THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
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Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council • 4123 Broadway, PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94611

Surrounding Multi-Unit Projects: Many New Neighbors for Rockridge



The Kingfish Project
Claremont/Telegraph
Sq. Ft: No information available
Housing: 5 stories, 33 condo units with ground floor commercial space.
Approved by Council on appeal (per settlement agreement 10/07 with RCPC). Completion: July 2016.

The Nautilus Group 51st and Telegraph Project
Telegraph Ave/Clark Street between 51st and Claremont Avenue
222,720 sq. ft.
Housing: 204 units +33,800 sf. of retail)
Completion: Unknown. Project not yet approved; still under review.

Merrill Gardens Senior Housing/Mixed Use
West side of Broadway north of 51st Street
174,000 sq. ft.
127 units senior housing +7,743 sq. ft. ground floor retail
Completion: Possibly by Dec 2016.

Baxter on Broadway/Temescal Apartments (SRM Development)
West side of Broadway, south of 51st Street
210,393 sq. ft. total, including housing units: 126 market-rate apartments; 4 2-story townhouses; and 8,642 sq. ft. of ground floor retail.
Completion: Construction to begin shortly; no permit issued yet.

February Town Hall: RCPC Community Grants Program

Thursday, February 18: 7 p.m. pizza; mtg 7:30, in the Rockridge Branch Library upstairs meeting room.

The RCPC Board Announces a Community Grants Program

Do you have an idea for a way to improve our neighborhood but aren't sure where to begin or how to fund it? RCPC hosts a Town Hall at the Rockridge Library, Thursday, February 18 at 7 p.m. for pizza, meeting 7:30, to introduce the new Rockridge Community Grants program.

Following the successful 2015 Rockridge Kitchen Tour, the RCPC board voted to establish a fund to support small community-led projects within Rockridge. Join your neighbors at the February Town Hall; RCPC board members will present the grants program: What it is, how it works, who is eligible, and how to apply.



RCPC Invites Candidates for April Board Election

To be considered as a candidate, email info@rockridge.org not later than close of business March 2, to tell the board of your interest and to receive an informational package. The election will be held April 21 at the RCPC Town Hall. *More*☛

Some observers refer to aspects of Presidential campaigns as the "silly season." While these quadrennial exercises can be silly at times, the

▶ RCPC Elections, page 15

A Look to the Past: Rockridge Residents Recall Impact of the Coming of BART and Highway 24

by Edward Guthmann

When I moved to Rockridge in 1977, it never occurred to me to ask when the Grove-Shafter Freeway (Highway 24) and BART were established, and how different the neighborhood might have looked and felt previously. One day my neighbor Pat Nolan, a resident since 1957, told me about the freeway's devastating impact and described the Rockridge of 50 years ago. From then on I started looking anew at my neighborhood.

What follows is an oral history, an arrangement of memories, shared by people I interviewed who lived here during the 1960s when BART and the freeway cut a wide, disruptive swath through Rockridge.

Catherine Griffing, RR resident 1957-present: Oh, it was great. Lots of kids lived around here. We'd hop on our bikes and ride all over. We'd play Hide and Go Seek and run in and out of neighbor's yards. No one minded.

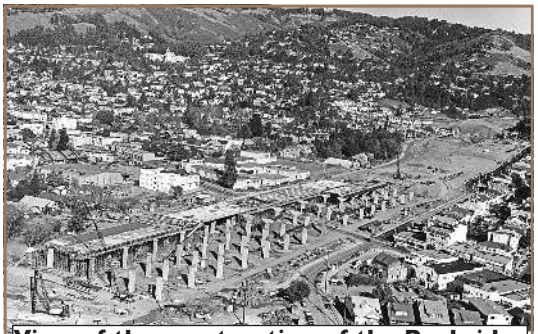
Claire Lomax, RR resident 1945-79, 1987-present: There was never the sense of being afraid of anything.

Greg Brennan, RR resident 1957-present: We didn't even lock our doors back then.

Jeannette Lakness-King, RR resident 1951-66: We had seasons for tetherball, hopscotch, bicycling, roller skating and kickball. When "Mickey Mouse Club" was at its 1950s peak we chose parts and acted out the show.

