THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

VOL. 30 ■ NO. 9 ■ ISSUE NO. 326 ■ October 3, 2015 CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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

Rockridge Halloween Parade: Grab Your Kids, Costumes and Candy Bags



Goblins, Witches, Princesses, and Monsters Plot to Invade College Avenue October 25

Merchants to charm hordes with sweets and other tributes

Is it true that mummies like listening to wrap music? Can it be that you would find a sand-witch on a haunted beach? Do ghosts prefer the scary-go-round and roller ghoster at the fair?

Find out at the 23rd annual Rockridge Children's Halloween Parade. All you need is a costume, a sweet tooth and, for those under age 12, an escort.

Continuing the neighborhood's great, ghoulish tradition, the Rockridge District Association (RDA) and the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) invite you to celebrate Halloween on College Avenue. From noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, October 25, participating merchants will host trick-or-treating along both sides of College Avenue from Alcatraz to Broadway.

Join the costumed procession at Halloween Central in front of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue, at 11:45 a.m. At precisely noon, we'll start trick-or-treating, leading the first group along College Avenue. At 12:45 p.m., return to Halloween Central for spooky events, and silly, scary sing-alongs led by a serenading singer. Join this holiday fun for kids of all ages.



Guide booklet in hand, an intrepid Tour-goer sets off to visit the wide variety of showcased kitchens on the Rockridge Kitchen Tour. More than 500 people visited the eight kitchens during the tour held September 20.

Tour-Goers Stand Heat, Get in Kitchens

by Kevin Faughnan, tour committee member

It all came together for the Rockridge Kitchen Tour Sunday, September 20: The months of hard work spent planning for and selecting, photographing and describing the kitchens; soliciting advertisers, sponsors, docents, and architects; and arranging publicity paid off with a highly successful event.

The weather gods gave us a hot, sunny day – a high of 90 degrees – but that didn't prevent more than 500 attendees from turning out to see wonderful kitchens and support RCPC in the process.

Our publicity team did an incredible job anticipating requests for information, photos and content. They generated press releases, courted newspapers for articles, cajoled owners of large email databases to mail descriptions to their clients, and advertised in several publications, thanks to our friends at RDA.

The **Kitchen Expo** and **Berkeley Mills Seminar** events were added to the tour to provide attendees with direct professional information in a face-to-

Kitchen Tour, page 12

Sunday, October 11: rockridge OUT & ABOUT ▸ page 4

BART: Improvements, Repairs for Station

by Rebecca Saltzman, District 1 BART boardmember, including Rockridge

Thanks to helpful input from community members, BART has recently made several improvements to the Rockridge BART station.

The Rockridge station plaza is a well-used area that needs regular maintenance. Over the summer BART workers replaced the mulch in the planter area to improve the look of the space and to better retain water. Lighting in the plaza was also replaced after it was vandalized. BART has recently

BART Repairs, page 12

Status: Caldecott Projects

by Victoria Eisen, Caldecott projects consultant for the city of Oakland

Updated construction schedules are now available for the first projects funded through an $8 million settlement agreement with Caltrans over the environmental documentation of the Fourth Bore

Caldecott Projects, page 11

RCPC Marks a Milestone: 30 Years Since Incorporation, in a Tradition of Service

by John Gussman

This month, RCPC marks 30 years as an incorporated nonprofit, public benefit organization.

The early history of RCPC goes back even further, to 1971, when a coalition of north Oakland neighborhood groups first came together under the name "Rockridge Community Planning Council" to challenge the city of Oakland's plans for high-rise development around the future Rockridge BART station (the only station in the system located on a two-lane street).

The RCPC activists lobbied successfully for a full-scale revision of both the commercial and residential zoning within Rockridge. The rezoning included an all-new commercial zoning designation to encourage pedestrian-oriented retail shopping – which the city of Oakland has since adopted for other neighborhood commercial areas. Those changes prepared the way for the well-harmonized retail and residential environment of today's Rockridge.

In the mid-1980s, Dreyer's Ice Cream (today a subsidiary of the Nestlé corporation) unveiled a proposal to build a combined corporate headquarters-and-factory complex at College Avenue and Chabot Road, which would have overburdened the infrastructure of Rockridge, while degrading its neighborhood character. Again, RCPC led the opposition. In this climate, it became clear that fundraising and advocacy could be more effectively conducted, and neighborhood democracy better advanced, if RCPC became a nonprofit corporation.

On October 25, 1985, articles of incorporation for the Rockridge Community Planning Council were filed with the California Secretary of State, formalizing the new status.

Since then, under the leadership of its volunteer board of directors, RCPC has continually advocated for sound planning and development in Rockridge and vicinity, and has vigilantly defended the distinctive zoning of Rockridge's commercial corridor and residential areas.

RCPC also led the movements that brought about a succession of major public benefit projects, including the Rockridge Branch Library at College and Manila, Frog Park, and Hardy Dog Park. In the last few years, RCPC has pushed hard for community-compatible development and public spaces at the two Safeway store locations; and for mitigation of community impacts from Caltrans' Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore project.

In 1986, the first neighborhood-wide election was held to fill seats on the RCPC board of directors. Then, as now, all interested persons age 18 or older, residing within the organization's membership boundaries, were considered members of RCPC and eligible to vote for candidates standing for election (who likewise must be Rockridge residents). In 1988, the elected seats were staggered, with half the seats to be filled in late winter or spring, for two-year terms.

