THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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The View from 63rd St.: Reality Meets Design as Safeway Builds



As the outlines of the new College Avenue Safeway store emerge, pedestrians, shoppers and sidewalk café patrons must accustom themselves to a view more focused on a building close by than on the now-obscured hills. Project drawings, such as the one below depicting the intersection of College Avenue and 63rd Street, showed how the store's façade could dominate the view from College to the hills. It has come to do so.



Rockridge Voters Fill Board, OK Bylaw Changes

by Zabrae Valentine, RCPC chair

RCPC's annual election for positions on its board of directors, held during the April 2014 Annual Meeting/Town Hall, saw 46 residents cast their ballots for four incumbents and two new candidates running for six uncontested board seats. Voters also approved two proposed bylaw amendments on the ballot.

Elected to full two-year terms were incumbents Christopher Chin, Virginia Hamilton, Laura Schlichtmann, and Zabrae Valentine. New candidates Gabe Kleinman and Samantha Weaver were also elected to two-year terms.

After the election, Chin found that unexpected demands of his employment would leave him insufficient time for active board service, and he resigned. The board now has a vacancy that will be filled at a later date by appointment of the board.

If you have an interest in board service, e-mail chair@rockridge.org.

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

BIKE EAST BAY

City Programs Planned for Bike to Work Day, Thursday, May 8

City Offers Pancake Rest Stop for Cyclists

Join Bike to Work Day: Thursday, May 8

Bike-to-Work Day is held annually statewide to encourage bicycling as a non-polluting and healthy commute option.

In Oakland, Bike-to-Work Day is part of the city's strategy to promote cycling as affordable transportation, to improve public health, and to stop global warming. By cycling, you can: Reduce air pollution; stay healthy and fit; save money; and ease street congestion.

Hank and Frank ▸ City Bike to Work Day: Goodies, page 13

15 Thursday May 15

RCPC Town Hall Meeting

Pizza: 7 |Prgm: 7:30

Join us for pizza | RSVP: rockridge.org

Come at 7 for pizza and friends

AGENDA

Education and local schools headline the May 15 RCPC Town Hall meeting.

Jody London, Oakland School Board Member, District 1 (includes Rockridge) will discuss:

- The new state Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), and how it is implemented in Oakland
- Implementation of the Common Core State Standards
- The District's focus on full-service community schools. ("A number of key initiatives fall into place here, including linked learning academies in our high schools, social-emotional learning, work to reduce suspensions and expulsions, and a focus on

▸ Town Hall Agenda, page 15

Story of a Bowl; Story of a Community

by Lucia R. Briggs

Opening the door to find Kingsley Moore on my front porch is not a common occurrence; he hardly ever visits. Yet, there he was – the antiques dealer, textile specialist, restorer and preserver of "beautiful old things," and owner and proprietor of Talisman Antiques on College Avenue.

"Uh, Kingsley?" I asked.

My husband and I have been friends with Kingsley for years, and we knew of the recent theft of an ancient burl wood bowl that had been left with him for some restoration. The sign posted in his store window with a photograph of the bowl and the notice of a reward for its return had produced no results. After three months, things were beginning to look bleak.

The theft of the bowl was a blow for Kingsley. The items entrusted to his care for repair or renewal are much more than the sum of their parts. They embody not only the souls of their current and former owners, but also the spirit of the people who made them. Those in the community who know Kingsley, who have watched him work and who know the passion and reverence he has for the pieces that pass through his hands, understand why the loss was so personal.



Kingsley Moore, owner and proprietor of Talisman Antiques, worked long hours to repair the damage to the stolen bowl. /D. Kinkead

What Kingsley wanted when he dropped by the house was to give us the mixed news that while the burl wood bowl had been returned, it had been out in the weather the entire time, abandoned in the bushes and filled with rainwater. The small crack that had split the rim – and was the reason the bowl had been brought for repair – had grown to a dark gash across one side. Hardwood patches, meant to strengthen hairline cracks, had broken loose or were missing entirely. The standing water had softened and swelled the wood, warping the bowl, and leaving a dark ring.

Story of a Bowl and a Community, page 8

Recovered Bowl Now Holds Added Meaning

by Dori Maynard and Jan Christenson

It took an ancient wooden bowl to tell the story of our community. The burled bowl has been passed down from generation to generation.

In December, the current custodians of the family heirloom took it to Talisman Antiques for some minor repairs. The bowl was then stolen. The family was heartbroken. Together with Talisman owner Kingsley Moore, they offered a $1,000 reward.

For months there was no word about the bowl. One day in April, a homeless man, friend of many local merchants, found the bowl in the bushes at the church near Talisman Antiques.

He turned it over to Kingsley, who gave him the reward. As soon as he received the reward, the finder went straight to another merchant to donate a large portion of it to her daughter's college fund.

The bowl was battered and broken, and Kingsley worked hard to restore it for the owner.

The bowl now holds two stories. First, a story of a family. Now, too, a story of the strength of our community; a community where we all look out for each other.

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Tue: 12:30 – 8 p.m.
Wed, Thu, Sat: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Fri: 12 – 5:30 p.m.
CLOSED *Sun and Mon, also Tue, 5/27*
Library program details: See Calendar, page 15.