Greg Brennan: On weekends we'd leave in the morning and show up at dusk. Come home dirty and wet from Temescal Creek. The creek had polliwogs, frogs, plenty of blackberries. We'd go up to Lake Temescal and fish for crawdads.

Eric Clausen, RR and Temescal resident 1959-2009: We knew every inch of that creek, from Lake Temescal down to Claremont and Telegraph where the DMV is now.



View of the construction of the Rockridge BART station and Grove-Shafter Freeway, 1968. BART photo, Oakland Library History Room

Edward Guthmann: Rockridge was developed after the 1906 earthquake, when thousands of displaced San Franciscans moved across the Bay. It was a modest, unpretentious neighborhood – not the shopping destination and restaurant center it has become.

Greg Candler, RR resident 1955-1973: Looking back, it seems to have almost a small-town feeling to it. Not what you think of as Oakland today.

Rockridge Evolution, page 10

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Library program details/hours: Calendar, page 15

The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded March, 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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Newsletter Advertising/Deadline
Publication date of the March issue is:
☛ **March 4, 2016**
☛ **March deadline is February 18.**
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.)

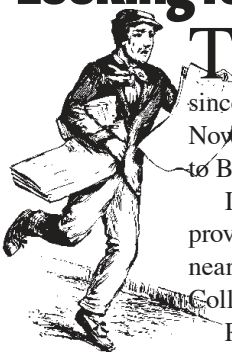
Two Auctions: Fun X 2

2 Annual School Fundraiser Auctions on Tap: Oakland Tech and Peralta Elementary; Each Will be Held at Uptown Body & Fender, 401-26th Street.

• **Peralta Auction: Saturday, March 5, starting at 5 p.m.** Theme: "The Peralta

School Auctions, page 12

Looking for a Way to Help Your Community?



The Rockridge News relies on 150 volunteers to bundle and deliver the newsletter to your doorstep each month. We've counted on this network since 1986 to keep you abreast of local news and community interests. Now, The Rockridge News is looking for a new District Captain to deliver to Block Captains in Area 11.

If you are to be that person, a box of eight newsletter bundles will be provided to you each month. In turn, you take them to the eight block captains near 5400 and 5500 Taft and Kales and Manila between Broadway and College. A straightforward and important community job.

Ready? Contact us at smontauk@gmail.com or call 510/547-3855.

RCPC Land Use Committee

The next Land Use Committee meeting is Wednesday, February 17, 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge Library. (**Note:** After February, the library may be closed for several months for repairs. Updates at rockridge.org.)

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee co-chair

■ **College Avenue Safeway Project (College and Claremont Avenues)**

The now year-old retail building at the northeast corner of College and Claremont Avenues was sold to Southern California company Terramar Retail Centers. The company proposes to lease the large space at the southern tip of the building to Fremont Bank. The site's CN-1 zoning requires obtaining a Conditional Use Permit from the City. RCPC is gathering input on what Fremont Bank's plans would be, and the community's reaction. Plans will be presented at the next meeting of the Land Use Committee, Wednesday, February 17, 7:30 p.m. upstairs in the Rockridge Library. Terramar and Fremont Bank representatives will be present, and the public is invited to attend and comment on the bank's proposal.

Update on Secondary Units Proposal

by Stuart Flashman, Kevin Faughnan and Ronnie Spitzer, RCPC board members

The proposed Oakland city ordinance for Secondary Units received its second public reading at the January 19 City Council meeting. An amendment proposed by Councilman Dan Kalb was included.

Owing to an administrative error, the complete proposed ordinance was not submitted to the Council, and it was unable to take action. The final adoption was rescheduled to February 2.

For each parcel with a secondary unit, the Kalb amendment limits the number of Residential Parking Permits to three permits for the entire parcel. The parcel owner can provide one of those three permits to the secondary unit occupant if he or she chooses to do so. Thus, the concern about potentially adding three cars to restricted parking areas was abated.

