The Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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Shape-Shifters Throng College Avenue

Crowded Retail Center Enjoys 22nd Annual Halloween Parade











Photo credits:
⊙ Lisa McNally
▣ Michael Eastman
◈ Don Kinkead

Presbyterian Church Hosts Community Thanksgiving Meal

by Pastor Monte McClane

For nearly 30 years, the College Avenue Presbyterian Church community has hosted an annual Thanksgiving Day Community Meal.

Initially begun to build a deeper sense of community in our neighborhood and to respond to concrete needs, the meal continues year after year to work towards that

➧ Community Meal, page 11

20 Town Hall • AGENDA • November 20

☛ Hey, What's Shakin'? ☚

EQ and Disaster Preparedness

No one can say when or where the next earthquake or other disaster will strike, but everyone CAN be prepared. The RCPC November Town Hall presents resources for that preparation;

- **Jeff Morelli of CORE Oakland** will give a brief overview of the CORE Training program with handouts for further information.
- Rockridge resident **Carol Strickman, former CORE teacher and trainer**, will speak on her experience as a neighborhood organizer and discuss the CORE I, II and III training levels. (To ➧ Page 13)

Join us for pizza | RSVP: rockridge.org
Come at 7 for pizza and friends

Thursday, November 20 | 7:30-9 p.m. Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College at Manila
Pizza and Friends: 7 p.m. | Program: 7:30 | Please RSVP ➧ info@rockridge.org

■ NO December Town Hall — Happy Holidays! ■

Appointment Brings RCPC Board to Full Count

Glendale Avenue resident Brendan Havenar-Daughton became the latest member of RCPC's board of directors when he was appointed in October to fill a recently vacated seat, bringing the board to its full complement of 14 members.



Board appointee Brendan Havenar-Daughton.
/Brendan Havenar-Daughton

Born and raised in Rockridge, the new board member cut his teeth in community service delivering The Rockridge News to neighbors with his late father, dedicated community activist Patrick Daughton. Later, in college, he furthered his connection with the newsletter when he submitted articles seeking reader support for the Finca Project, an NGO (non-governmental organization) he founded, dedicated to small-scale reforestation and related community education in Costa Rica.

Now, with degrees in international affairs and natural resource management, Havenar-Daughton continues to address environmental challenges. He is the senior program manager for the East Bay Energy Watch, a partnership between Alameda and Contra Costa counties and PG&E, working to help residents, businesses and municipalities save energy and money, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. He has also worked with the city of Oakland on energy conservation programs.

In a personal statement about his interest in board service, Havenar-Daughton wrote, "I was born and raised in Rockridge and I am proud to call Oakland home. I attended Peralta Elementary, Claremont Middle School and Oakland Technical High School. Over the decades, I have seen College Avenue transform and I feel compelled and excited to contribute and ensure its continued sustainable development.

"What draws me to serve our community is my belief that community health is directly correlated with community engagement. Just as highly engaged and supportive parents can be instrumental in the success of a school, engaged and action-oriented community members are critical to sustaining a vibrant and healthy community."

Welcome, Brendan Havenar-Daughton.

From material provided by the appointee.

Friends of the Rockridge Library
Supporting the Rockridge Branch of the Oakland Public Library

Lending Laptops at the Library

by Sarah Washburn, Friends of the Rockridge Library boardmember

The Rockridge Library has a new program for Oakland Public Library cardholders: laptop checkout for use in the library.

Maybe you have a big project you're working on that might take a couple of hours (workstations have a one-hour limit), or perhaps you'd prefer to settle in to the cozy chairs near the newspapers to work. Check out a laptop and you're assured two hours to get your work done. Whatever your needs, the Rockridge Library has five laptops available for use in the library. Just ask at the Reference Desk.

To check out a laptop, you need a valid Oakland Public Library card and a piece of mail or identification that shows your current address. Then, sign a portable electronic device use agreement and you're ready to use an available laptop inside the library.

Children's Librarian Erica Siskind shared how a family benefitted from the lending program: "A mom with her four- and seven-year-old children came into the library. They didn't have a computer at home, and the mom needed to type a resume, fill out some online work applications, and take care of email. The mom checked out a laptop and sat at the table in the children's area, where she could easily observe her younger daughter playing with toys, coloring with other children, and looking at books, while she completed her work. Her son played educational games on the children's computer, also within sight of his mom. Everyone was happy."

The laptops were also a boon during

▸ Laptops at the Library, page 10

ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY
5366 College Avenue at Manila | 597-5017
Programs/Events/Hours: 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:
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Articles submitted for publication may be e-mailed or mailed to the above addresses. 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. Views expressed in articles accepted for publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Rockridge News, its editor, or the board of directors of the Rockridge Community Planning Council. To reprint a Rockridge News article, please contact the editor.

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Publication date of the next issue is:
☛ **December 6, 2014**
☛ **December deadline is November 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.)

RCPC Land Use Committee

The November Land Use Committee meeting is Wednesday, November 26, 7:30 p.m. **in a meeting place to be determined (library meeting room unavailable).** Check at the RCPC website – rockridge.org – for location and agenda, or call co-chair Stu Flashman at 652-5373. Meetings are open to the public.

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee co-chair

■ College Avenue Safeway Project – College and Claremont Avenues

You have probably noticed, if you've been past the site, that construction on the College Avenue Safeway store is moving along, but not at the pace Safeway had hoped. The opening date has now slipped into December. Still, the street and sidewalk work is almost done, so disruption to pedestrian and automotive traffic should soon be a thing of the past. (Whew!) Call RCPC (869-4200) with any problems or concerns you may have. Safeway has not yet confirmed who the tenants will be in the retail building, so last month's listing must still be considered tentative. Some tenants may also require use permits, which will, in turn, require a public process. The latest construction snafu is that the oak tree planned for the "point" at the corner of College and Claremont avenues may conflict with placement of a traffic signal at that corner. Latest negotiations are still in progress.

■ Rockridge Shopping Center – Broadway and Pleasant Valley

This large project is supposed to begin construction next month with the tear-down of the CVS store building. Jamba Juice and Starbucks have already moved over to the AAA building across the parking lot, because their old building will also be demolished. Construction of the new Safeway may start as early as January. Side note: Demolition in preparation for the new Merrill Gardens senior housing project across Broadway from the shopping center should also be starting shortly.

