2126.

Ed. Note: the safewayoncollege web site named above links to a "real-time feed" from a camera mounted at the College and Claremont corner of the project. Dedicated sidewalk supervisors – and other interested observers – will find viewing modes that range from real-time to elapsed time to date-selectable time. The camera link is http://oxblue.com/open/Safeway/Oakland.

Land Use Committee

from page 3

one of College Avenue's continuing problems is the multiplication of street frontage non-retail uses on the avenue. This runs counter to the intent of the C-31 – now redesignated CN-1 – zoning, which requires a conditional use permit for most non-retail uses. Under Oakland's zoning ordinance, once a use permit is granted for a particular site, it never expires, regardless of whether that use actually continues on the site. In fact, a single site can have three or four use permits for different non-retail uses, all available for a new tenant without having to go through a new approval process or even be reviewed for new conditions of approval. Essentially, a building owner can collect a "closet" of use permits and pull the appropriate one out whenever a potential tenant wants to start a particular use at the site.

The problem with this is that retail use loses its favored status under the zoning, which can mean that retail gradually gets displaced by other uses, such as office use. Over time, this could result in the eclipse of College Avenue's reputation as a favored retail area.

RCPC is looking at asking the city, as part of its citywide zoning update, to revise its zoning ordinance so that when a use requiring a use permit leaves a site and is replaced by a different use, the use permit for the prior use would expire. This would not be a problem when, for example, one restaurant is replaced by another one in the same space. It would, however, mean that if a restaurant left and was replaced by a retail use, a later restaurant use would require a new use permit. RCPC believes this would help restore the zoning's intended preference for retail uses.

RCPC is talking to community and merchant groups in other parts of the city to see if this is also a concern in other CN-1 zoned areas before bringing the proposal to the city for its consideration.

Having Fun? Do it in Oakland!

OMNI
PAINTING & WATERPROOFING Inc.
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL
INTERIOR-EXTERIOR LEAD CERTIFIED PAINTERS
Professional preparation. Many local references. All work Guaranteed
(510) 654-3339

Norman H. Burg, DDS
General Dentistry
(510) 652-1517
5700 Broadway, Oakland
A Prevention Oriented Practice

LAW OFFICES OF
KYLE M. JOHNSTON

5315 COLLEGE AVE.
OAKLAND, CALIF.
510.527.1880
CALL FOR YOUR FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION
FAMILY ╬ BUSINESS ╬ ESTATE
WWW.KYLEMJOHNSTON.COM

Tech Engineering Academy

from page 5

from a long line of teachers and school administrators, joining OUSD as a substitute teacher in 1971, later becoming a full-time teacher. Credentialed in physics and vocational training, Parker's love of teaching and commitment to the Academy clearly shows (not to mention his passion for racing Porsches).

Today, 120 students in grades 10-12 are enrolled in the academy, roughly half being women. Entrance is competitive. Typically 100 freshman students vie each spring for the 65 seats offered to 10th grade students. Math assessment, grades and writing sample all figure into the entrance selection criteria.

Academy sophomores learn traditional and Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD). Juniors soak up Honors Physics and Descriptive Geometry, as well as Mathematical Analysis. Seniors concentrate on architecture or advanced CAD design, plus AP Physics and AP Calculus.

Every graduating Academy senior attends college. Members of the most recent classes can be found at, among others, Brown, Harvard, MIT, Northwestern, Tufts, UCLA, UC Berkeley, Oberlin, West Point, Case Western, Stanford, McGill, and Cal Poly.

Oakland Tech This is It! On-line Auction Open Through March 13

Bid on fantastic items from fine dining establishments, local businesses, sporting event tickets, travel destinations and more in the Tech on-line auction, open to the entire Rockridge neighborhood: https://oaklandtech.schoolauction.net/auction2014/online_auction.

Process Flawed

from page 3

• The petition doesn't indicate what to do or where to mail in a signature; those interested have to do their own research to determine how to send in the petition, which might discourage some people.

• The list of eligible properties includes addresses that do not exist and omits addresses that do exist and should be included.

Whether one is in favor of performing the soundwall study or against it, we can all agree the issue deserves a fair vote and all of the eligible voters should know that they have the option to participate. The city should update its list of eligible households, send another information mailer to all of the homes, and extend the petition deadline to ensure a fair vote that honors the voice of the community.