Currently there are 12 elected seats, plus one seat that is filled annually by board appointment, with preference given to a Rockridge merchant. The board may also fill, by appointment, any elected seat that becomes vacant between elections. Elected board members are limited to three consecutive terms.

A nonvoting seat on the board is reserved for the editor of The Rockridge News.

Below is a listing of all who have served as RCPC chairs since 1971, followed by a cumulative list of the individuals (totaling 135) who have served on the RCPC board of directors since the incorporation. The directors are named in the approximate order in which they first served on the board.

Names of voting directors who completed their original terms before 2001, and who returned to serve a further term or terms during the last 10 years, are marked with an asterisk.

Succession of RCPC Chairs:

Pre-Incorporation:

Ted Burton (1971-80)
Warren Chupp (1981)
Jack Brown (1981)
Ray Perman (1982-84)
Nina Robinson (1984-85)

Post-Incorporation:

Nina Robinson (1985-86)
Barbara Anderson (1987-90)
Brooke Levin (1990-91)
Kathy Walsh (1991-93)
Mary MacDonald (1994-96)
Cliff Cline (1996-97)

A Tradition of Service, page 10

ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY
5366 College Avenue at Manila | 597-5017
Library program details/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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Judith Doner Berne.....Eyes on Rockridge
Jo Ellis.....Advertising & Community Calendar
Susan Montauk.....Business Manager
Don Kinkead.....Graphics & Layout

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Contact the board: chair@rockridge.org
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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;
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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.

Newsletter Advertising/Deadline
Publication date of the next issue is:
☛ **November 7, 2015**
☛ **November deadline is October 22.**
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 a special meeting to discuss and possibly finalize the proposed CN-1 zoning amendment prior to submission to the City. Time and place will be posted on the rockridge.org website at least a week in advance. Meetings are open to the public.

Nautilus Project Moves Forward to Design Review

by Stuart Flashman, Land Use Committee co-chair

The Nautilus Group's large mixed-use project on the western border of Rockridge took a major step forward with the filing of a formal application and the scheduling of a public hearing before the Planning Commission's Design Review Committee (DRC). (The hearing was scheduled for September 30, past the newsletter's October issue press date. Visit rockridge.org for hearing reports. Watch for later updates in RCPC E-News releases.) The project, which includes 204 apartments as well as almost 34,000 square feet of ground floor commercial retail area, replaces two earlier projects, Civiq and Creekside, both of which had City approval but which were not built.



The Nautilus Group's project seen from 51st Street at Telegraph Avenue. The graphic is from a photograph made of plans on file with the Planning Department. See rockridge.org for additional information. Google "nautilus group north oakland" for news stories and related postings.

The project would fill almost the entire block between commercial Telegraph Avenue on its west and residential Clarke Street on its east. It would border 51st Street on its south and Claremont Avenue on its north.

The developer, The Nautilus Group, has been working on plans for the project for some time and has given neighborhood presentations to RCPC, the FROG Park Committee, and the Temescal community. Nautilus presented the project at an RCPC town hall meeting this spring. Nautilus has also invited those interested to meet with its project team individually. Still, the DRC hearing caught most community members by surprise; nobody at RCPC, the FROG Park Committee, or STAND (a Temescal residents' group) was notified before the hearing was posted. RCPC obtained project plans from the city, and has posted them in a folder on Dropbox.com, where they may be viewed and downloaded.

Totaling almost two acres, the project site is one of the larger developable sites in North Oakland. Both the Civiq and Creekside development projects triggered significant community opposition, resulting in major project revisions. The Nautilus project, however, benefits from the recent citywide rezoning, which allows heights of up to 60 feet on most of the site (except its eastern edge) by right. Eleven percent of the project's units would be designated as affordable to very low income households, entitling it, by state law, to a 35 percent density bonus. Nautilus is also asking to exceed the height limit (with roof greenhouses, the proposed maximum height is 90 feet) and for waivers of loading dock and off-street parking requirements.

The City has not yet decided whether to grant Nautilus' request to either exempt the project from environmental review or streamline that review. RCPC is asking the DRC to make the public hearing an opportunity for preliminary design input, with another public hearing once the project's environmental impacts (which could include traffic, parking, noise, and shadowing impacts) have been better defined.

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee co-chair

Rockridge Shopping Center Redevelopment (Shops at the Ridge): Broadway and Pleasant Valley Avenue

Construction of the new Safeway store has been underway for several months. Terramar, the new developer of the shopping center, is finally meeting with community representatives to introduce its local management team and discuss their plans for the project purchased from Safeway's Property Development Centers division when Safeway was taken private last year. **The meeting will be Tuesday, October 13, 5:30 p.m. in the Rockridge branch library.**

College Avenue Safeway: College & Claremont Avenues

The College Avenue Safeway has been open for nine months, but serious issues linger. Most importantly, the electronic parking

Land Use Committee, page 13

9th Annual Rockridge Out & About Festival

Merchants and Community Gear Up for Popular Street Fair, Sunday, October 11

College Avenue merchants and businesses are prepared to shine before an audience of thousands expected at the 9th Annual Rockridge Out & About festival. The ever-popular street fair set for Sunday, October 11, from noon to 6 p.m., is a lively, family-oriented event showcasing Rockridge as a great place to live, work, shop and play.

This year's festival blends crowd favorites with new activities promising fun and enrichment for all. Market Hall and neighboring businesses offer an array of food, beverages and activities.