■ Discussion: College Avenue Retail Zoning Study

As last month's Rockridge News announced, Cole Hardware will be opening on College Avenue in the space formerly occupied by the Fenton MacLaren furniture store (and before that, by Such a Business, a children's store). The backstory is that it almost didn't happen.

As it turns out, that building space is more than 9,000 sq. ft., and College Avenue's CN-1 zoning requires a use permit for any use occupying more than 5,000 sq ft. The provision is in recognition that generally large uses have greater impacts (e.g., parking and traffic) and are more likely to be inconsistent with College Avenue's intended pedestrian orientation. However, a hardware store is a traditional use for a neighborhood retail area, and a hardware store — at least, a successful one — can't exist unless it's at least 5,000 sq.ft.

Thus, the question raised is whether CN-1's uniform 5,000 sq.ft. threshold for a use permit is too broad, and perhaps ought to be more fine-grained.

To discuss this and other related College Avenue zoning questions (e.g., should use permits be specific to their approved location and end when the business closes or moves), RCPC has opened discussions with the Planning Department about looking at what makes sense for the future of College Avenue's zoning. RCPC representatives will meet with the city in the near future to discuss whether it makes sense to initiate a detailed study of how College Avenue can continue and improve upon its current success as a neighborhood retail area. More on this in the December issue.



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College Avenue: Variety; Endurance; Excitement

Long Time on the Avenue for Many Merchants

More Years of Merchants' Service: Part 3

Following is the third in our series of businesses in business on College Avenue at least 25 years. There are more to come. If your business has been on the Avenue (or adjacent to it) that long, email editor@rockridge.org. We want readers of The Rockrdige News to know about you and to stop in to see what you offer.

by Kevin Faughnan, RCPC boardmember

■ **Claremont Day Nursery** opened in 1942 and is one of three daytime nursery schools owned by Tom Morabito. The location at 5830 College Avenue, near the intersection with Chabot Road, was a miniature golf course prior to becoming a toddler day care program and retains vestiges of that past. For example, the front counter where golfers picked up a putter is now a reception area for youngsters. To care for 30 children from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., including lunch, snacks and a good nap, the toddler day care center has dedicated providers, some of whom have worked there more than 25 years. Children come primarily from the neighborhood, although that is not a requirement. Judging by the number of strollers I see on College Avenue these days, Tom can expect to remain full for many years to come; I am sure the parents of today's babes-in-arms are happy to hear that he'll be there waiting for their call when the time comes.

■ **The Graduate** bar, 6202 Claremont Avenue just up from College Avenue, began life in 1963, possibly named after the book also published that year, and a few years before Dustin Hoffman brought the movie to life. The East Bay Express voted it "the best dive bar" in 2010. You might not think that a compliment, but it is. The term defines a bar's clientele, its free popcorn, and its atmosphere, but what the bar must have is "dirt-cheap drinks." During the day, the establishment hosts an older crowd which gets younger as the evening wears on. The place can be especially crowded on the weekends with students and discount beer. Hungry? You can have a nice meal delivered while you enjoy your beer. The bar is conveniently located next door to the **Claremont Diner** at 6200 Claremont. The two establishments have a common owner, Javad Parsa, who will arrange for your lunch or dinner order to be brought over to the Graduate by a server.

Today's Claremont Diner sits on the site of a one-time Baskin-Robbins ice cream store. Javad purchased that business, remodeled it to a diner and opened in 1989. The menu is traditional American fare such as pork chops, BLTs, and patty melts, but Javad blends in a few of his home country's specialties, such as Persian Kebabs, as well. One of the diner's unusual features is the model train running on tracks close to the ceiling. Javed added the HO Gauge model trains himself. They often run on weekends and holidays. The vintage radios also make you feel like you are in a '60s diner anywhere in America.

■ **First Federal Savings & Loan**, 6058 College, opened its doors in 1972. Its focus has always been as a community bank, involved in local activities. It does offer ATM services and loans to small businesses and

Years of Service, page 12

Art on the Avenue:

Adria Peterson

by Carl Schmitz

Next door to Rockridge's CCA Galleries, a testing ground for new artists, is the studio of Adria Peterson, one of the neighborhood's established artists. Since 1999, she has shared space at 5253 College Avenue with her husband, architect Kirk E. Peterson, in the building some may remember as a long-gone imports store.



"Heron," ©Adria Peterson

Raised in Delaware and an alumna of the Rhode Island School of Design, Adria Peterson moved to the Bay Area in 1976. Her father, the artist Domenico Mortellito, began his career with the Works Progress Administration in

Art on the Avenue, page 12

'Tis The Season for Holiday Dinner Help

by Lauren Herpich

The last two months of the year are always filled with the sounds of holiday cheer: the jingle of bells, the crunch of shopping bags being filled with goodies and holiday music being played on our Pandora stations. But with all of that hustle and bustle, sometimes we can also find ourselves

Holiday Meals Help, page 13

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COLE! HARDWARE!

by Don Kinkead, editor

Breathes there a Rockridge resident who has not, at one time or another, cried in frustration; "Oh! To have a hardware store in Rockridge!"?

It's not that hardware-stores are unavailable. There is Home Depot, of course. In Emeryville. There is an Ace on Grand Avenue. In Piedmont. And, true, Oakland has Ace Ellis Hardware on Martin Luther King Jr Way.

But these are not places of one's own. These are not the beloved – and long-gone – Fiorio Hardware on Telegraph Avenue with its oiled wooden floors or the lamented G&G Hardware, a block or so away from Fiorio, with its helpful – and occasionally querulous – extended family behind the counter. No, these are not even Elmwood's cooly efficient Bolfing's Hardware. Those are gone. All gone.

But, the wheel is turning and the news is good: Rockridge is destined to be home for a new Cole Hardware branch. Cole, the growing merchandising legend that started with a single store on Cole Street at the foot of San Francisco's Parnassus Heights has now grown to four renowned stores in the City by the Bay.



Tessa Riley and David Karp at the entrance to Cole Hardware.
/Don Kinkead

Late in October, The Rockridge News ventured across the Bay Bridge to visit Cole Hardware and talk with the manager-to-be of the Rockridge store, and with David Karp, son of the owner.