The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded in 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly in Oakland and is sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), a nonprofit public benefit organization founded to: preserve and enhance the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood; promote the health, safety and quality of life of its residents; furnish a forum for community involvement, and provide leadership and representation of neighborhood interests.

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Contacting The Rockridge News

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

Contact us at one of the following:

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:

☛ **June 7, 2014**
☛ **June deadline is May 22, 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 next Land Use Committee meeting will be Wednesday, May 28, 7:30 p.m. in a meeting room at the Rockridge branch library. Topics will include an update on the Rockridge Safeway projects.
Please check with the chair (652-5373 or stuflash@aol.com) the week before for an updated agenda.

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman,
RCPC Land Use Committee chair

■ **Café Proposal for 5269 Broadway (minor conditional use permit required)**

The committee discussed a proposal for a café to be located at 5269 Broadway. It would be open during the day and cater to students at the California College of Art. Although an applicant representative did not attend the meeting, committee members present felt they had sufficient information about the proposal to make an informed recommendation to the board of directors. The recommendation is that RCPC not oppose the application.

■ **Proposal for Use Permit "Sunset" Provisions**

The committee had further discussions of a possible sunset provision for use permits. The committee reviewed use permit provisions for the nearby cities of Berkeley, San Leandro, Hayward, Fremont, and Walnut Creek. The provisions either void any previous use when a new use for a property is approved, or provide that a use permit lapses if not exercised for more than six months. Committee member Glen Jarvis was tasked with preparing a draft "sunset" provision for board consideration.

■ **Proposal to Require Use Permits for Personal Services Businesses in the CN-1 Zone.**

In response to concerns about the proliferation of "personal services" (e.g., hair salons, nail salons, spas, and hair removal) uses along College Avenue in the CN-1 zone area, the committee discussed whether to recommend that such uses require a minor use permit in the CN-1 zone. After discussion, the committee voted to recommend that the board consider endorsing requiring a use permit for "personal grooming" uses in the CN-1 zone and that RCPC consult with business and residents' organizations in other CN-1 zoned areas of the city to determine their feelings about such a proposal.

Meeting: Broadway Improvement Plans

by Victoria Eisen, city consultant

The latest plans for pedestrian crossing, bikeway, lane configuration and related improvements on Broadway between College Avenue and Ocean View Drive will be presented by city staff Thursday, May 29, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Rockridge Branch Library community meeting room on the second floor.

Following review of a traffic study, plans are moving forward on the project, which is intended to improve safety in the corridor for all roadway users.

The project includes the following components:

■ Resurfacing the roadway

■ Reducing the number of traffic lanes from four to three (one lane in each direction, with a two-way center turn lane, steps sometimes referred to as a road diet)

■ Adding bicycle lanes on both sides of the street

■ Installation of a pedestrian-activated HAWK (High-intensity Activated cross-WalK beacon*) signal at Lawton Avenue

■ Improved, high-visibility crosswalks at all intersections

■ No changes to existing on-street parking

■ Constructing bulb-outs at Taft Avenue, Kales Avenue and Ada Street.

The design that will be presented on May 29 takes into account comments received at a November 2013 community meeting about the project and the results of the recent traffic study.

Project designers also considered a traffic jam on Broadway occurring February 19, 2014, the result of a crash on eastbound SR-24 in Orinda. Traffic backed up through

▸ Broadway Improvement Plans, page 4

Neighbors: Are you now, or have you ever been, a member of **The Rockridge News** delivery team? If so, email info@rockridge.org or phone 510/869-4200 and tell your name and the street/s you delivered to. You will be contacted with a special message. Thank you. ***— The RCPC board***

City Releases Updated Caldecott Project List

by Victoria Eisen, city consultant

As a result of recent project updates, the city has released a revised project list for the Caldecott Settlement Agreement reprinted later in this article. The updates include:

■ Nearly complete construction plans for the first seven Caldecott agreement-funded projects

■ Elimination of two soundwall studies from the project list (see The Rockridge News, April 2014, page 1)

▸ Project List, page 4

Protecting Pets From the Foxtail Scourge

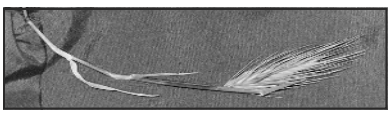
by Sarah Kulberg

This is a message for everyone who has or cares about dogs and cats.

Foxtails (pictured below right) are out and ready to spread. They can work their way into every orifice of the animal – eyes too – and can cause great damage. They are barbed like fish hooks. They go in easily and are difficult to remove.

When you see foxtails growing in a planted area, pull them out by the root, trying to get all the parts. Put them into a plastic bag tied tightly so nothing can escape, and put that bag into the trash, *not* the green bin. Every foxtail plant not pulled out will turn into many more foxtails next season.

All the pets will thank you.



Project List

from page 3

■ Commencement of plans for the next set of projects

■ Escalation of costs for all other projects to account for inflation from the time they were estimated in 2010.

The effect of these changes is that five more projects than reported in December 2013 are projected to be funded. As always, the actual projects that will be delivered with settlement agreement funds will not be known for certain until the city has obtained construction bids on the early projects.