Highlights include:

■ **Live music on the BART Plaza and on two stages** hosted by 51Oakland and Floyd Pellom's 57th Street Gallery

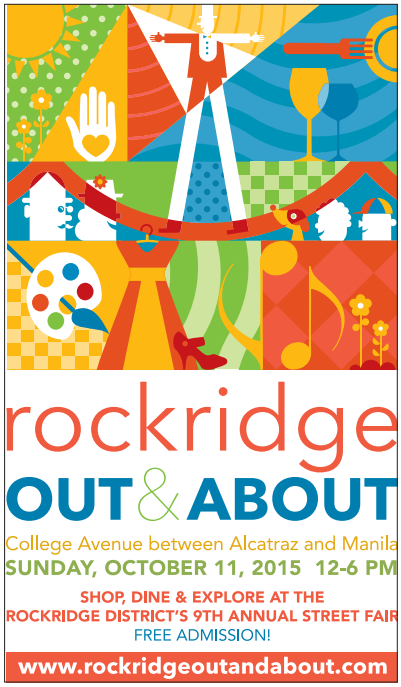
■ **Picnic & Dance** with Market Hall

■ **Food booths** from The Pasta Shop, Hapuku Fish Shop, Marin Sun Farms, Market Hall Produce, Paul Marcus Wines, Cactus Taqueria, and more

■ **Artisan booths**; wellness activities; and,

■ **Circus Stage** hosted by Kinetic Arts Center.

This year, Market Hall teams with Cole Hardware to sponsor the Kids Zone for free pumpkin painting, recycled container



succulent planting, an insect petting lab, and raffle prizes, all benefiting local public schools.

Other special events will also support the community:

■ **Proceeds of a raffle prize drawing will go to support Rockridge-area public schools**. For each raffle ticket purchased, you choose the school to support. Tickets are $2 each; 6 for $10; 12 for $20. Prizes include gift certificates to Rockridge restaurants, spas, and salons; gift baskets; and a Weber BBQ grill. The Grand Prize is a two-night stay at The Claremont Hotel. Purchase tickets in advance at the Cheese Counter in Market Hall and at each school via its PTA. The drawing is sponsored by Cole Hardware and Market Hall Foods. **Cole Hardware and Market Hall will match funds raised up to $2,500 each.** If, for example, $2,500 is raised in ticket sales, the total donation would be $7,500.

■ **Annual Cookbook Exchange — Bring a Book, Take a Book.** Proceeds from this event benefit the Rockridge Branch Library. Bring a lightly used cookbook and exchange it for any other cookbook. Cookbooks are also available for purchase. Donate cookbooks at the drop-off station inside Market Hall near the bakery entrance.

■ **Cheese Box Art by Mattie Ignacio.** Reclaimed cheese boxes transformed into lovely art pieces are available for purchase. All proceeds benefit MOCHA, the Museum of Children's Art.

Presented by the Rockridge District Association (RDA), festival admission is free thanks to our generous sponsors: Market Hall; UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland; Lawton Associates Real Estate Brokerage; DHR Investment Counsel; smart car; McGuire Realty; Toast Kitchen + Bar; Grubb Co.; Barrel Room; Inside Out Design; East Bay Express; and the city of Oakland.

Note: Free bike parking will be offered at Rockridge BART.

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Repainted and spiffed up throughout, the Rockridge Branch Library is ready for many more years of service to the community. /D. Kinkead

Library Friends Seek New Board Member

The Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) has an open seat on our board of directors. Our all-volunteer board collaborates with library management and staff to fund programs and resources not covered under the library budget. We're a creative and active bunch, eager to hear your ideas on how you might lend your time and skills to support the library we all love.

The board meets five to six times a year on Tuesday nights. You can learn more about FORL at www.RockridgeFriends.org. To discuss your interest, please contact Carol Bieri at cbieri@pacbell.net.


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Annual Fall Carnival: Chabot Elementary Fundraiser

by Amy Hayes, a carnival co-chair and Chabot parent

The Chabot Elementary Fall Carnival has been a Rockridge tradition for years. This year's event will be held **Sunday, October 25, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Chabot campus, 6686 Chabot Road**. All residents and neighbors are welcome to join in the fun and festivities – and, as always, admission is free to this Chabot Elementary School fundraiser.



Don't get spooked at the Chabot Carnival. Just follow the signs to fun and excitement.

Enjoy a family lunch from one of the food stations, such as El Tonayense Taco Truck, Cybelle's Pizza, or our famous Dad's club hot dogs. Then, satisfy that sweet tooth by grabbing a treat from our Benefit Bakesale; then wash it down with Jittery John's Cold Brew Coffee or a delicious CREAM Ice Cream Soda. To burn off some of those calories, the Carnival offers a variety of games for kids of all ages. Plan on winning some prizes, testing your bravery on the Jumpy Slide, and decorating pumpkins and sugar skulls.

The Chabot Carnival also offers lots of lively entertainment such as Jeremy the Juggler; great music by DJ Spooky & Ms Terror Down; and a silent costume contest. For those who like to shop, stop by the Craft

Chabot Carnival, page 13

Eyes on Rockridge

Local Residents Help Agency Deliver Free Services to Women With Cancer

by Judith Doner Berne

Seeing her sister battle breast cancer in 1990, Irene Marcos decided to volunteer at the Women's Cancer Resource Center (WCRC), not far from the Rockridge home she had recently bought and has now lived in for 24 years.

Yes, October is Breast Cancer Month, but the WCRC, which next year celebrates its 30th anniversary, targets underserved women with any kind of cancer. And all its services – practical, emotional and educational – are free of charge.