Tessa Riley ("Just Tessa or Tess; it's not short for anything"), assistant manager at the Cole Street store, is to be manager of the Rockridge store. She started with Cole five years ago as a cashier, progressing to her current position. She looks forward to being "the face of the store, and to interacting with the community."

Asked about the reception Cole has received in Rockridge, Tessa and David both said they had been "blown away by the enthusiasm for the store. A lot of people at Out and About said how happy they were, and we had a really good response to a job fair we held at the store location."

The job fair was a key expression of the Cole plan to staff the store locally. "We are looking for people with strong product knowledge in plumbing and electrical areas," Tessa explained, and offered the store's web link – http://www.colehardware.com/ – for information and application forms. (Employment information is under "About Us.")

Plans for the store's opening continue to be geared toward a debut early in January 2015. At least one long-time frustration can soon be put to rest. Now, which screwdriver...?



Frog Park: Thankful for Cactus Taqueria's Generous Swings Donation



It's the season of thanks, and this year we want to thank the individuals, businesses and foundations that have helped us raise more than $35,000 ($950 of it at our Rockridge Out and About booth alone) for toddler swings and new play features at Rockridge's own Frog Park.

Our goal is to raise the final $15,000 this year; as we approach the season of giving, please consider giving back to the park that has given so much to our families and our community. Donate at frogpark.org/swings.

A special thanks to Cactus Taqueria and the Wilson family for their $3,000 donation. The best part? That money will be matched by an anonymous local foundation. The foundation is matching up to $7,000 in business donations; other local businesses can also stretch their dollars through December 31. Contact info@frogpark.org to learn more about this matching fund.

More Jules Pizza and Pasta Pomodoro = More Swings

Two favorite family restaurants on College are donating 10-20 percent of their sales on special nights in November to Frog Park's swings fundraiser. Make your lunch and dinner plans now, and you'll be supporting local restaurants and Frog Park.

- November 19: Eat at Jules Thin Crust on College
- November 23, 24 or 25: Eat at Pasta Pomodoro on College (important: mention Frog Park to your server)

Thanks to our College Avenue Jules and Pasta Pomodoro for their support.

Facebook Photo Contest

If you're at Frog Park enjoying the fall weather, pull out your smart phone and snap a photo of your children having fun. Post it to our Facebook page (facebook.com/frogpark) by the end of November and you could win one of two $25 gift certificates to a local Rockridge bookstore (just in time for the holidays).

Eyes on Rockridge

Neighborhood Go-getter Sets Her Sights on Keeping Beloved Children's Theatre Group on Stage

by Judith Doner Berne

"I hadn't been in a show since third grade," confides Nancy Morton, the recently elected board president of the long-running East Bay Children's Theatre (EBCT).

But last year, she came full circle, making her adult debut as a townsperson in EBCT's production of "Jack and the Beanstalk and the Giant, and the Goose, and the Really-Truly-Uly Rotten Day" in front of third graders plus other pre-K to 5th-grade students. "I only had a few lines," Morton is quick to tell me.

For more than 80 years, the non-profit group has presented musical theater take-offs of traditional folk and fairy tales without charge, mainly to elementary schools in Oakland. Its funding comes from grants, donations and public performances, which this coming year will be held March 15 at Berkeley's East Bay Jewish Community Center and March 22 at the Lafayette Town Hall.

The EBCT, begun in 1933, bills itself as "the oldest continuously performing theatre company in the San Francisco Bay Area." Although its productions are written, directed and staged by professionals, it is volunteers such as Morton who perform, help with costumes and sets and handle lighting and sound. (The EBCT shouldn't be confused with the Bay Area Children's Theatre, begun in 2004.)

Morton was brave enough to let me attend the first general membership meeting she chaired as 15 members gathered on a September morning in her sunny Rockridge bungalow, very close to where I live.

I had been to her home twice before. Once, she spontaneously invited my husband and me to her annual Christmas party as I walked by her house during our first holiday season after we moved from the Detroit area. Some months later, we got an invite to an impromptu summer Solstice celebration. "Any excuse for a party," says this free spirit who attended Burning Man two years ago for the first time.

Morton grew up in Pasadena and majored in English at UCLA, but then became a banker. She moved first to Berkeley, then to San Francisco. At a time when she was between jobs, she bought her house in Rockridge.

Fairy tales sometimes come true for aspiring actors, as Nancy Morton, below left, and Grace Poon won small parts at open auditions for last year's East Bay Children's Theatre production. Morton went on to become president of the theater group's board and Poon joined as a new member.

/Courtesy of Nancy Morton



That was 1995: "Lucky me. I ended up living in Rockridge at a time when you could afford it." She answered "a little ad in The Rockridge News" about selling advertising for the paper. "I did it for a couple of years to get connected with the neighborhood." In those days, she said, "I had to scour around for those ads."

Then, "I reinvented myself as a bookkeeper for nonprofits," until her retirement several years ago. Meanwhile, she still helps bundle the newsletter for its monthly distribution in Rockridge and delivers a batch to a street near her home.

Go-getter Trods the Boards, page 7

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Go-getter Trods the Boards

from page 6

As for a lot of organizations that started way back when, the challenge for EBCT is to bring in newcomers. What a perfect entrance for – drum roll please – the recently retired Morton.

The backstory is that Morton, always an avid theatergoer, rediscovered her love to be part of show biz when she celebrated her 65th birthday in January 2013. "I threw myself a big birthday party, rented a hall and created a slide show of my life," she says.

Then she lured six people she knew from the Montclair Presbyterian Church Choir to perform as a sort of Greek chorus, singing lyrics she wrote set to well-known melodies. "I realized I was sort of the executive producer of this show." That prompted her to confide to her friend Sari Kulberg that, "I really want to do something with theater." It was Kulberg, a member for about 10 years, who told her about the EBCT.

"Anybody that I find who's interested in theater, I direct to the East Bay Children's Theatre," says Kulberg, who has lived 47 years in the same Rockridge house. "Their productions bring kids to life. Everybody – adults and kids – has something to love about the plays." This year's production – "There's No Business Like Shoe Business" – based on "The Elves and the Shoemaker" fairy tale, will be given at 11 schools, including Peralta Elementary which many Rockridge students attend.