For more information, 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	April 2014 revised estimate[1]	
1	Tunnel Road/SR 13/Hiller Drive Intersection Improvements	$950,000	**$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*		**$1,075,000**	
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	$275,000		
4-6	*Pathway & Bicycle facilities on upper Broadway*[2]		**$ 639,000**	
~~7~~	~~Soundwall study: Eastbound between Vicente Way and Broadway~~[3]	$554,000	**$ 0**	
~~8~~	~~Soundwall study: Westbound between Ross Street and Telegraph Avenue~~[3]	$628,000	**$ 0**	
9	Broadway/Keith Intersection Improvements	$840,000		
9&14	*Broadway bike & ped improvements, Keith Avenue to Brookside Lane*		**$2,250,000**	
10	College/Keith Intersection Improvements	$235,000		
10,11,15,20	*Rockridge BART Station Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements*[3]		**$ 686,000**	
	Safe Routes to Transit Recommended Grant Award and contributions[4]		-$ 485,000	
11	Bike Route Signage at Rockridge BART	$ 20,000		
12	Broadway/Lawton Intersection Improvements	$400,000	$ 335,000	
13	Broadway/Ocean View intersection improvements	$400,000	$ 30,000	
14	Broadway/Brookside/SR 24 On-ramp Intersection Improvements	$295,000		
15	Rockridge BART Bicycle Parking	$100,000		
16	On-street Bicycle Parking in Commercial Areas	$ 30,000	**$ 32,000**	
17	52nd/51st/SR 24 ramps/Shattuck Intersection Improvements	$635,000	**$ 686,000**	
~~18~~	~~Soundwall study: Westbound between Patton Street and Ross Street~~[5]	$179,000		
19	Alternatives' Analysis of Lake Temescal - Tunnel Rd Bike/ped connections	$200,000	$ 216,000	
20	College/Miles Intersection Improvements	$160,000		
21	Claremont/Hudson/SR 24 On-ramp Intersection Improvements	$180,000	$ 194,000	Original funding line [6]
22	College/Manila intersection improvements	$200,000	**$ 186,000**[7]	
23	Pedestrian Scale Lighting on Telegraph from 42nd Street to Berkeley border	$240,000	$ 259,000	Current. funding line [8]

Notes

Bold project costs indicate cost has changed since last cost revisions.

1. Cost of capital projects that have not begun design process escalated using Engineering News Record & CPI inflation factors.
2. 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.
3. Projects failed petition process needed to show support.
4. Includes $417,000 grant, $18,000 BART contribution and $50,000 contribution from Fourth Bore Coalition.
5. Found to be infeasible.
6. Projects #24-37 hidden to allow notes to be seen. Please see earlier list versions for projects farther down list.
7. Cost reduced by the portion of the project that will be covered by AC Transit's Route 51 improvements on College Avenue.
8. 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.

Updated 4/17/2014

Broadway Improvement Plans

from page 3

the Caldecott Tunnel and onto the Brookside freeway on-ramp and Broadway. This collision coincided with PG&E's closing of a northbound traffic lane on Broadway during some utility work, creating a considerable backup.

The intersection improvements at Ocean View and Lawton are funded through Caldecott settlement agreement funds (see project list at left). Other project components, such as the resurfacing, striping and improvements to other intersections will be funded through other city sources.

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

* ***Ed. Note:*** A HAWK beacon (High-intensity Activated crossWalK beacon) is a traffic signal used to stop road traffic and allow pedestrians to cross safely. It is officially known as a "Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon" (PHB). The purpose of a HAWK beacon is to allow protected pedestrian crossings, stopping road traffic only as needed. [From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HAWK_beacon.]

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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.

City staff ignored environmental justice in soundwall procedure

Editor:

In all the discussion of sound walls, there has been not one single mention of Environmental Justice for the people of Rockridge. None of the other projects promoted by staff have an Environmental Justice component.

For 45 years, thousands of Rockridge residents, along with thousands of Claremont Middle School students, have endured the unmitigated adverse environmental effects of having an elevated 8-lane freeway and BART cutting through the heart of their neighborhood. These well understood and well-researched effects include decades of particulates, air pollution, and ever rising noise levels as traffic steadily increased since the freeway was opened in 1969.

In the wake of the collapse of the Cypress Structure during the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, Oakland officials used all their power to obtain Environmental Justice for the people of West Oakland, ensuring the least harmful placement of the reconstructed freeway section. They gave a voice to residents who had no voice in the matter when that freeway was constructed 35 years before.

Similarly, Rockridge residents had no voice in the process that created the section of the Grove-Shafter freeway that stretches from the Caldecott tunnels to Hwy 580, even though all parties acknowledge that using today's environmental standards, this freeway could not be built as it currently exists.

I find it shameful that staff inserted a petition process that was NOT required into the mandated state process to obtain sound walls. I find it shameful that the petition process itself contained errors, omissions and extra hurdles, such as the refusal to accept legally approved verified PDF electronic signatures.

But most of all, I find it shameful that staff did not once address the issue of Environmental Justice for Rockridge, a neighborhood that has now lived with almost identical issues as those endured in West Oakland – and for 10 years longer and counting.

And, I wonder, is Rockridge less deserving of Environmental Justice than West Oakland?

— Annette R. Floystrup

Judith Berne's articles help me learn abut my neighbors

Editor:

Just a quick note to let you know how much I enjoyed reading Judith Berne's "book club" piece just now [The Rockridge News, April 2014]. Chana Wilson has a great story, and I remember that New Yorker piece on the Frank Lloyd Wright house being moved from New Jersey to Arkansas in order to save it.