— Paola Coda

Ed. Note: Find petitions online: http://www.rockridge.org/sites/default/files/oakland_caldecott_soundwall_study_petition-1.pdf. Return signed petitions to: **Attn: Wlad Wlassowsky**, Soundwall Petitions, Community & Economic Development Agency, Transportation Services Division, 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4344, Oakland, CA 94612

ROCKRIDGE FAMILY DENTISTRY
sherin m. yuan
cosmetic, restorative and implant dentistry
D.D.S.
p: 510 653 4306
5277 college ave #103
oakland, ca 94618
www.rockridgedentist.com

Mimi's Landscaping
Design
Installation
Consultation
Construction
Rockridge Resident
510.595.9090
Quality service

Feeling stressed about your rental property?
Let us assist you.
Contact me for a complimentary assessment.
Caldecott Properties
CALDECOTT.COM
Ron Reece, Realtor®
Director, Property Management
510.594.2400 x226
rreece@caldecott.com

AMATO ARCHITECTURE
Rebecca Ivans Amato, AIA 510.420.0210
AmatoArchitecture.com

Specializing in Rockridge
MOTLEY TEAM
510.459.4338
PACIFIC UNION CHRISTIE'S
A Member of Real Living
No Rockridge Sales in February
WE DESPERATELY NEED INVENTORY!
This is a great time for sellers to list their homes. If you are considering a move, please call us for a free estimate of value!
• *Expanding family with a need for more space?*
• *Empty nesters thinking of downsizing?*
Take advantage of today's low interest rates and hot market conditions.
Visit our website at www.eastbayhouse.com!
If you're thinking of buying or selling, give us a call for a free consultation.

RN classifieds

Your Message Could Be Here

Your 36-word message is $22. (Phone number counts as one word.) Mail to: **RN Classifieds**, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611
April issue deadline is March 20.
For information: smontauk@gmail.com

Tax Stress?

Penelope's Aesthetics Professional Skin Care Salon: offering a full deluxe stress reduction facial with massage and eyebrow wax for $59. Gift certificates available. Located 2 blocks from College Ave. Call today for an appointment. www.penelopecalef.com 510/594-1552.

TAI CHI and QIGONG Classes

Explore the many aspects that benefit your health and well being. Thursday, 9:30am, Saturday, 9am. Please visit our website for details. www.harmonytaiji.com or email harmonytaiji45@gmail.com for more information.

Electrical Repairs & Remodels

From doorbell repair to whole-house rewiring, we've been doing electrical work in Oakland and Berkeley for over 30 years. Sutorik & Company, www.sutorikandco.com, lic#397149. 510/655-3677.

Aesthetic Pruning

I specialize in pruning trees & shrubs under 20 feet tall. I work with trees to enhance their natural beauty. Maple specialist, but I prune all garden trees. Certified Aesthetic Pruner. Bruce Thompson 510/428-4964.

GRUBBCO.COM
510.652.2133
3070 Claremont Avenue • Berkeley
510.339.0400
1960 Mountain Boulevard • Oakland

House Repairs & Rehabs, Interior & Exterior

Kitchen & bath remodel, tile, decks, dry rot, drainage, walls, termite damage, doors, windows. Professional work for affordable prices. Local References Available. Lic#458473. Don 510/812-0310.

iCan Help-Arik Rosenthal Mac Tutoring

iPhone, iPad, iPod, Mac, Peripherals. Check e-mail, surf the web, video chat, download apps and ebooks. An abundance of patience at a reasonable rate. Schedule a session today! 510/206-2914. arikoved@gmail.com.

Organizational, Academic, Career Help!

For uniquely-abled students and adults, and those "on the Spectrum." Years of experience, patient and kind, local person, reasonable rates with neighborly discount. Check out www.BrightOptionsLearningDisabled.com, Mark 415/691-5637.

Personal Assistant

Life Made Simpler offers Household and Project Management services. Highly experienced, organized, creative, and a natural talent for multi-tasking. Allow me to make your life simpler! Cynthia. 510/326-9985. Cd.warren@comcast.net

Feather River Art Camp

For adults (and kids). www.featherriverartcamp.com June 15-22, 2014. "a perfect joyful blend of art, nature, creativity, camaraderie." Painting, ceramics, watercolor, writing, bookmaking, guitar, mosaics, glass beadmaking, fused glass, nature journaling.