"They're wonderful," says longtime Peralta principal Rosette Costello, of the troupe. "They're responsive. They truly love what they're doing. They would never be invited back if they weren't wonderful."

The EBCT also delivers an educational guide to teachers ahead of each performance. "A lot of our members come from teaching," Morton says. "This year they are working hard to incorporate it with the new CORE curriculum."

One of those charged with developing the guide is Barbara Sloane, a 20-year member, who first met Morton at last year's auditions. "Nancy immediately began asking people we hadn't thought of to join. She's a go-getter. She won't let people say no."

"Nancy is a real 'pick up the ball and run with it' kind of person," Kulberg seconds. "She's very generous, open, thorough – and a lot of fun."

But don't look for her on stage this February and March, which EBCT members refer to as "the trouping season." "I think I will forgo performing in order to focus on rebuilding the organization," Morton told me. "There's so much to do, including growing our membership."

Still, she makes time to volunteer for North Oakland Village, which works to keep area seniors living in their own homes. "I set up their books and I drive for them," she says. "I just feel we need to help while we can when we can. It's the right thing to do."

The EBCT welcomes new members and donations, and holds open auditions for roles in their annual productions. Go to ebctonline.org for further information. As always, your comments and story ideas are welcome by emailing judyberne@att.net.

Oakland School Board Director Jody London

Invites you to a North Oakland Community Meeting, featuring Superintendent Antwan Wilson,

Wednesday, November 12

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Chabot Elementary School, 6686 Chabot Road. • Meet our new Superintendent; • Learn about Oakland's education priorities; • Provide your ideas.

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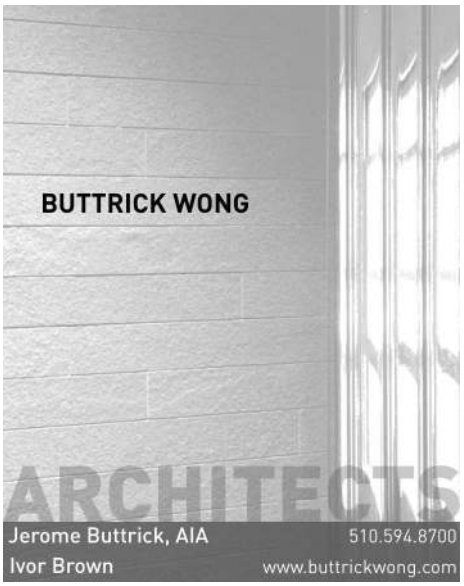
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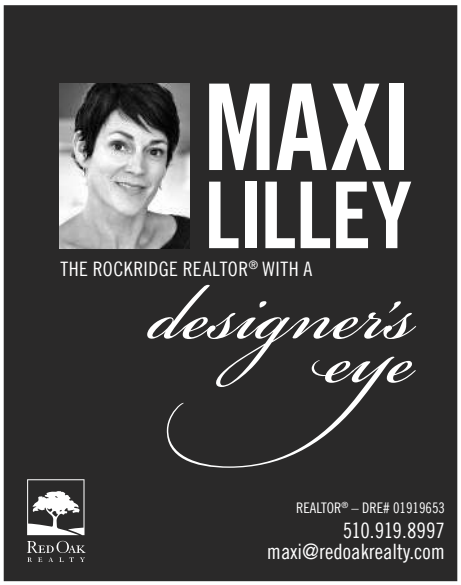


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Ties That Bind: Tech Alumni and Parents Stay Connected to their School Through Giving Back

by Cathy Rosenfeld, parent of a Tech senior and a PTSA historian

Many colleges aggressively solicit donations from their alumni. High schools, particularly public schools, generally don't do this type of outreach, but that hasn't stopped some fiercely loyal 1950s Oakland Tech graduates from helping current Tech students in concrete ways.

Graduates create a foundation

Ernie Goldsby (OT '58) and his wife Henrietta and a group of 1950s alumni including Suzanne (OT '54) and Lauralee (OT '57) Westaway, lifelong Rockridge residents, have helped students graduate and go to college and, in the process, have touched countless lives.

Ernie Goldsby had two passions at Tech: baseball and music. When he started at Tech, he had been playing baseball for years, but had never played an instrument. At Tech he learned to play both trombone and tuba; his dance band was so good, it was hired to play at other schools' dances. After graduation, Ernie played a year in the Minor Leagues, served in the Army, and worked for the post office. In 2004, his wife Henrietta, who grew up in Tennessee, wanted to mark Ernie's "big birthday." At a surprise party attended by his Tech baseball buddies, she presented him with a letterman jacket and a college scholarship in his name for a current Tech baseball player. A few years later, Henrietta took up painting. People liked her art so much that she decided to sell it to create a more permanent scholarship at Ernie's old school. With proceeds from online and gallery sales of Henrietta's "modern folk art," the Ernest and Henrietta Goldsby Foundation has awarded college scholarships to eight Tech students. In 2012,



Ernie Goldsby
Oakland Tech '58

the foundation "Art for Catching a Dream" (http://www.artforcatchingadream.org) was awarded 501(c)(3) status. Its mission is to help Tech students "catch their dreams," just as Ernie, with dreams of his own, caught baseballs years ago at Tech.

Class of '54 saves accreditation

When Tech's class of 1954 had its 50th reunion, classmate Henry Ramirez, then a counselor at Tech, told the group that problems with Tech's library were putting the school in danger of losing its accreditation. The class formed a nonprofit and raised over $24,000 to purchase a copy machine, barcoding machinery, and books. The school's accreditation was saved and the Library Fund turned to funding an after-school peer tutoring program. Academically successful students were hired to tutor struggling students.

Over 20 years, the OT Alumni & Library Fund raised over $100,000, primarily from alumni of the 1950s. Lauralee and Suzanne Westaway, lifelong Rockridge residents, have been active members. Suzanne utilized the skills she learned as editor of the school newspaper, Scribe News, to create a library fund newsletter to keep classmates connected with the school and to solicit donations. Classmates Elaine Selle Gallaher and Roberta Christianson served as secretary and treasurer and their friends Lily Brooks Toney and Katy Hollis Emerson threw themselves into the effort as well.