Ms. Berne has a great writing style: warm, approachable, while still crisp. And, I love learning more about our neighbors in each piece.

Thanks for this contribution to our community. I look forward to her article in each issue of The Rockridge News.

— Erin Flynn

Peralta Elementary School Hosts Peralta in Bloom Spring Festival

Saturday, May 17, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Peralta in Bloom, the school's spring festival fund-raiser, is an event open to the entire community, and anticipated by all kids.

The celebration runs from noon to 4 p.m., and includes fun for kids and the entire family: a barbecue with vegetarian options; live music; a two-hour cakewalk based on musical chairs; a climbing wall; art booths; 10 carnival games. Also, free events range from face-painting to balloon twisting to flower-pot painting. The event ends with an annual Quilt Raffle, featuring a lovely quilt designed by resident artist and quilt-maker Ellen Oppenheimer, and made by kids.

These traditions are organized by parent teams. Each year, we add new events to celebrate spring in a new way. The fair is free to enter, and the event is all about providing a fantastic day for the kids after the mandated testing period has ended.

Our spring festival helps support the school's art projects, and is also a great way to introduce the community to the school.

For more information, contact organizers:

- Daniel Brownstein (dabrownstein@gmail.com) or
- Richard Stuverud (richardstuverud@gmail.com).

Photos from past festivals by Peralta Parents







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Eyes on Rockridge

Helping Needy Babies Earns Lisa Klein Oakland's Mother of the Year Award

by Judith Doner Berne

Rockridge resident and Oakland's 2014 Mother of the Year Lisa Klein was home with a new baby when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005.

"It was on CNN all the time," she says. "I kept searching for something I could do. I'm not a doctor; I couldn't be deployed."

While viewing the New Orleans' Craig's List, she saw that an area church was pleading, "We need everything – aspirin, baby clothes, blankets" for the displaced victims camped out on their lawn.

Baby clothes was a need Klein could meet – with some help. So she emailed members of her moms' group. They told their friends. It got posted on the East Bay Craig's List.

Within four days, 200 pounds of gently used baby clothes had been left on her front porch. "Consider how small a sock is," Klein says in explaining how much had been donated. She and her mom's group packed them in boxes marked either "girl" or "boy" for easy distribution and sent them off.

But the donations kept coming, even after the Katrina needs had been met. And that's how Klein decided to turn a one-time far-off cause into an established, Bay Area charitable institution – Loved Twice – which provides gently used baby clothes to low-income mothers. "I realized a local need here," she says.

Early in our interview, I learned that Klein grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan, where I attended grade school and junior high. After graduating from Western Michigan University with a BFA in graphic design, she took a job in San Francisco.

She met her future husband, William Carson, then a student at Cal Berkeley, while they were waiting at the San Francisco Airport to take the same flight home to the Midwest for Thanksgiving – he to Pittsburgh and she to Detroit. He asked for her phone number mid-flight.

After a few years of living in the Potrero Hill area, she told him: "I need to be warmer."



Loved Twice founder and 2014 Oakland Mother of the Year Lisa Klein. /Judith Berne

They moved to Rockridge in 2001 for its "weather, weather, weather" and "we loved the walkability, the access to BART, the restaurants." The Ramen Shop, Takara Sushi and Smitten, the new made-to-your-order ice cream shop, are favorites.

William is a downtown-Oakland-based environmental consultant. They are parents of a 10-year-old girl and seven-year-old boy. "We are both so passionate about what we do," Klein says.

Loved Twice was legally established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2009—with Klein as its executive director, an eight-person board, and the couple's basement as its base of operations. But as it grew, both in donations and requests from hospitals and social service agencies locally and nationally, three program coordinators have been added and storage and packaging moved to a nearby warehouse.

"My kids have seen it grow – they grew up with it," she says. Early on, Klein recalls, she and the kids passed a mother pushing a stroller along College Avenue and one suggested donating to her. "It was a chance to explain to them that the moms we help don't have money for an expensive stroller. It sort of taught them that people grow up in different circumstances."

In any case, she emphasizes, "We don't donate to individuals." Loved Twice works through social workers at 154 and growing social service agencies. They drop off as many as 100 boxes at a time to their largest clients – Oakland Children's Hospital and Alta Bates Summit Medical Center. Inside every box, no matter where it goes, are 75 tiny gently used garments, hand-picked to clothe a baby from infancy to 12 months. Each box is designated "Girl" or "Boy."

Although the East Bay is still their prime area for donations, Loved Twice fulfills needs throughout six California counties and 18 other states, including Klein's native Michigan, as well as Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Donations take various forms: Retailers place babywear donation bins in their stores; corporations, small businesses and civic

Loved Twice, page 7



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Loved Twice

from page 6

groups host hand-me-down events; and individuals donate clothing, money and time.

It's easy for you and me to donate. Bins are located at Cool Tops, featuring haircuts for children, at 5697 Miles just north of the BART station, and Child's Play, the children's consignment shop at 5377 College in the former Brass & Glass building.

Stopping in at Cool Tops, I saw two shopping bags and a large box of donated clothing spilling out of the Loved Twice bin placed near the front door. "We love the Loved Twice thing," says Clarice Woods who has worked there for four years. "It's simple to use. Lisa is such a sweet lady. She comes in to check on us and sometimes just to say hi. We get a lot of donations," Woods says, which volunteers pick up every week.