"I was paired with a wonderful woman who had received a terminal diagnosis," as part of the In-Home Support program, said Marcos, who later served on the WCRC board. "My role was to spend some time with her socializing, assisting, and doing whatever would, within bounds, make her last days more tolerable. I very much value the time we spent together."

Then, in 1994, and again in 2013, Marcos was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. A clothing designer and management executive who had worked for Gap, Inc. and Levi Strauss, she was never a formal client at WCRC.

But following her second bout, she facilitated a group for women who, like herself, had completed their cancer treatment. "Many emotional and physical issues are there to deal with on your own when the 'drama' of the diagnosis and the active treatment period are over," Marcos said. "We dealt with those issues in our group. Since I too benefited, I guess I was a client as well."



Rockridge resident Peggy McGuire loves that "I live a mile away" from the Women's Cancer Resource Center where she has been executive director for 10 years. /Judith Doner Berne

Maria Barra Gibson, a 40-year Rockridge resident, also did not lack support after her diagnosis of an aggressive form of breast cancer in 2003. She has a husband and children, and worked as an aide to former Oakland City Council member Jane Brunner.

She is grateful to "a dear friend who got me out of bed and suggested we walk over to WCRC and see what services they had to offer. Cancer can be a lonely journey. WCRC provided a community of women going through a similar experience."

That plus the intelligence, caring and understanding she received from the WCRC staff and volunteers "helped me to heal more rapidly," Barra Gibson said. "The staff is spectacular, but a lot of the work they do is through the volunteers." Her gratitude and respect led her to serve on the WCRC board for three years and to be a continuing donor. "One day I would like to go back and work as a volunteer."

Unlike Marcos and Barra Gibson, "A lot of women we work with are so isolated that we're their only contact," said Christine Sinnott, the agency's development manager. One of them, Leonie, hasn't told anyone outside of WCRC that she has breast cancer, and fears using her full name.

"This center has been such a saving grace for me," Leonie told me. "I came right when I was diagnosed. I knew I needed support around me."

Her artwork, created at a WCRC

WCRC, page 7

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WCRC

from page 6

workshop, is part of the center's latest art show and is accompanied by this poem:

The Storm in My Body
Rattled with the enigma called cancer
Poised at this moment
To make sense of it all
As I regain my equilibrium
And find the calm within

"Each staff member is an artist in their own right," says executive director Peggy McGuire. And although the WCRC is on the west side of Telegraph at 58th Street, she considers it to be part of the Rockridge community where she lives.

"Ten years ago, I saw this job opportunity with a compelling mission a mile from my house," McGuire told me. "How wonderful," she said, "to advocate for your own organization with your own dry cleaners and at your neighborhood restaurant. I get to be fully myself in expressing what I love, where I work and what I do."

So given its proximity and McGuire's community ties, it's probably no coincidence that the agency counts 600 Rockridge households and several businesses – La Farine, Ye Olde Hut and Pasta Pomodoro – among its contributors. Many chose to donate through the annual fall Swim A Mile (October 3 and 4) at Mills College that draws 600 swimmers, 200 volunteers and raises a third of WCRC's yearly $1.4 million budget.

Although many of the staff and volunteers have a connection to cancer, "Mine is not a cancer story," said McGuire, whose two brothers died at 11 and 5 years of age from cystic fibrosis.

What she took away from that and what applies to her current position is the importance of pinpointing "what kind of support a family or individual needs. The work is about promoting resilience and coping skills over the long haul."

McGuire, who grew up in Washington D.C. and graduated with a degree in foreign service from Georgetown, is among those hit hard by former President Jimmy Carter's announcement that he has a serious form of cancer. She got to know him while she was director of Rosalynn Carter's correspondence office.

"They ran as the People's Presidency," she reminded me. "They encouraged people to send in their stories. Most letters were answered under my signature. Jimmy Carter has been my moral compass. His cancer diagnosis is heavy on my heart."

Women with cancer hear about the WCRC through church and community groups or word of mouth. Currently, the agency gives direct services to 1,800- 2,000 women each year, half of whom have been diagnosed with breast cancer. It touches another 3,000 through its community education programs. Seventy volunteers currently augment the 10 full-time and two part-time staff.

So it's no wonder that they are in the midst of a capital campaign to finance larger quarters than the low-slung brick building at 58th and Telegraph they moved into in 2006. "We've definitely outgrown this building," says Sinnott, who also runs the annual October Swim A Mile fundraising event.

"I started as a volunteer in 1997," said Sinnott, when she was on leave from graduate school. "I was feeling dissatisfied and homesick. I realized that one thing missing for me here was community service."

To volunteer for, donate to or apply for services from the Women's Cancer Resource Center, go to www.wcrc.org; call their helpline at 510/420-7900 (English) and 510/350-1315 (Spanish); or visit their headquarters on the corner of Telegraph and 58th Street.

Your comments on this column and suggestions for future columns are welcome: email judyberne@att.net.

Women's Cancer Resource Center Fact List

- **What**: Women's Cancer Resource Center
- **Where**: 5741 Telegraph Avenue, corner of 58th Street.
- **Mission:** Creates opportunities for women with cancer to improve their quality of life through education, emotional support and practical assistance including in-home support and financial assistance for low-income women.
- **Cost:** All services are completely free, funded by the annual Swim A Mile held the first weekend in October; grants from Avon Foundation, Komen (formerly the Susan G. Komen For the Cure) and other private foundations; and individual donations, of which Rockridge residents provide a large percentage.
- **History:** When feminist, lesbian and progressive activist Jackie Winnow (1947-1991) was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1985, she realized the lack of resources for women with cancer, particularly for women of color and the lesbian community. The answering machine in her Berkeley living room developed into the Women's Cancer Resource Center.