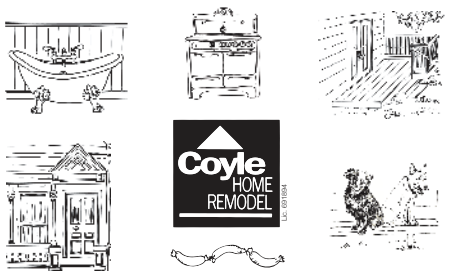
Councilman Kalb deserves credit for slowing this process down so community input could be received, and then working with RCPC to address the primary concern – off-street parking – expressed at the RCPC Special Town Hall meeting in December. The ordinance is strongly supported by Mayor Libby Schaaf.

There were also questions raised about "unintended consequences," and Kalb asked that a thorough review of the effects of the ordinance be made by the Planning Department over the next 18 months to be followed by a report of the findings. Speakers also expressed a need for pre-approved architectural requirements that would allow prompt issuance of a building permit with low fees. No formal commitment was made on this issue. Deputy Director of Planning Darin Ranelletti acknowledges widespread support for the idea, but says that new funding will be required. Supporters will need to weigh in with the city on this.

Another unresolved issue is the potential impact of homeowners who offer their secondary units for short-term rental via Airbnb rather than making them available to local long-term renters. Although the new Oakland ordinance does not expressly

Secondary Units, page 15

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CLAREMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL



Save the Date – Saturday, February 27
7th Annual Pancake Breakfast to Support Claremont Middle School

North Oakland flapjack fans are invited to chow down at the 2016 Claremont Middle School Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 27, at the Rockridge Masonic Lodge, 5449 College Avenue at Kales Avenue.

This annual community event is generously hosted by the Oakland-Durant-Rockridge Masonic Lodge #188 in association with the Rockridge District Association (RDA) and the Claremont Middle School Dads Club. Proceeds from the breakfast support educational enrichment programs at our neighborhood public middle school.

As in years past, the delicious menu will include a full breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, fruit, coffee and tea. This is also a rare public opportunity to visit the interior of the historic Masonic Lodge, a College Avenue landmark since the 1920s.

Advance tickets may be reserved online for $10 per person via the Claremont Middle School website at www.claremontms.org. There is no service charge for online reservations, and the site accepts major credit cards, debit cards or PayPal.

Note: There are three scheduled seatings: 8 a.m.; 9 a.m.; and 10 a.m. All tickets are time specific, so be sure to select the seating time you prefer. If available, tickets sold at the door will be $12 each. Children under 5 years old eat for free and do not need a ticket.

Tickets also may be purchased with cash or checks from members of the CMS Dads Club. For information, contact Dads Club Co-Chair Morris Dye at webmaster@claremontms.org.

Four Oakland Tech Boy Scouts Achieve Eagle Scout Rank

by Cindy Wilson

Oakland Tech 2015 graduates Cheyenne Jacobsen, Kyle Merritt, John Oberholzer, and current Tech senior Connor Prime recently received their Eagle Scout Award, the highest honor in Boy Scouting. In addition, the family of Jack Lewis, the Rockridge teen killed when a tree limb broke near Children's Fairyland in December, received special honors. All five boys had been part of Cub Scout Pack 274, made up primarily of boys from Chabot and Peralta elementary schools prior to joining Boy Scout Troop 202. The awards were presented at a special ceremony in early January.



Tech High students recognized as they achieve Scouting's Eagle rank. From left: Kyle Merritt, John Oberholzer, Cheyenne Jacobsen, Connor Prime. /Troop 202

Nationally, only around 4 percent of all Boy Scouts have achieved the rank of Eagle since it was first awarded in 1912. To become an Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts must advance through seven required ranks, demonstrate their understanding of leadership, service, character, personal fitness and outdoor skills at multiple levels. Scouts must earn merit badges in 21 life skills and other areas of achievement such as physical fitness, first aid, personal management, and citizenship.