Klein deliberately chooses to stay behind the scenes, not wanting to intrude on any mother and baby that receives a Loved Twice package. "It feels great. I love my job. It's not about me meeting the people. I'm doing it to help the babies."

Nonetheless, she and the organization she heads have been featured in People; Women's World; USA Weekend; O, The Oprah Magazine; Reader's Digest; The Huffington Post; ;The Today Show; and CNN.com

Loved Twice was named the San Francisco Bay List Best Charity in 2011.

Klein's most recent tribute is as Oakland's 2014 Mother of the Year. She will be honored at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 10, when her name is added to the permanent plaque on a special walkway in the Morcom Rose Garden, 700 Jean Street. The award, begun in 1954 and now sponsored by the Oakland Parks and Recreation Department, is given annually to honor a community member who symbolizes the finest traditions of motherhood. Last year's award went to another Rockridge resident, Annalee Allen.

"Lisa Klein is an absolute gem," says Kim Wilson, who in 2011 volunteered to collect from local drop off spots and then got involved with grant writing. "She took a great idea and RAN RAN RAN with it. Now the environment is better off. And 9,000 babies are better off. What an accomplishment."

Wilson, a psychologist who has lived in Rockridge since 2002, characterizes Klein as "smart, persistent and dedicated. And as a bonus, she never seems to lose her positive attitude. I've worked with a lot of nonprofits," Wilson says, "and I've never encountered someone in that arena who has so consistently expressed so much gratitude to her volunteers. It makes working with her extra rewarding."

To do or know mor about Loved Twice, visit the organization's website: lovedtwice.org.

Your comments and suggestions for columns about your neighbors and neighborhood are welcome by emailing judyberne@att.net.

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May Construction Activities at College Avenue Safeway Site

by Elisabeth Jewel, AJE consultants

The precast columns and roof structure have arrived on-site and are being erected with the help of a large crane.

Once the roof is in place, parking deck preparation begins with waterproofing. At the same time, crews will be laying the underground utilities inside the store and construction will begin on the loading dock with concrete footings being poured and walls going up.

You'll also see joint trench utility work beginning in the streets around the store and retail shops' construction will commence.

Below, a photo of the concrete form for the ramp to the parking deck.



/Elisabeth Jewel

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April 26 Earth Day and Frog Park Family Fest

We thank Greer Alley, Grand Lake Ace Garden Center, Bakesale Betty's, Alem's Coffee, Semifreddi's, Americorps, Park Supervisor Giacomo Damonte, city gardener Lydia Swann, irrigation specialist Laura Compton, baker Jenna Brotman, community members and volunteers for another successful Earth Day. The butterfly garden was replanted, weeds cleared from the creek bed, the sand box refilled, ivy hacked, the Big Frog cushioning wood chips turned, and the pathway swept.

Stroll by any Sunday to play in the refreshed park and learn more about the park improvements.

— FROG Committee and DMV Neighbors






Flora Attix


Larry and 7 yr old Everett Dolton in their third year at the clean-up.

See more photos at www.frogpark.org


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Story of a Bowl and a Community

from page 2

Though elated at the return of the bowl, Kingsley was horrified at its condition. He wanted my husband Tim, an artisan woodworker, to take a look at it with him, and discuss options for its restoration. Tim made some suggestions, as did a few other people, but in the end it was Kingsley's own years of experience and a trust of his own instincts, as well as good, old-fashioned tenacity and dogged determination, that brought the bowl back to life.

On a normal day, Kingsley is relaxed and outgoing – absorbed in his work, but happy to chat about anything from antiques to politics to baseball. During the weeks he worked on the restoration, he was hyper-focused, listening to Gregorian chant, and trying to maintain his equanimity.

He pursued a painstaking process of drying out the bowl, clamping and re-clamping it as it dried. There was the matter of pulling the crack together and joining the separated pieces with specially crafted dovetails, then replacing a patch in the rim. There was the surface finish to consider: how to reclaim the depth and shimmer of the burl, while protecting and preserving the remaining patina. This was all was done as a steady flow of people came by the shop – folks stopping in to say hello, checking to see if the news was true: The ancient burl wood bowl, in the same family for eight generations, had been returned.

Word spread quickly through the neighborhood, and as Kingsley worked, many people rooted for him. Locals, merchants, close friends, even those who pass his door daily with just a nod and a smile, poked their heads into the shop to watch the progress and bring moral support.

In the end, Kingsley's efforts to put things right paid off. The repair of the bowl was delicate, challenging, and successful. The reward went to the deserving soul that found and returned the bowl and the owners got a piece of their personal history back. Kingsley got to move forward with the knowledge that the heirloom given into his care was once again whole, brilliantly restored, and back with its family – with a new story to burnish its legacy.

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RIDE 4 A REASON 2014

Donate for a Reason: Help Tech and Five Other Oakland Schools Raise Critical Funds

by Ride for a Reason organizers

Ride for a Reason, now in its sixth year, is a two-wheeled protest to advocate for more state funding for public schools, and a fundraiser for programs that support student creativity and a nurturing environment in six Oakland schools.