Library nonprofit broadens

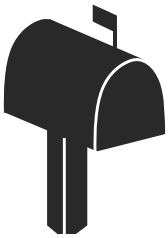
The group is now "graduating" from its fundraising and passing the baton to the newly formed Tech Parent Emeritus Committee, made up of parents who want to give back to the school that launched their children.

The Parent Emeritus Committee is organizing a celebratory fundraising event open to all and tied in with the school's Centennial– the Technites Past and Present Talent Showcase on February 8 in Tech's newly refurbished auditorium (another PTSA fundraising effort). They have lined up amazingly talented singers, dancers, and musicians from the 1940s on. For more information, or if you are a Tech graduate and would like to perform, contact techtalentshow@gmail.com.

So, it isn't only colleges that keep their alumni involved. Tech has a growing community of involved and inspiring alumni right here in Oakland. Join in by supporting these two great programs so they can continue to support Oakland Tech students.



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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 published are the writer's own, and may not necessarily be shared by the editor, or by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC).

More Like an Invasion Than a Supermarket

Editor:

I am watching with heightened distress as I see the new Safeway on College go higher and wider. More and more, I am reminded that our consideration of a store that respected the scale and ethic of our neighborhood has given way to Safeway's failing model for increased square-foot profit.

These days, people want a smaller, more farm-friendly supermarket integrated into the neighborhood such as the Safeway in Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto and on Oakland's Grand Avenue. That Safeway model was ignored in Rockridge. I feel steamrollered and invaded.

I am grateful to the neighborhood committee that worked so hard to keep this Safeway at a scale that respected our neighborhood. Alas, they did as much as they could but did not succeed. And our city fathers, in my experience going to the meetings, seemed so insensitive to our neighborhood concerns.

I do not respect what Safeway has done and I do not think they respected us. Short-sighted profit spoke to them; our treasured shopping community and the essence of it did not. They have given us more traffic, more traffic lights, more noise, lots of brick on mortar and deep disregard. They had a real opportunity to make something that looked to the future model of a store, not to a tired one. I will not be seen in that store when it opens, except on the rarest of occasions. I simply do not want in any way to give affirmation to this degree of disrespect and pursuit of crass profit.

— Camille Reed

The New Safeway Project: a Comment from a Neighbor

Editor:

I was part of the "it's too big" crowd and worked to get signatures on the petitions. But after seeing the final project, should we have just let Safeway build what they had wanted to in the first place?

Major projects are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to improve and revitalize, or set a new higher standard, for an area. Bettering a gas station and a run-down 1960s building wasn't much of a hurdle, but collectively, I think we missed. Architecturally, we ended up with an In-and-Out Burger on the corner (with no architectural linkage to the existing neighborhood) and a tricked-up McDonald's behind with the arches to boot.

The worst is the brutalist loading dock (talk about too tall) and that wall on Claremont.

Are any trees or shrubs planned? The project architect did a nice job with the Whole Foods on 27th Street, mixing old with new. Would it have been too difficult to design a building that fits in our neighborhood? Safeway must think this is all we deserve.

I know where I won't be spending my money.

— John Dal Pino

Fireplace Smoke a Nuisance and a Hazard

Editor:

I am writing this on a fall evening, at 10:30 p.m. It was 90 degrees today in Rockridge and is around 70 degrees now. My windows are open because I am still trying to cool down my house. But in through two windows comes wood smoke in rather a large quantity. From where? A fire pit, a restaurant with a wood burning oven, or, hard to believe, someone's indoor fireplace? At any rate, one would like to be safe from someone else's wood smoke in their own home. Closing the windows, I find it hard not to be annoyed.

Fireplace smoke is a small particle pollutant, which is of special concern because its minute size allows it to move deep into lung tissue and remain there. For vulnerable persons, with asthma, respiratory issues, heart conditions, it is a special health risk.

Please be aware that when you are burning wood in your cozy fireplace or fire pit, its smoke is not contained in your dwelling or on your property, but goes floating along a street or two where people may be walking, gardening, bicycling, running. It can enter open windows of neighboring homes. If the fire has just started or is dying, the smoke can be especially heavy and unpleasant.

— Mary Jane Makar



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Rockridge Continues to Surge in Flat Fall Market

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
10/1/14	3	1	5977 Keith Avenue	$629,000	$629,000	53	$600,000
10/2/14	3	2	390 50th Street	$635,000	$635,000	14	$805,000
10/17/14	3	2	6116 Hillegass Avenue	$850,000	$850,000	16	$935,000
10/23/14	2	1	5243 Locksley Avenue	$815,000	$815,000	12	$1,100,000

4 Rockridge sales – same as October 2013 · Currently a 23 day supply of inventory
Median sold price is currently $870,000 vs. $700,950 last October ·

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Laptops at the Library

from page 2

open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act, during which the library hosted popular sessions to help people sign up for insurance. The mobility of the laptops meant that the library could hold separate sessions in the meeting room, allowing individualized support to those navigating the system, all without disturbing others in the library.

The Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) purchased the five laptops for the new laptop checkout program that began in March. FORL collaborates with library leadership and staff to determine funding needs for the library and community. In hundreds of libraries across the country, laptop checkout programs have expanded access to technology and allowed libraries more flexibility for training, to address space constraints, and to facilitate mobile programs.

The Rockridge Library is excited to offer this resource to the community.

Find out more about FORL, its programs, and how you can help at www.RockridgeFriends.org

At RCPC's October Board Meeting

The RCPC board of directors presents the following list of items discussed at its most recent meeting, to increase community awareness of issues considered and acted upon.