WCRC Facts, page 13

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'Ride for a Reason' Cyclers Seek to Recruit a New Leadership Team

by Claremont PTA

Heavy metal! Punk! Reggae! Glam! The theme for the 9th annual Claremont Middle School fundraising auction is "Rock & Roll Ball." The party starts 6 p.m. Saturday, November 7, at Uptown Body & Fender, 401 26th Street, and features dinner, drinks, music, silent and live auctions, and raffle prizes.

Following tradition, partygoers are encouraged to wear a costume inspired by the theme or wear the school colors of orange and black.

The auction – encompassing an Online Auction from October 26 through November 4 – and the gala event is Claremont's biggest fundraiser. Proceeds provide critical support for programs including outdoor education, Math & Science Night, and Family Literacy Night.

The event has already received generous support from Rockridge merchants in the form of donations, merchandise and sponsorships and from Claremont families, staff, and other Bay Area businesses.

Tickets: $25 advance; $30 at the door. Tickets and more information are available at www.claremontms.org/auction.

Ride for a Reason (R4R) seeks to recruit a new leadership team. Since its start in 2009, R4R has raised more than $400,000 to support enrichment programs in Oakland public schools. R4R is an annual, supported bicycle ride by about 200 Oakland teachers, students, parents, and others. Donors sponsor the ride to support Oakland schools. R4R helps to raise awareness about the continuing crisis in funding and equity for California public education, and R4R builds community and connections between Oakland public schools. To continue this important work, R4R needs to recruit three volunteers to take over the following leadership roles: • event planning; • communications; and • ride planning.

While these volunteer positions are big jobs, the current leadership team will train and support incoming leaders this year, and several long-serving volunteers have agreed to continue as task leaders so that there will be continuity for key jobs: website; accounting; food; support vehicles; and rest stops.

Although expertise in event planning, road cycling, and excellent communications skills would be a plus, the only essential attributes of an R4R leader are a passion for our schools and a willingness to commit to this event to make it happen. As a volunteer leader, you will be on point to make sure all of the essential work gets done when needed.

For more information, please contact Paul Vetter at p4vetter@gmail.com or Mike Napolitano at mikenapolitano5@gmail.com. Thanks for your consideration.

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Frog Park and DMV Neighbors Join in the Earth Day Clean Up of the Park and the Rockridge-Temescal Green Belt



Photos by: Theresa Nelson, FROG Park; Leonora Sea, DMV Neighbors; and Deidre Martin, Environmental Stewardship Analyst, Oakland Public Works Department. ***Names not available for all subjects.***

The Costs of Private vs Public Middle School

by Rick Prime

Every year, many parents with fifth graders decide whether to send their child to a public school like Claremont Middle, or a private middle school for sixth grade. Whether a public or a private school will provide the better education is open to debate. However, I sent my son and daughter to Claremont Middle School because I wanted to help the community, and for financial reasons. They attend Oakland Tech today.

Parents considering private education should begin to plan for the funding of that education and for their own retirement early on. It is important to consider the potential costs of retirement, children's education cost, and the required savings to achieve both goals. If a choice must be made, many advise dedicating savings to retirement goals first.

Costs of private middle school and high school are similar to what needs to be saved for college. Three years of private middle school and four years of private high school in the Rockridge area can cost $205,000; approximately $80,000 for private middle school and $125,000 for private high school. The cost of four years of college, including room and board, is $83,000 at Sonoma State; $120,000 at U.C. Berkeley; and $241,000 at Stanford. This ignores financial aid,

School Choices, page 13

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

from page 2

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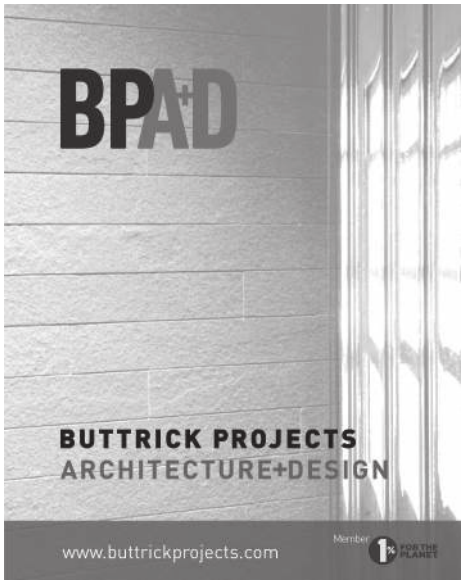


RCPC Board of Directors 2015-16

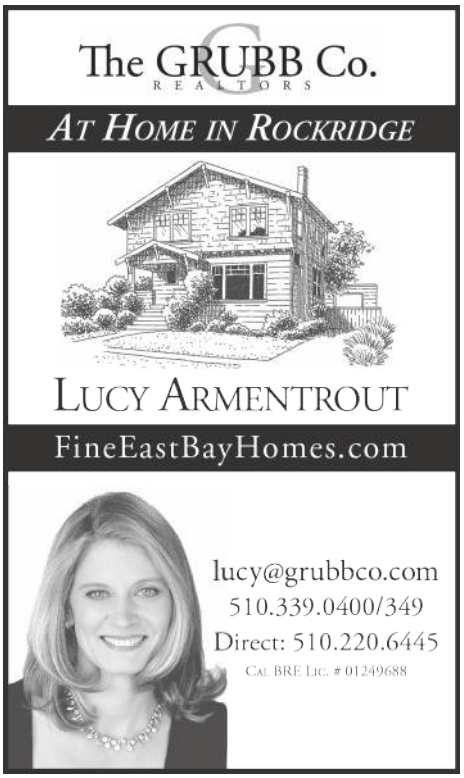
Jennifer Daskal, left, Ronnie Spitzer, Stuart Flashman, Brendan Havenar-Daughton, Leonora Sea, Laura Schlichtmann, Kevin Faughnan. Inset, top: Zabrae Valentine; Greg Pasquali; Gabe Kleinman; Noah Rosen.