NAMASTE
New to yoga?
3 CLASSES FOR $30*
*NEW STUDENTS ONLY
GOOD FOR 30 DAYS
BERKELEY | GRAND LAKE | ROCKRIDGE
WWW.ILOVENAMASTE.COM

Catholic Clarity, Eastern Splendor, Evangelical Fervor and Yiddish Humor!

Who needs more? St Peter's, Lawton at Broadway, 8 & 10 a.m., Sunday; noon, Wednesday; 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

Henry C. Levy & Co.
Certified Public Accountants
and Consultants
A Professional Corporation
• tax preparation • estate planning
• tax planning • business valuation
5940 College Avenue, Suite C
Oakland, California 94618
510.652-1000 FAX 510.654-2363

There's a new broker in town.
Susan Bernosky
Strahan Insurance Services, Inc.
510-450-9051
Strahan
INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.

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. Confirm mtg.at www.rockridgencpc.com or chair@rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

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

Ready, Set, Connect Program: Internet, email, Microsoft office, EBook download, and more. Tuesdays 4-6pm and Saturdays 1-3pm. See Vicky Chen.

FOR CHILDREN

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

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

FOR TEENS

- **Create Your Own App**: Youth Radio's Mobile Design 101 gives participants an introduction to the process of app development. By the end of this session, everyone will have designed their own app. Wed. 3/12, 2 pm.
- **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. Play video & board games, make crafts, enjoy light snacks.

Contact Vicky Chen for all teen programs.

FOR ADULTS

- **Writers Support/Critique Group:** All writers welcome. Bring 15 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.
- **Covered California:** Get help signing up for the new Affordable Health Care Act. Sat. 3/15, 1:30- 4pm, and Sat. 3/29 2:30 – 4:30pm.

ART EXHIBITS (subject to change; call to confirm)

Gallery:

March: **Renee Bien**: "In the City," mixed media.

April: Drawings & Photos by the students of Oakland Tech High School Fashion, Art & Design Academy.

Lobby Display Case:

Mar. and Apr.: TBA

LIBRARY HOURS

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed., Thurs. and Sat. 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri., 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sundays and Mondays.

Diesel Book/Readings/Events

All FREE and open to the public.

- Sun., 3/9, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Wendy Chin-Tanner**, **Joan Naviyuk Kane** and **Danniel Schoonebeek.**
- Mon., 3/10, 7:30pm. **Amnesty International Meeting** (**2nd Mon. each month**)**:** All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Thurs., 3/13, 7pm. **Ariel Gore:** *The End of Eve: A Memoir.*
- Sun., 3/30, 3pm. **Poetry Flash**, with **Patrick Donnelly** and **Robert Thomas**.

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

Wisteria Ways House Concerts

- **Snowapple**: Three part harmonies and operatic interludes on dozens of instruments by 3 girls from Amsterdam. Saturday, March 29 at 8pm (house opens at 7:30). Hear them on http://www.snowapple.nl/.
- **OoN**: Bass and bassoon duet play melodic chamber jazz. Saturday, April 5 at 8pm (house opens at 7:30). Hear them at http://www.oonband.com/.

Both concerts inside venue; not wheelchair accessible. $15-20 donation for musicians (cash only at the door). 383 61st Street. For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

Jazz at the Chimes

Featuring the **Grupo Falso Baiano** quartet performing a blend of traditional Brazilian choro music with modern influences of jazz, flamenco and samba. Sunday, 3/16, 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 www.grupofalsobaiano.com. The concert series features Bay Area jazz musicians in a landmarked Julia Morgan venue: Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. **Wheelchair accessible. Free parking.** Info: www.jazzatthechimes.com, chimesjazz@gmail.com or 654-0123.

Square Dance in North Oakland

Music by **The Squirrelly String Band.** Calling by **Jordan Ruyle or Evie Ladin** (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.