At its October meeting, the RCPC board covered the following topics:

- Interviewed candidates to fill an open board seat. Appointed Brendan Havenar-Daughton to the position. (See story and photo, page 2.)
- Scenic Streets update by group organizer Peter Lund (http://www.scenicstreets.org/).
- Finalized plans for October events (RCPC's booth for Out and About and the Halloween Parade collaboration with RDA (Rockridge District Association)).
- Reviewed action items for annual board planning retreat.
- Reviewed progress and next steps related to "Rockridge Vision Conversation."
- Discussed material planned for the November Rockridge News.
- Reviewed plans for October and November Town Halls.
- Reviewed the Nautilus development proposal at 51st and Telegraph as presented at the most recent Land Use Committee meeting.
- Reviewed the status of construction at the College Avenue Safeway, including placements of light posts on Claremont and plans for trees (still expected to be sycamore on College and an oak at the corner of College and Claremont). [See Land Use Committee report, page 3, for more on this topic. — Ed.]
- Reviewed results of conversations regarding changes in access to the Dreyer's parking lot. The company will allow the College Avenue Presbyterian Church to continue using the lot; the lot will be available to the public during retail hours; and people will continue to be able to walk through the lot.
- Discussed AC Transit's plans to move some College Avenue bus stops. The board was opposed to any changes to the current location of the stops unless more information becomes available showing that such changes would significantly improve public transit service to Rockridge residents without also impacting services on College in a way that would likely be considered a net negative.
- Noted that College Avenue under the Hwy 24 overpass and BART pedestrian walkway is scheduled to be repaved "within a year" according to the city's Public Works Agency. [*Ed. Note:* Shortly before press time, an agency representative reported the deteriorating asphalt would be replaced soon – weather permitting – with compacted crushed aggregate base and asphalt pavement, removing most of the potholes and ruts in the existing pavement. The finish, or top, coat will be applied at a later date in the contract period.]

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Community Meal

from page 1

goal. Then, Rockridge was emerging from the shadow of transformation caused by the building of Highway 24 and the BART station. Today, Rockridge is established as a vibrant community of families and of widely appreciated resources.



The Judeo-Christian tradition defines a community in which those who are have the least among us — the widow, the orphan and the foreigner— are not only not forgotten, but also have their place. Our annual Community Thanksgiving Meal is a way in which we serve each other, investing our time and resources to care for others, including the urban poor, the homeless, and the elderly who are often alone at the holidays.

College Avenue Presbyterian Church will hold its annual meal on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at 5951 College Avenue.

It is an opportunity as a community to respond to the needs of those struggling with hunger, solitude and joblessness.

The meal serves between 200 to 300 people and involves over 50 volunteers gathered in the shared desire to make this event possible. It is open and free for everyone.

Donations of money and food are gratefully accepted. It's because of such donations that the meal takes place.

You can also give of your time. Help is needed beginning Monday, November 24 through Wednesday the 26th to prepare, set up and decorate the church gym for the meal. Significant help is needed the day of the event to set up, cook, serve and clean up. (The latter requires the most work and often is the one the least number of people sign up for.)

To volunteer, sign up online or find a donation list in the Thanksgiving section on the church website at www.capcoakland.org or contact Kathryn in the church office, capc1@sbcglobal.net, or 658-3665.



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There is no 'Fall' when it comes to Rockridge real estate prices this year. We are still seeing multiple offers well over the asking price on 'most' properties. Feel free to contact me for a home evaluation. Experience the value from the knowledge gained on 175+ transactions worth $125M+

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!! There's no better time to express thanks for how fortunate we are to live in this community. It's been fun to see so many neighborhood block parties, including on our very own street on Taft Avenue! Thanks neighbors! Looking forward to our new hardware store coming soon. What else are you thankful for? I'm very grateful to my family for their love and support, my friends, colleagues, where & how we live in our home, neighborhood and Bay Area.

Pending: 5857 Ocean View Drive, listed @ $1,100,000 representing buyers

Leased: 5268 Locksley, 1BD, $2,350/mo

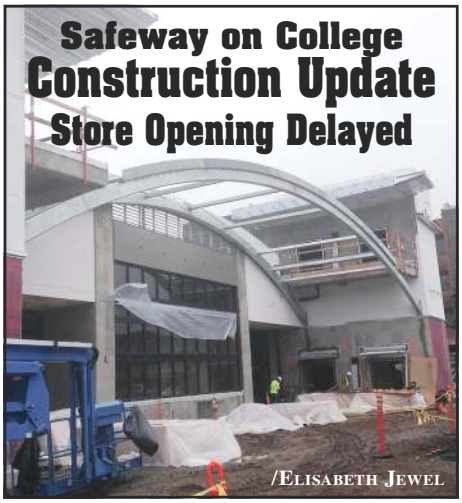


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by Elisabeth Jewel, AJE Partners

The opening of the new Safeway store has been delayed to mid-December due to multiple factors. Safeway, at the direction of the city of Oakland, was required to install new storm drains, water pipes, sewer pipes, fire hydrants, street lights, traffic lights, ADA ramps, and more. Safeway's construction schedule, dependent on EBMUD and PG&E to complete its portion of the improvements, was unfortunately pushed back to accommodate delays beyond its control.

Construction crews are working to complete improvements on College Avenue in the next week to return parking spaces to public use and eliminate lane restrictions as we move into the holiday shopping season. There will continue to be a closed lane on Claremont as the exterior work is finalized and crews turn their attention to the store interior.

Expect to see crews working in the intersection of College and Claremont as they pull conduit for the new traffic signals. There will be intermittent delays in the intersection as work moves through a series of underground vaults that control the signals.

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Art on the Avenue

from page 4

the ’30s. His work was shown a few years ago as part of an exhibition celebrating the 75th anniversary of the WPA at Walnut Creek’s Bedford Gallery. Because her father kept his studio at home, Peterson grew up making art, and she has passed on this interest by teaching classes for both children and adults.

Peterson has worked as graphic designer and illustrator, and makes art in a variety of media including jewelry, ceramics, and sewing. She is best known, however, for her detailed colored-pencil drawings on slate that incorporate gold leaf backgrounds. The subjects for these works often come directly from nature: a landscape; a bird perched on a tree limb; fruit hanging from a branch; or a still life composition. When American Artist published an article on Peterson’s use of gold leaf, colored pencil, and slate in 1996, it was almost 60 years since her father’s carved and lacquered linoleum technique had been featured in the same publication.



“Persimmon Branches,” ©Adria Peterson

In 2007, Peterson’s art was featured on the cover of Edible East Bay. She appreciates living in the area and the rhythm of things in Rockridge: “It is a vibrant neighborhood with great restaurants, markets, library, bookstores, people out and about, easy transportation around the Bay Area and close access to UC Berkeley and Cal Performances.”

■ Links to web sites for Adria Peterson and her father, Domenico Mortellito:
www.adriapeterson.com;
adria@adriapeterson.com:
www.domenicomortellito.com

Carl Schmitz is Art Research Librarian at the Richard Diebenkorn Foundation. A specialist on Albuquerque’s modern art scene of the ’50s as well as a connoisseur of Cole Coffee’s dark roasts, he can be reached at cschmitz@diebenkorn.org.