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Al Hussian
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Janelle Cavanagh
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Peter St. John
Jeff Small

A Tradition of Service, page 11







A Tradition of Service, from pg 10

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Katy Taylor
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Colby Lavin
Bill Kaufner
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Rockridge resident John Gussman is legal advisor to the RCPC board of directors.

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Caldecott Projects

from page 1

of the Caldecott Tunnel.

Construction on Broadway between Keith and Brookside Avenues is expected to begin this winter. The project includes Oakland's first cycle-track (a two-way, separate bikeway) and pedestrian crossing enhancements. Nearby residents and others interested in the construction schedule can get twitter updates at @Oakland#BroadwayKeith as soon as it is finalized.

On October 6, the City Council will be asked to approve a construction contract for pedestrian pathway upgrades on upper Broadway to serve Lake Temescal and new bicycle lanes to the lake and North Oakland Sports Complex.

In spring 2016, contractors will break ground on pedestrian crossing enhancements at Broadway and Lawton, and at other intersections on Broadway between Broadway Terrace and Keith, as part of the Broadway resurfacing and lane configuration project (The Rockridge News, April 2014: rockridge.org/sites/default/files/documents/rn04.14.pdf).

The Rockridge Safe Routes to Transit effort, which includes a number of Caldecott-funded projects, begins construction in summer 2016, also in conjunction with the planned roadway resurfacing (The Rockridge News, September 2015: rockridge.org). Fall 2016 is expected to bring a major suite of construction improvements to the Tunnel Road (State Route 13) / Hiller Drive intersection, including continuous sidewalk and bicycle lanes from the intersection and along the length of Tunnel Road/Caldecott Lane. The project will connect to the upper Broadway improvements via the Kay Overcrossing.

The comment period for the Safe Routes project ends October 14 (see Rockridge.org). Send comments to Victoria Eisen: victoria@eisenletunic.com or 510/525-0220.



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Kitchen Tour

from page 1

face setting. The **Expo** had more than 60 visitors who met with 20 architects, contractors, and specialty providers. A more in-depth interview was possible in these focused meetings, as many attendees were considering remodels in the near future and wanted information and contacts.

The **Seminar** was a mixture of talk and slides, reviewing past kitchens completed by the company, and hands-on examinations of three display kitchens. (We used one kitchen to bake our persimmon cookies, warm up the street tacos, and cool the sangria.)

The **Tour Kitchens** themselves were staffed by architects and their support staffs at six of the homes. They went into the details that come only from many hours of discussions with their clients and contractors. They, and several local realtors, also provided refreshments at every home on a day when ice water was king and in demand. There was food as well, including ice cream sandwiches for tasty cooling.

RCPC docents were also present at the homes to assist with flow into and out of the homes, and to discuss interesting particulars of the kitchens.

At the **Morse House**, a steady stream of guests got not only a kitchen tour but a house tour as well, given by indefatigable owners John Bliss and Kim Thompson. The effort they have devoted to keeping so many orignal details of the house as close to original as possible was impressive. The pleasure they take in discussing the house's history and key features is contagious.

The **Tour Booklet,** designed by Valerie Knight, captured floorplans, resources and owners' efforts to achieve their kitchen design, and then share it publicly. Of course, the tour could not happen without the owners; we hope they enjoyed the day as much as everyone else did.

(Additional copies of the tour booklet are available via RockridgeKitchenTour.org, for $5 each.)

We are compiling our "lessons learned" list and thinking ahead to 2017. If you know of potential tour candidates, or are one yourself, please contact rockridge.org.

BART Repairs

from page 1

increased the frequency of cleaning at the station and in the plaza to help keep these areas attractive.

Following previous earthquake safety work at the station, BART installed new landscaping at the station. Unfortunately, shortly after the installation of plants, a water meter was shut off due to leaks in BART's main water line that supplied the landscaped area's irrigation, and many of the plants died. BART worked with East Bay MUD this year to install a new meter and then replaced the landscaping with drought- tolerant, low-maintenance plants.

There is still more work to be done at the Rockridge BART station. At the end of September, BART began work to correct the flaking paint on the columns supporting the BART tracks. These columns had been wrapped as part of the earthquake safety construction program of several years ago, but the initial wraps were not successful and paint has flaked off. BART will be wrapping these columns with a new material – a fiber-reinforced polymer – to fix the problem. BART will work on these columns in phases to reduce the impact on parking, and each closure will last approximately 10 days. The irrigation that was recently installed will be protected, and work will be done to minimize damage to the landscaping. Some plants will need to be removed to make space for the work and any that are in the way will be replanted.

BART is also in the process of replacing the elevator floors at all stations. BART has selected a high quality stainless-steel diamond-plate flooring to replace the current material, as the old material readily absorbs liquids and odors that can corrode and damage underlying structures. After tearing out the old flooring, technicians will thoroughly clean, disinfect, and repair the entire elevator. The new flooring will then be installed, and the floor will be sealed to prevent this problem from recurring. All BART elevator floors, including the flooring of the Rockridge elevator, will be replaced by the end of the year.