Scouting Awards, page 12

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Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
1/7/2016	3	1	5540 Broadway	$775,000	$775,000	24	$1,010,000
1/19/2016	2	1	395 51st Street	$688,000	$688,000	11	$700,000
1/19/2016	3	2	6055 Rockwell Street	$1,247,000	$1,247,000	12	$1,227,500

• Median sold price is $1,010,00
• Average price per square foot is $691
• January is historically slow – January 2015 had only 3 sales as well

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Security Patrols to Continue in 2016

by Safer Rockridge boardmembers

Did you know that lower Rockridge is patrolled by professionally trained private security guards in marked vehicles more than 100 hours every week? These patrols are coordinated by the nonprofit group Safer Rockridge and funded by more than 560 residents and five commercial sponsors, including Rockridge Market Hall, Cole Hardware, Daniel Stea/Stea Realty Group, Ron Kriss/Lawton Associates, and Simon & Saraya Motley/The Motley Team.

Safer Rockridge formed two years ago during the perfect storm of a major economic downturn and the evisceration of Oakland Police Department (OPD) services by budget cuts. Since the group's inception, its mission has evolved, but essential services remain the same: Safer Rockridge provides neighborhood security patrols, vacation watch services, an escort service, and a monthly newsletter to everyone in the service area, free of charge. To cover expenses, contributions in the suggested amount of $30 per month are requested from residents of the service areas willing to provide support.

The objective of the patrols is to create a visible security presence that deters crime in the neighborhood during peak crime hours. Always unarmed, patrol officers operate under a strict policy prohibiting racial profiling. Although the patrols serve primarily as passive eyes and ears, patrol officers have been responsible for a small number of arrests and have assisted residents to deter crimes in progress. Patrol officers also occasionally assist OPD with reports and information. A statistical analysis performed using public data in November 2014 suggested the patrols contribute to a notable reduction in crime.

Due partly to its use of crowdfunding to begin operations, Safer Rockridge has received international attention, including a National Public Radio (NPR) news story and a soon-to-be-released story in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gazette. Safer Rockridge also has worked with communities across the country to help set up similar programs.

Despite many plaudits, the patrols have generated some controversy. Initial concerns were that the patrols would be armed, would use racial profiling, would cause a reduction in police attention to the neighborhood, wouldn't be accountable to the community, and would change the fabric of the neighborhood. The all-volunteer directors of Safer Rockridge have worked to minimize these concerns, and have sought opportunities to listen to and address community concerns.

As part of this ongoing campaign to be a responsible community member, Safer Rockridge polled its 900-member email list in December, its second anniversary, garnering 210 responses.

Highlights of the survey reveal:

- 94 percent of respondents are happy/satisfied with the patrols
- 95 percent see no negative changes in the community as a result of the patrols
- 75 percent feel safer since the patrols started
- 87 percent want the patrols to continue for another year; 33 percent agree that an important goal of Safer Rockridge is to establish criteria for ending the patrols
- 78 percent find the escort service; 85 percent find the vacation watch; and 76 percent find the monthly newsletter useful.

Although the patrol cars travel over virtually every street in the covered area 2-3 times a day (confirmed by daily GPS tracking), 44 percent report rarely or never seeing the patrol cars on their street

Report: Safer Rockridge, page 13

FROG PARK EVOLVES

View the latest draft park enhancement plan revisions online at www.frogpark.org and email your comments to us at the address below.

Park enhancements are moving forward slowly; donations are still being accepted. To volunteer or to find out more about our group, **contact us**: info@frogpark.org

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Eyes on Rockridge

Mayor 'Dances' to Intertwine City's Growth with Heritage

Second of two articles covering Mayor Libby Schaaf's first year in office.

by Judith Doner Berne

'I'm hopeful I'm the right leader at the right time."

That's what Libby Schaaf shared when Rockridge News editor Don Kinkead and I interviewed her at the Rockridge Café, a year after her election as Oakland's 50th mayor.

That is no small hope, as Oakland, still struggling to get on its feet economically, battles to mesh growth with heritage, gentrification with diversity, keep its sports teams and turn around its crime and school drop-out rates.

That's why, Schaaf says, the first months of her first term were devoted to finding the right people to help her set Oakland on that course. "I am proud of the incredible team I've been able to attract," she says. "I literally stole almost everyone" – from Berkeley, from Emeryville, from San Francisco.