Years of Service

from page 4

for multi-family residences, as well as that personal touch that many people want from their neighborhood bank. Unlike many other banks, First Federal keeps your loan for its full term; if problems develop, borrowers can meet personally with a bank representative. Beverly McArthur manages the branch and is active in Rockridge activities.

■ **Mr. John’s Dog Grooming,** 5361 College Avenue, has been owned by Debbie “Reynolds” since 2011, but the business has been in the same location since 1970 when it was started by John Catanho. John is still active at 94, and can be seen sweeping up the front area just about every Sunday. John, who was in the Marine Corps during WWII, was stationed at Camp David (then known as Shangri-La) where he took care of FDR’s famous dog Fala plus a few others when the president would visit. When John returned to Oakland, he began to work with Dr. Murray at the current Claremont Vet site until 1970. Debbie “Reynolds” (she says that is not her real last name but it’s easy to remember) has retained a staff of three that stays busy caring for and grooming dogs. Debbie says her nursing skills have been a big help in the business as she caters to owners’ pets and when she helps owners work through the grief of losing a pet.

■ **Congratulations to Claremont Veterinary Hospital, serving Rockridge customers for over 100 years.** Located at 5331 College Avenue, Claremont Veterinary has served the neighborhood since 1912. It was originally owned and named by Dr. Murray, until the early 1960s. Then, John Catanho (Mr. John’s Dog Grooming, above) ran the practice. However, John was not a licensed vet – a requirement since drugs are kept on premises – and had to sell the business. In came Dr. Ken Hansen, who brought in Dr. Taylor. The old veterinary hospital building was replaced in two stages in the mid- to late-1960s and early 1970s. My family and I began bringing our pets to Claremont Veterinary in the mid-’70s. Dr. Frizell, who joined the hospital in 1979, bought the practice in 1981 and has been there since. While the waiting room is usually busy with dogs and cats coming and going amid the sounds of phones ringing, our pets have always received great care from all four veterinarians on staff.

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November Town Hall, from page 1

Printed resource material will be available from ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments) with contractor and engineer resources. These are specialists who have completed the ABAG prescribed training for EQ preparedness and construction standards. An EQ/Disaster Family plan guide from California Shakeout (http://www.shakeout.org/california/) will also be available. See you there.

Holiday Meals Help

from page 4

uttering words of frustration as meals are burnt or we realize that we don't have that one ingredient to make grandma's favorite dish.

But have no fear! Many of our local vendors have already been busily preparing to make sure that your holiday dinner tables are filled with what you need to gather around for a festive meal without any hitches.

According to Sara Feinberg, marketing and communications manager at Market Hall Foods, "The holidays are the time when we bring in all sorts of extra cheeses, ingredients and gifts to help our customers prepare." Linda Sikorski, Market Hall's head buyer, is stocking the shelves with cooked chestnuts and chestnut cream, an extensive selection of holiday baking ingredients and freshly pressed California extra virgin olive oils and special balsamic vinegars, which make for "perfect hostess gifts."

Ver Brugge Foods co-owner Michael Balliet says that much of creating the perfect holiday meal is taking simple dishes that you already know and adding a little something special. "Wrapping a pork tenderloin with thin slices of prosciutto and just adding sprigs of sage leaves, and some salt and pepper goes a long way," Balliet says. You can get more recipe ideas from the store's weekly email. Visit Ver Brugge to sign up – you can even win a $25 gift card.

If you're not in the mood to cook, Market Hall is also offering its "Whole Feast" Thanksgiving Day meal for the second year in a row. A full meal including a roasted BN Ranch turkey, sides and classic pumpkin pie serving 8 to 10 people is available to be ordered on its website by Sunday, November 23. (http://www.rockridgemarkethall.com/pasta-shop/holiday-menus/thanksgiving-menu)

Whether you conquer the cooktop or decide on something already prepared, College Avenue newcomer The FloraCultural Society (6307 College Avenue) wants to make sure that your tablescape is as beautiful as your meal. Owner and purveyor of flowers Anna Campbell says the best tip for creating an easy centerpiece is to "include branches as your starting point as they act as a natural flower holder."

The FloraCultural Society will host a centerpiece-making class that's kid-friendly on November 22 at 11 a.m. Register on their website at http://floraculturalsociety.com, or stop by their new shop to purchase one of two special holiday wreath designs that use organic and local farm-sourced fall leaves, mixed berries and pomegranate.

And if you do decide to give the cooking a go and it doesn't go the way you planned, there's always Zachary's to the rescue. The Chicago pizza joint is offering some seasonal specials, including a new roasted potato, rosemary, and garlic pizza – perfect for that back-up holiday meal. Fa la la la la.

Lauren Herpich is the owner of the new Rockridge Neighborhood Heritage & Walking Food Tour. To gift your new neighbors or treat your holiday guests, go to www.rockridgefoodtour.com

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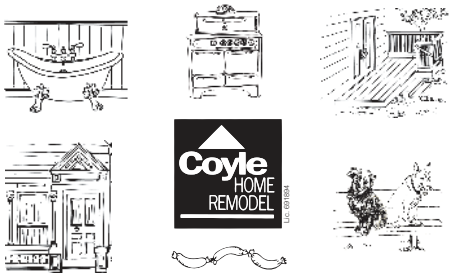
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The Sierra Club's tree team has been making up for the layoff of street tree planters and has now planted more than 1,070 trees all over Oakland. We are accepting requests for trees in the area: Request forms and program details are available at 510/910-6451 or arboone3@gmail.com. Some trees are free; others require payment. — ARBoone, Senior Advisor, Sierra Club Tree Team



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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 mtg. room, 5366 College Ave. Confirm mtg. at www.rockridgencpc.com or chair@rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN

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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **Young Writers Program – NaNoWriMo**: Every Tues. & Sat. in Nov.; 2:30-5pm. Tweens 9 to 13 invited to write a novel in just 30 days! Snacks served. Contact Erica for more info.