If you have input or questions about the Rockridge station or any BART issue, please email me at Rebecca.Saltzman@bart.gov or leave a phone message for me at 510/464-6095.

Two Rockridge News Blocks Need Captains

We'd love to bring The Rockridge News back to residents on Chabot Road and we hope there's no cut in service to our neighbors on Thomas Street whose block captains of many years, Avery and Bennett Bluey, just retired. Some volunteers have been with us for a couple of decades, and, in some cases, since the paper was first published in 1985. We don't expect decades of service from every volunteer; just once a month for about 20 minutes to walk the block and leave a Rockridge News on neighbors' porches. That volunteer can be you.

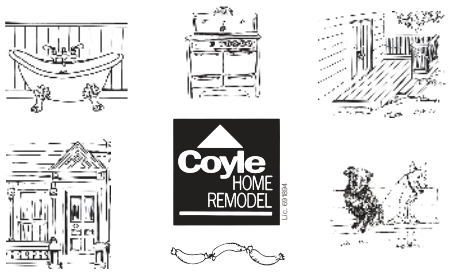
If you live on one of these routes, or close by, please let us know if you would like to take on this neighborly service:

Route 01B,D: Chabot Road beginning across from public tennis courts at 6885 extending to just past Marie Way.

Route 08C,D: Along Thomas from Monroe to Napa, and 6000 Monroe from Broadway to Golf Course.

Email smontauk@gmail.com or call 510/547-3855 to volunteer. Be sure to mention the route number.

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Chabot Carnival

from page 5

Faire featuring designers and crafters from the Chabot community.

Please join us in celebrating all the fun that fall has to offer – games, food, prizes, music and crafts – there is something for everyone. All proceeds from this family-friendly event benefit the Chabot Elementary PTA and support enrichment programs that include the library, music, art, science, Spanish, and the garden; coordination of numerous after-school programs; and help in the classrooms.

Special thanks to our sponsors for supporting the Chabot community: Ruth Goldstone of Marvin Gardens Realty; Jittery John's Cold Brew Coffee; Open Homes Photography; Jeff Robarts of The Grubb Company; MPR Financial; CREAM; Sweat Health & Fitness; and Piedmont Dental by Design.

Please visit www.chabotelementary.org for more information.

Land Use Committee

from page 3

space display – supposed to signal the number of available spaces – is still not working properly. It sometimes shows the deck is full when there are, perhaps, a dozen or more empty spaces. Customers who believe the sign to be correct will search the neighborhood for on-street parking, exactly what the sign was intended to prevent. Safeway representatives say it is working on the problem.

Parking signage, another major issue, is perhaps easier to fix, but still unsolved. As required by law, Safeway has posted signs telling motorists whom to contact if their car has been towed for parking illegally. Unfortunately, the main signs announce, "Private Property, No Parking." The latter statement is not true. Within the lot, these signs are posted just below signs announcing "One Hour Parking." This is confusing. Large blue signs tell motorists whose cars were towed for improperly parking in a handicapped space to call the Alameda Police Department for information. Safeway was notified of these problems months ago, but has not corrected them.

School Choices

from page 9

variability in tuition between schools, and the fact that tuition costs are rising faster than inflation. Families who have more than one child have even more budgeting decisions to consider. Financial aid or loans for college are usually available when needed, but the same is not true for retirement. Over-extending finances for the children's sake could create a financial burden for them later, given retirement and long-term-care costs.

Basically, if you're not on a smooth financial flight, secure your own oxygen mask first.

Rick Prime is a Certified Financial Planner™ at Prime Wealth Management, Inc. Sources for college costs and private school from www.collegecalc.org, and websites for Head-Royce, Julia Morgan, Redwood Day, Black Pine Circle, College Prep, and Bishop O'Dowd.

WCRC Facts

from page 7

- **Statistics:** Ten full-time and two part-time paid staff; 70 regular volunteers; 5,000 clients served each year, 1800-2000 through direct services; 59 percent from Alameda County, half of those from Oakland; 39 percent from Contra Costa County.
- **Support Groups:** Adults with Blood Related Cancer and their Friends, Families and Caregivers; African American Women with Cancer; Complementary and Alternative Care; Latinas con Cancer; Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer Cancer Group; Women with Cancer; Women with Metastatic Cancer; Young Women with Cancer plus In-Home Support.

Community Wellness Workshops: Promote healthy living, cancer risk reduction and quality of life through creativity, movement, mindfulness, education and activism. Open to the community.

To Volunteer: Volunteer Orientation is the first Tuesday of the month. To sign up, email Eveline via eveline@wcrc.org, or call her at 510/350-1302.

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We may see softening in next 2 years. Demand still exceeds supply, especially near College Ave.
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Please contact me during regular business hours to schedule an appointment.

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

Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

Discuss crime and public safety with reps of OPD. 2nd Thurs. each month (Oct 8) 7:30pm. **Topic**: proposals for a Public Safety Oversight Commission. Rockridge Library, College and Manila. More info: 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 (see special event on 10/31).
- **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

- **Expecting another baby?** Call or email to **register now** (space is limited) for **New Sibling Workshop** on Sat., 10/17, 11:15am-12:15pm. Bring your toddler or kindergartener for songs and stories. Share questions, answers & ideas, to prepare for big changes. Everyone gets song booklet and a board book. 597-5017 or esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org.
- **Spooky Night Halloween Stories & Treats**: Tues., 10/27, 7 - 8pm. Best for ages 3 to 9: Not too scary. **All ages can come in costume.**
- **Halloween Stories & Craft:** Sat., 10/31, 10:30-11:30am. Come in costume. Best for ages 1 to 6 but all ages welcome to decorate small trick-or-treat bags after story time.