Our goals this year are 250 riders in Sacramento and $120,000 raised for six Oakland schools: Claremont Middle School; Edna Brewer; Emerson Elementary; Oakland International High; Oakland Technical High; and Westlake Middle School.

To make a donation, please go to:

http://rideforareason.dojiggy.com/ng/index.cfm/a91bd50/regPages/participantSearch/

Ride for a Reason is the single biggest fundraiser for Emerson, International, and Westlake, and the second biggest fundraiser for Brewer, Claremont, and Tech. At least two-thirds of the students at each of these schools qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. The funds we raise are critical for helping to maintain high-quality programs that support and encourage students all over our city.

We are making excellent progress in recruiting riders: we expect to have more than 200 on May 17. But we need to pick up the pace in donations. So far we have raised about $45,000 (our warmest thanks to all of you who have donated). To reach our goal of $120,000, we need your support. Please consider making a generous donation today:

Every dollar donated goes to student programs, and **your contribution is 100 percent tax-deductible**.

For more information about where the funds go and the programs we support, please go to:

http://rideforareason.dojiggy.com/ng/index.cfm/a91bd50/regPages/pages/?p=b0177d58

Working together we can make Oakland's future bright. Thanks so much for your support.



Ride organizers Mike Napolitano, Paul Vetter, David Yungert, and Mike Mages in Sacramento after riding the course to Sacramento to confirm road conditions. /Mike Napolitano

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Is Our Neighborhood Character at Risk?

by Zabrae Valentine, RCPC chair, and Don Kinkead, editor

When RCPC worked for the downzoning of Rockridge in the early 1970s, one of the goals of the organization was a vibrant commercial district along College Avenue.

Members of the group wanted ground floor retail space to be retail only, with office and other non-retail uses located on the floors above the retail spaces. They planned a pedestrian-friendly retail environment.

College Avenue today largely reflects that goal, and is a Bay Area success story attracting customers from throughout the region.

But the neighborhood character that has come to define Rockridge is dynamic. As businesses come and go, the mix of shops and services evolves. Moreover, business cycles, the economy, consumer tastes, planning changes, and property management can influence change.

College Avenue Store Fronts, page 11

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FRONTS OF COLLEGE AVENUE —



5540 COLLEGE AVENUE



5533 COLLEGE AVENUE

College Avenue Store Fronts

from page 10

The photos on these pages are of currently empty College Avenue commercial spaces. The future tenants of these properties aren't yet known, but many Rockridge residents are concerned that the avenue's commercial diversity, that special mix of uses that meets the needs and interests of local residents and regional shoppers, could be at risk.

What Do Rockridge Residents Want in Their Retail Mix?

What is it about Rockridge that you think makes our neighborhood special? How does the mix of shops on College Avenue support that view? Should specific services be emphasized to preserve the area or to add to it?

In the coming months, RCPC will be inviting Rockridge residents, merchants, and commercial property owners to share their thoughts on these questions, and others that will come up. This information will help us work together to retain that special sense of place that Rockridge offers, even as our favorite shops may come and go.

To share your thoughts on this topic, or to be contacted to participate in the conversation, email info@rockridge.org. Be sure to include your name and street. If there are particular services that you would like to preserve or attract, mention them as well.

The progress of these conversations will be reported in The Rockridge News.



6307 COLLEGE AVENUE

/Photos: Don Kinkead

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Demand is still outpacing supply of homes in Rockridge. If you're considering selling your home and need help deciding what would be the best steps to prepare your home for the highest return, that's our specialty. Feel free to schedule a home evaluation.

JUST SOLD: 5602Taft.com, 5bd 2.5ba nr College Ave, Chabot Dist. $1,300,000

FOR LEASE: 3BD 2BA Craftsman, large kitchen, period liv rm, nr College Ave, $3,800/mo+utilities



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Oakland Tech Engineering Academy Supporter Thanks Volunteers

by John W. Bliss, P.E., LEED AP, vice president, SCI Consulting Group

The Engineering Academy at Oakland Technical High School is a "school within a school" at Tech. This extremely rigorous Academy attracts and educates the "best and brightest" high school students in Oakland.

The Academy's Model Bridge Building Contest is in its 19th year. This year, 34 student teams were challenged to build models of a self-anchored, single tower, suspension or cable-stayed bridge. We had many outstanding and creative entries. The students and their parents had a great time watching their bridges tested to the point of catastrophic failure. Congratulations to the winning team, whose bridge held 48 pounds.

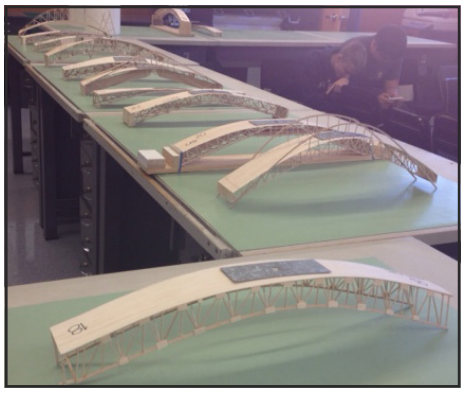
We couldn't have had the successful competition we did without the outstanding work of dedicated volunteer engineers.