- **Free AARP Tax Assistance:** Thursdays 9:45am-1:15pm., now through April 10th. Call for your personal appointment.
- **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: through June 3. 10:30am-12 noon. Pre-register at 597-5085.
- **Asparagus Festival by Amtrak**: Opens for sign-up March 11.For questions about this and other trips, call Sharia: 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, 9a.m. – 1p.m., year 'round. Bring your own bags. 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Telegraph) at DMV parking lot. More about Certified Farmers' Markets at urbanvillageonline.com.

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
Summer 2014
PRE-COLLEGE
FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!
ART
ARCHITECTURE
DESIGN
WRITING
CCA'S BEAUTIFUL OAKLAND CAMPUS IS WALKING DISTANCE FROM THE ROCKRIDGE BART STATION
EARN 3 UNITS OF COLLEGE CREDIT
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
CCA
CCA.EDU/PRECOLLEGE
CCA ALSO OFFERS:
YOUNG ARTIST STUDIO PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE-SCHOOL STUDENTS
SUMMER ATELIER FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED 9TH GRADE



Over 400 homes sold - Experience Counts

Terry Kulka & Julie Bartlett

Is there a move in your future? As a team we bring twice the knowledge, attention & effort. We're THERE for you! Benefit from our combined 35 years experience selling Rockridge homes.

Call Today! (510) 682-5917
RockridgeHomeSales@Gmail.com
www.Rockridge-RealEstate.com

COLDWELL BANKER

aboutface&body
dayspa oaklandberkeley
serving you since 1981

AVEDA PRODUCTS
Now offering men's waxing

3190 college avenue
at alcatraz
berkeley, ca 94705

p 510.428.2600
www.aboutfaceandbody.net

sun-tues 10:30-5:30
wed-sat 10:30-8:00

COLLINS ROOFING
Family Owned & Operated



(510) 444-2220
www.collinsroofing.com
Quality Work • Free Estimates
Lic # 695711

KEVIN BROWN
Broker
654-8707 or 593-4780

Providing
Professional,
Full Service
Real Estate Brokerage
To Rockridge Clients
For Over 32 Years.

Specializing In
- ❖ *Residential Sales*
- ❖ *Income Property*
- ❖ *Commercial*
- ❖ *Property Management*

Better Homes Realty
Better Homes Realty
5353 College Avenue
Oakland

Living? Love it in Oakland!

Flush *with* Confidence

PIPE SPY®
License #754966

BETTER LIVING
through Modern Plumbing
(510) 465-3000
www.pipespy.com

URGENT

There is a severe shortage of homes to sell or lease in Rockridge (any size or condition). I estimate we are short by at least 16 homes = Read "Sellers Market." There are only 6 homes actively for sale right now at the beginning of the Spring market. Same for rentals - call or email me for more information! 510-612-2547 or RonKriss@JPS.net

COMING SOON

Belgrave Place ***not priced yet**
4+BD/2+BA
Almost untouched since build. Part of a very upscale development of 7 mini mansions. Grand rooms, amazing detailing, maids stairway - you get the picture. Cool old bathrooms - intact.
Award Winning Chabot Elementary School

FOR SALE IN ROCKRIDGE

5625 Broadway **$1,285,000 List**
SOLD 3 OFFERS
3+ Beds / 2+ Baths
Amazing New Home
Finest modern design, materials & workmanship
Award Winning Chabot Elementary School
www.5625Broadway.com.

FOR LEASE IN ROCKRIDGE

5521 Lawton Avenue **$3,850/mo**
LEASED
$3,850
2BD/1BA Newer kitchen. So. facing yard.
Award winning Chabot Elementary.

***NOTE! If you want to rent let me know ASAP. I had over 25 groups tour this property and leased it in a week.**

*NOTE: Because of Rockridge Newsletter lead time, all prices are not available at print deadline.

LAWTON ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

Ron Kriss, Broker
Lawton Associates
510-547-5970 Ext. 55
ronkriss@jps.net
"#1 in Rockridge Real Estate"
Over 110M in Sales in Rockridge
www.LawtonAssoc.com
"I know Rockridge"

Playing? Start in Oakland!






MCGUIRE REAL ESTATE

Home, the Ultimate Luxury Address.

EAST BAY OFFICE | 510.883.7000 | MCGUIRE.COM