No, she didn't send emissaries far and wide. "You do have to do it yourself. I literally got down on one knee in her [city administrator Sabrina Landruth's] living room." Some of her picks had grown up in or formerly worked for Oakland. Their common traits: "A lot of talent and a shared vision," Schaaf said.

One team member is David Silver, the Mayor's director of education and a former Rockridge resident, who was instrumental in creation of the recently announced Oakland Promise, described on page 7.

According to Silver, "This Mayor has identified that you can't have a world-class city without a world-class educational system. She leads with her heart." At the same time, "We don't want this to be 'the Mayor's thing,' we want it to be 'the Oakland thing.'"

Schaaf is married to Sal Fahey, a particle physicist who is a director of software for an electron microscope manufacturer. The couple, who met in San Francisco, have two elementary school-aged children.

"My husband is an incredible support," says Schaaf, who tries to devote Monday and Friday evenings and weekends to family. "I try to do homework with my kids; I take them to school every morning. I try to make the important things. I bake cupcakes for their birthdays. I've been to every Halloween parade."

In some ways, she said, "My kids don't know any better" since her former positions – on the Oakland City Council, as public affairs director for the Port of Oakland and as an aide to Jerry Brown when he was Oakland mayor – also required long hours.

A moment when "I became like a Mother Bear" was when about 40 Black Lives Matter supporters peacefully demonstrated at her Dimond District home before dawn one day early in her mayoralty. "The crazy thing is my kids slept through," she said. Although she remained indoors, she emphasized her belief in the right of peaceful assembly. "My dad fought in World War II so people can protest their government."

"I'm incredibly lucky," Schaaf said, "because my whole extended family lives here." That includes her mother, Barbara Schaaf-Schock, who picks up her grandchildren from school twice a week, and "their super aunt [sister Chris Schaaf, a dental hygienist] and uncle" who are good for sleepovers. "My children are being cared for by family even if it's not always me."

Schaaf-Schock, who was Oakland Mother of the Year in 1996 for her impressive record of volunteering, said she never dreamed her daughter would grow up to be mayor of Oakland. "I dragged her around and she got to know Oakland and to understand service," she told me in a telephone conversation. "But I am not political."

It was a family friend, the late Mary Morris Lawrence, one of the first female Associated Press photographers, who got Schaaf interested in local politics. "She immediately took an interest in me," the mayor said. "She started taking me to League of Women Voters meetings. She threw my law school graduation party. She was always in my life guiding me." Lawrence, who died in 2009 at the age of 95, "would have gotten such a kick out of seeing me be the mayor of Oakland."



When she met with The Rockridge News in late November, Mayor Libby Schaaf discussed preliminary details of her recently announced plan to open the path to college to more Oakland students. (See page 7.) /D. Kinkead

"Basically our lives haven't changed" since Schaaf became mayor, said her mom, except that her volunteerism has taken a slightly new twist. You will find her greeting visitors and answering phones at the front desk of the Mayor's Office on Monday

Mayor Schaaf, page 7



Time Flies! It's been 30 years now since Realty Advocates opened its office in Rockridge. With several hundred sales in the area to our credit, one thing has not changed over time: our consistent delivery of top-notch service, highest market prices, and as a bonus: the lowest commissions!

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Mayor Schaaf

from page 6

afternoons.

Does Libby Schaaf have any spare time? After her election, "Exercising kind of went out the window," she acknowledges. "But one day this summer, I was so proud, I got on my running shoes." Not long into her run, "I tripped and fell and broke my hand." Since the parade for the Oakland Warriors NBA championship was the next day, she appeared with a bandaged hand. Recently, she decided to try again, this time working with a trainer.