Special thanks to these engineers and their supportive companies and agencies:

Debra Murphy– AMEC
Peter Chun– City of Oakland
Derrick Lind– Liftech
Alvin Hoffpauir– Liftech

Special thanks, also, to the American Society of Civil Engineers and the city of Oakland Professional and Technical Engineers Union (P.T.E.U.) for their continued financial support of this event.

Encouraging young Californians to enter the engineering field is more important than ever.



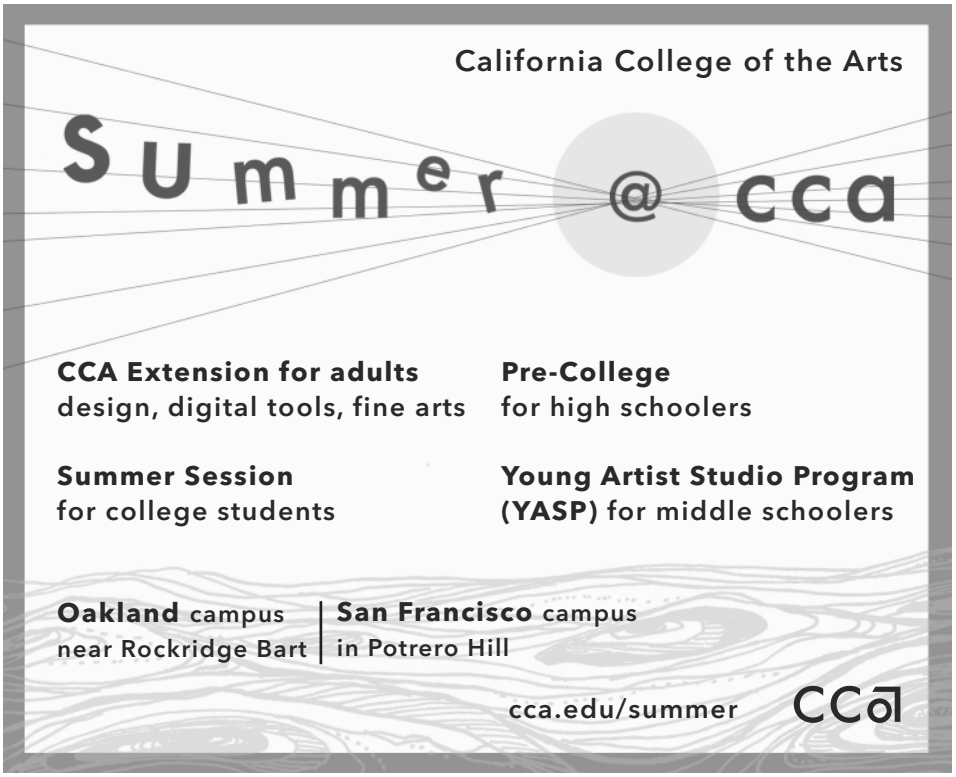
Good-bye, TopDog: Rockridge Center Expansion Plans Bring Early Ripples of Change

According to a TopDog employee contacted by The Rockridge News, the Rockridge Center branch of this iconic local sausage emporium will close June 15. In anticipation of the shopping center's redesign, the company established a Lakeshore branch about two years ago.

It is expected that other favorite shopping destinations will also be lost in the change.



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City Bike to Work Day: Goodies

from page 1

Bicycles will host an Energizer Station at the Rockridge BART station from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. with great swag and giveaways. Oakland City Hall's "energizer station" is one of the biggest in the Bay Area, co-sponsored by the city and Bike East Bay (formerly East Bay Bicycle Coalition). Stop by for a pancake breakfast, all day valet parking, exhibits, free bike safety checks, useful gifts and more.

Information available at: https://www.ebbc.org/btwd, http://www.youcanbikethere.com/, and http://bit.ly/B2WOakland

Bike Commute Tips

- Check out your route in advance
- Make sure your bike is tuned and your helmet fits
- Wear comfortable clothing
- Obey all traffic laws
- Ride predictably, visibly and safely.

Local Masons Flip Flapjacks for Claremont

by Morris Dye, Claremont parent

The Fifth Annual Claremont Middle School Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Oakland-Durant-Rockridge Masonic Lodge #188 raised about $4,000 to benefit our neighborhood public middle school.

The Masons generously hosted this annual PTA fundraiser on April 26 in association with the Rockridge District Association (RDA) and the Claremont Middle School Dads Club. Guests enjoyed a hearty menu of pancakes, eggs, bacon and sausage cooked up at the historic Masonic Lodge at 5449 College Avenue in the heart of Rockridge.

The event, both fundraiser and community builder, brought people from the school community, the neighborhood and local merchants together to eat, meet and mingle. Funds raised will support PTA-funded educational enrichment at Claremont – including the school library, computer lab and an upcoming 7th grade field trip to Yosemite National Park.

The CMS Dads Club extends sincere thanks to the members of the Rockridge Masonic Lodge for opening their beautiful facility to the public and cooking delicious food for all who attended. Credit also is due to Chris Jackson and the Rockridge District Association for helping to make the pancake breakfast a success.

Local merchants that purchased tickets included FIT, a women's fashion boutique just across the street from the school; First Federal Savings and Loan at the corner of College and Claremont; and Market Hall Foods at Rockridge Market Hall.

The CMS Dads Club would also like to thank Tootsies Shoe Boutique, Pegasus Books, Jules Thin Crust Pizza, TRANSPORTS, Rockridge Home and the Oakland Athletics for donating valuable raffle prizes to the event.