FOR TEENS

- **Teen Advisory Board (ages 14-18)**: Advise the library how to better serve teens. Get community service credit for school. Snacks provided. 1st Sat. each month, 1 to 2pm.
- **Rockridge Ninjas**: Watch Anime, 5 – 6:30 pm; 2nd Tues. each month.
- **Teen 'Scape**: Play video & board games, make crafts, enjoy light snacks. Every Wed, 1:30 to 3:30pm.

FOR ADULTS

- **PEN Oakland Annual Awards**: 24th annual PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Literary Awards presented, followed by reception and book signing. Named for the late poet and UC Berkeley professor, the awards recognize literary excellence in several categories and are given to local authors by their peers. Join us at this free event on Sat., Dec. 6, 2pm.
- **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 (11/15; call to confirm Dec. date), 1 to 5pm. Sponsored by the Calif. Writers Club, Berkeley branch. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Lawyers in the Library**: Free legal advice and referrals. First Tues. each month (12/2), 5 to 7pm. (Advance sign-up starts 4:45pm at adult reference desk). Volunteer lawyer leaves before 7pm if no more people present.

ART EXHIBITS (call to confirm)

Gallery:

Nov: Two exhibits **curated by Irving Wiltshire**: Rockridge Community Photography Group; and The Art of Modeling.

LIBRARY HOURS

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sun., and Mon; also Tues, 11/11 (Veterans Day), and Thurs. – Fri, 11/27 – 28 for Thanksgiving.

Diesel Book/Poetry/Music Events

FREE and open to the public.

- Sun, 11/9, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Howard Levy** and **Suzanne Lummis**. Info: Poetryflash.org.
- Sun, 11/16, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Lisa Gluskin Stonestreet** and **Robert Thomas**.
- Thurs, 11/20, 6:30pm. Panel Discussion with contributing authors **Faith Adiele**, **E.B. Boyd**, **Christina Ammon**, and **Erin Byrne**, hosted by series editor **Lavinia Spaulding**: *The Best Women's Travel Writing, Volume 10*.
- Fri, 11/21, 9pm (doors open 8:30). **Music Performance** with bluegrass banjo and guitar impresario, **Avram Siegel** and legendary fiddle player, **Blaine Sprouse**. **Note**: $10 cover charge for this event; all proceeds go to the musicians.
- Sun, 11/23, 1pm to 4pm. **Thank You Pie Party** to thank our customers for their many years of support. All books will be 20% off and we'll be serving pie and drinks. Celebrate and bring your friends.
- Sun, 12/7, 1pm. **Winter Cookbook Extravaganza!** Authors presenting their new cookbooks (**and bringing some excellent food**): **Sara Deseran**, **Tony Gemignani**, **Kathleen Weber**, **Alice Medrich**, and **Tanya Holland**.

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

Art Exhibit

Nora Reza's color field paintings continue to be exhibited through Nov and early Dec at Caldecott Gallery and Agency, 5251 Broadway (at College); Mon through Fri, 9am to 5pm. Sample paintings at www.norareza.com.

Calif College of the Arts: Holiday Arts And Crafts Fair

Shop for one-of-a-kind, affordable gifts made by students, alumni and staff: Ceramics, hand-blown glass, jewelry, clothing, photos, textiles, paintings and more. **Live jazz and holiday treats**. Sat., Nov 22, 11am to 3pm. CCA campus, 5212 B'way, main walkway. Info .594.3600 or www.cca.edu/.

Singers Wanted

The Distaff Singers, the Bay Area's longest-running women's choral group, is seeking new members. No auditions necessary, just ability to match pitch. Practice Tuesdays, 7:15-9pm at Christ Episcopal Church, 1700 Santa Clara Ave. in Alameda. Info: Carola Ingram 547-1191 or www.distaffsingers.org.

Jazz at the Chimes

Featuring Latin Jazz vocalist **Maria Marquez** and friends performing ***"Venezuela on My Mind"*** Sun., Nov. 16, 2pm. Tickets at the door (cash only) beginning 12:30pm (doors open 1:30): $15 general; $10 srs. (60+) and students. Reception and refreshments to follow to meet the performers. More info and music clips at www.mariamarquez.com. The concert series features Bay Area jazz musicians in a landmarked Julia Morgan venue: Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. **Wheelchair accessible**. Free parking. Info: www.jazzatthechimes.com, chimesjazz@gmail.com or 654-0123.

Square Dance In North Oakland

Music by The Squirrelly String Band. **Calling by Jordan Ruyle** (with occasional guest performers). **1st and 3rd Fridays** each month, 8 – 10pm. All levels welcome; all dances taught on the spot. $5–10 sliding scale donation. The Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. Info: 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.

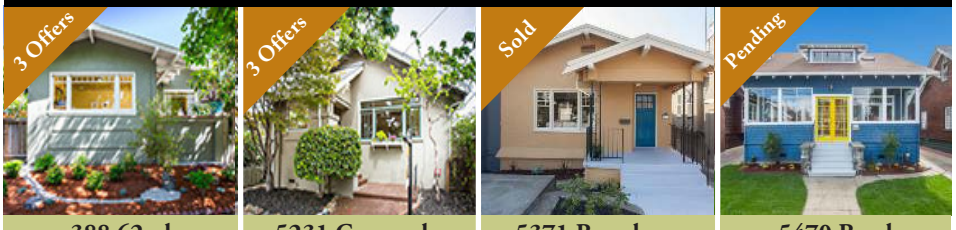
- **Seminar on "Medicare and Changes for 2015."** Tues, Nov 18, 10:45am to noon. How to make changes, understand prescription drug choices, and more. **Medicare Open Enrollment runs through Dec.7.** Presented by HICAP Health Insurance Counseling/Legal Assistance for Seniors.

Annual $12 membership entitles seniors 55 and older to discounts on activities and trips. Mon. – Fri., 9am to 4:30pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Subscribe to "The North Oakland Senior Times" for full schedule of classes/events, lunch menus, and volunteer opportunities. Info: 597- 5085.

Temescal Farmers' Market

Open Sundays, 9am to 1pm (**all year**). Locally grown fruits and vegetables; fresh ranch eggs; home-made bakery items; fresh cut flowers; unique prepared foods, fresh locally caught fish, handcrafts and more. Sample the goods; meet the grower; learn about unique food varieties and cooking tips; live music. **Bring your own reusable bags**. 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Telegraph) at DMV parking lot.

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

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