CALLING ALL 'TWEENS

- **Brainstorming Session for ages 9 to 12:** Creative young people (writers, illustrators, craftspeople, sculptors, film-makers, actors, or avid readers) invited to come up with a plan for the library to provide work space for your creative or literary projects and to support & showcase Oakland's 'tween talent. Bring a friend. Tues, 10/20, 7 – 8 pm,
- **Young Writers NaNoWriMo 2015 (**annual Novel Writing Month)**:** Can you write a novel in 30 days? Find out here. If you have signed up at school, or want to try it on your own, contact Erica to get more information about participating. **Free snacks and motivation** for all writers **ages 9 to 14**. Every Tues. in Nov., 6:30 - 7:45 pm.

FOR TEENS

- **Teen Advisory Board (ages 14-18):** Advise the library how to better serve teens. Get community service credit for school. 1st Sat. each month, 1 to 2pm.
- **Teen 'Scape**: Join other teens every Wednesday 1:30 - 4:30pm. Play video & board games; make crafts; get light snacks.
- **Teen Read Week Celebration**: Decorate a pair of your sunglasses with themes that celebrate Teen Read Week (or create your own style). Oct 21, 2pm.
- **Design Your Own Halloween Masks**: Oct 28, 2pm.

FOR ADULTS

- **Writers Support/Critique Group: All writers welcome**. Bring 15 copies of up to 5 pgs. (double-spaced) of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (also welcome to come empty-handed). 3rd Sat. each month (10/17), 1 to 5pm; wheelchair-accessible. Sponsor: The Calif. Writers Club, Berkeley branch. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Lawyers in the Library:** Free legal advice and referrals**. Tues, Oct 6**, 5 to 7pm. (Advance sign-up starts 4:45pm at adult reference desk). **Note:** Volunteer lawyer leaves before 7pm if no more people present. Call day of program to confirm: 597-5017.

GALLERY EXHIBIT

October: **Oakland Quilter's Group** display.

LIBRARY HOURS

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

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings/Events

FREE and open to the public.

- Sun, 10/4, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** in a memorial celebration of the life and work of **Steve Kowit**.
- Wed., 10/7. 6:30pm. **New series: Escape From Reality: Freud's Bar,** monthly talks (with drinks and snacks) by local Bay Area psychoanalysts, aimed at students ages 16-25. **Jeanne C. Harasemovitch, LCSW** will discuss *In Search of a Plausible Self: The Poetry of Louise Gluck*.
- Fri, 10/9, 9pm (doors open 8:30). **Music Performance** with bluegrass banjo impresario **Avram Siegel** and instrumentalist **Keith Little**. Note: $10 cover charge; all proceeds go to musicians.
- Tues, 10/13, 6:30pm. **Amitav Ghosha;** *Flood of Fire.*
- Thurs, 10/15, 6:30pm. Local author **Lisa McGuiness:** *Catarina's Ring*.
- Sat., 10/17, 7pm. **Literary Karaoke Night.** Read one or two pages from a book from home or grab one off our shelves and listen to everybody else do the same. We ask only that it not be something you wrote. (Should you need some liquid courage, there just might be a bottle of something strong and distilled.)
- Sun., 10/18, 3:00pm. Local author **Steve Masover:** *Consequence*.
- Tues, 10/20, 6:30pm. **Caroline Heller:** *Reading Claudius: A Memoir in Two Parts*.
- Thurs, 10/22, 6:30pm. **Yvonne Prinz:** *If You're Lucky*.
- Sun, 10/25, 3pm. **Poetry Flash**, with **Peter Neil Carroll** and **Lucille Lang Day**.
- Tues, 10/27, 6:30pm. **Andrea Kleine:** *Calf.* Joined in conversation by Bay Area author **Tom Barbash**.
- Wed, 10/28, 6:30pm. **Alex Mar:** *Witches of America*.
- Tues, 11/3, 6:30pm. **Ian F. Svenonious:** *Censorship Now!!*
- Wed, 11/4, 6:30pm. **Escape From Reality: Freud's Bar** talks (while enjoying drinks and snacks) by local Bay Area psychoanalysts, aimed at students ages 16-25. For the topic, "Cutting as a Substitution of Pain for Feelings," **Dorian Newton, Ph.D.** will discuss *Cutting: Understanding and Overcoming Self-Mutilation* by **Steven Levenkron**.
- Thurs, 11/5, 6:30pm. From "America's Test Kitchen", **Jack Bishop:** *100 Recipes: The Absolute Best Ways to Make the True Essentials*.
- Sun, 11/8, 3pm. **Poetry Flash:** with **Rebecca Foust** and **Susan Terris**.
- Tues, 11/10, 6:30pm. Publication Party for **Julie Barton:** *Dog Medicine: How My Dog Saved Me from Myself.*

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

Wisteria Ways House Concert

Composer, guitarist and vocalist **Ian Faquini** and flutist/vocalist **Rebecca Kleinmann:** Brazilian rhythms and other harmonic influences, Sat., Nov 7, 8pm. More info: http://rebeccakleinmann.com/ensembles/ian-faquini/. Inside venue; not wheelchair accessible. $15-20 donation for musicians (cash only at the door). 383 61st Street. For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.







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