Also attending the breakfast were District 1 Councilmember Dan Kalb and our local School Board Director, Jody London.

Go to www.claremontms.org for more information about happenings at Claremont Middle School.

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4/14/14	2	1	5621 Miles Avenue	$725,000	$725,000	14	$803,000
4/21/14	2	1	383 Cavour	$649,000	$649,000	16	$775,000

Rockridge homes are selling at $200 more per square foot than this time last year!
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20 Family Garage Sale May 10, 8-4
471 McAuley 1/2 block from Telegraph. Furniture, sporting, exercise, & household items, books, clothing, games, electronics and more. Food/drinks for sale. Fundraiser for DragonMax, dragonboat racing team.

Neighbors: Are you now, or have you ever been, a member of The Rockridge News delivery team?
If so, email info@rockridge.org or phone 510/869-4200 and tell your name and the street/s you delivered to. You will be contacted with a special message. Thank you. ***— The RCPC board***

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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)

Discuss 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

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FOR CHILDREN

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

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

Special Events:

Kamishibai Stories to celebrate Asian & Pacific Islanders Heritage Month: Watch & listen to Kamishibai stories on a Japanese-style box-theater on the back of a bicycle, while you nibble some Japanese treats. Tuesday nights at 7 pm: May 13 at Frog Park and May 20 at the Library. All ages welcome.

FOR TEENS

NOTE: Volunteers Needed: If you are **11 to 16 years old**, and have some free time this summer, consider volunteering to help with the **Summer Reading Program** which begins Saturday, June 14. Contact Erica at 597-5017, or esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org.

- **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, 1:30-3:30pm. Play video & board games, make crafts, enjoy light snacks.

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 4:45 pm at adult reference desk)**.** Volunteer lawyer leaves before 7pm if no more people present.

ART EXHIBITS (subject to change; call to confirm)

Gallery:

May- **Aparna Ewing** and **Patricia Smith**: Exhibition of Quilts featuring abstract collages and hand-dyed fabrics and paper.

June- **Julie Bernstein:** watercolor figures.

Lobby Display Case:

May- **Patty Garret;** blown Glass.

June- Library Display in honor of Gay Pride Month.

LIBRARY HOURS

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.

Closed: Sundays and Mondays. Also Tues., 5/27.

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings/Events

All FREE and open to the public.

- Sun., 5/4, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** presents *The Bloomsbury Anthology of Contemporary Jewish American Poetry* with **Susan Cohen, Lucille Lang Day, Julia B. Levine, Colleen McKee, Melissa Stein,** and **Lisa Gluskin Stonestreet**.
- Wed., 5/7, 7pm. **Elizabeth Fishel**: *Getting to 30: A Parent's Guide to the 20-Something Years*.
- Thurs., 5/15, 7pm. Publication Party for local author **Tai Moses:** *Zooburbia: Meditations on the Wild Animals Among Us.*
- Sat., 5/17, 4 pm. The annual student reading event of **UC Berkeley Extension's Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program in Writing:** works of poetry, nonfiction and fiction.
- Thurs., 5/22, 7pm. Local writer **Nina LaCour:** new young adult novel, *Everything Leads to You.*

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

Rockridge Artist Open Studio

Liz Maxwell, participating in ProArts Open Studios, welcomes visitors to her studio to view her paintings prints and drawings: Sat. and Sun., June 7-8 and June 14-15, 11 am to 6 pm. 5808 Chabot Road (not wheelchair accessible). Simple refreshments. More info: 654-5741 or lizmaxwell@prodigy.net. Information about other local artists and ProArts East Bay Open Studios 2014 at www.proartsgallery.org.

Jazz at the Chimes

Featuring veteran jazz vocalist **Kellye Gray** with bassist **Marcus Shelby** and pianist **Adam Shulman.**

Sunday, 5/18, 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. More info and music clips at http://www.kellyegray.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 – 10 pm. 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; support groups, classes/more.

- **Giant Community Flea Market** to benefit the No. Oakland Sr. Center, Sat., June 7, 9 am -4 pm. ***Register now (9:30 am to 4 pm) for vendor spaces**: $18 ($12 Sr. Center members) – Cash only.
- **Presentation about Ranked Choice Voting:** Tues., May 13, 10:45 am.
- **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., 9 am to 4:30 pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Info: 597-5085.

Town Hall Agenda

from page 1

African American males," London says.)

- Reggie and Ronnie Richardson, principals of Claremont Middle School, have been invited to attend.

A Q&A segment will follow Director London's presentation.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Remember: come for pizza and friends at 7 p.m. Program starts at 7:30. (RSVP for pizza count to: info@rockridge.org)



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THINKING OF SELLING OR RENTING?

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 **9 homes actively for sale** right now at the **height of the Spring market.** Same for rentals - call or email me for more information! 510-612-2547 or RonKriss@JPS.net

FOR SALE IN ROCKRIDGE

5429 Belgrave Place **$1,175,000**
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

COMING SOON IN ROCKRIDGE

Broadway ***not priced yet**
Perfect 2/2 Craftsman Bungalow. Brand new foundation & master bath. Big plus room & lots of architectural goodies still intact
Award Winning Chabot Elementary School

FOR LEASE IN ROCKRIDGE

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

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