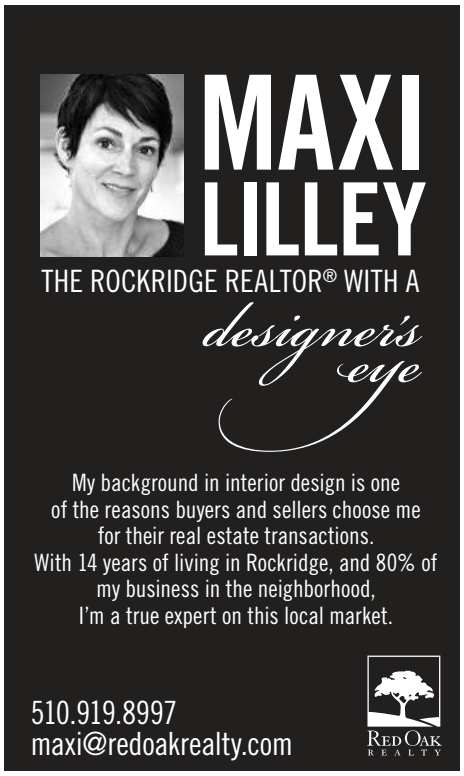
"I do belong to a book club," she added, and is proud that she sometimes is one of those who had time to actually read the book. "I love fiction." She and her family spent the winter holidays with book club friends and their families at Yosemite.

Much as she wants to keep Oakland's sports teams here, Schaaf has refused to stick Oakland taxpayers with the bill for new stadiums. She has spoken out against allowing coal to be shipped through the former Oakland Army Base and called on developer Phil Tagami, working with the Oakland Army Base Project, to respect the will and health of Oakland residents.

She is excited about high-profile businesses such as Uber and Sunset Magazine relocating to Oakland. And her proposal to beef up the rental unit supply by easing the rules on so-called "granny units" and residential parking for properties near public transit has prompted swift action by the Planning Commission and City Council.

"I feel like Oakland has missed previous opportunities," Schaaf told us. "I'm also a bit scared. You don't want to wipe out the good that's already here. It's a bit of a delicate dance. But then again, she quipped: "I was in advanced dance at Skyline High."

Your comments on this column and suggestions for future stories about your neighbors and neighborhood are welcomed: judyberne@att.net.



Snapshot of the Oakland Promise, a cradle-to-career strategy designed to triple the number of Oakland public school students who earn a college degree

Vision: To ensure every Oakland child graduates high school with the expectations, resources and skills to complete college and be successful in his or her chosen career."

Within a decade the Oakland Promise will:

- Open 55,000 college savings accounts for Oakland children
- Invest $100 million in college scholarships
- Serve nearly 200,000 students and families across Oakland
- Triple the number of college graduates from Oakland

Oakland Promise Components

The Oakland Promise combines best practices from across the country to ensure that all Oakland students and families are supported on their way from birth through college, launching into a successful career. Over 30 implementation partners and another 100 organizational champions are supporting this effort. Additionally, every member of the City Council and the School Board is an individual champion. There are four components:

1. Brilliant Baby

Through a two-generational approach, babies born into poverty in Oakland will have a college savings account of $500 opened in their names – setting an expectation for college from birth. Brilliant Baby will provide parenting support and financial services, including the opportunity for parents to earn financial awards as they support their child's healthy development. Brilliant Baby will launch as a pilot in fall 2016 serving 250 families in the first year. An additional 500 families will enroll in year two and another 1,000 in year three. Within the next decade, the vision is to reach all of the most vulnerable families in Oakland, serving approximately 2,200 babies and their parents each year at scale.

2. K2College

The Oakland Promise will establish a universal college savings program in Oakland Public schools, setting college as an expectation for all. By 2020, every Oakland student entering kindergarten will have a college savings account of $100 opened in his or her name, setting college as an expectation for all. Subsequent school and community-based activities will encourage savings and promote a college-going culture. Modeled after a successful program in San Francisco, Oakland's K2College will be piloted in the 2016-17 school year. Beginning in the fall of 2016, every kindergartner entering OUSD will be eligible for a college saving account that will be set up by the time they graduate elementary school. The vision is to expand K2College to all Oakland public school students by 2020.

3. Future Centers

Every Oakland high school student will have access to a Future Center where they will develop college and career plans. Staff will help students apply for college, financial aid, scholarships, and internships. Students and their families will be able access computers and technology at the Future Centers. Middle schools will have school-wide programs to develop college awareness.

4. College Scholarships & Completion

In partnership with East Bay College Fund (EBCF), every eligible Oakland student will receive a college scholarship ranging from $1,000 to $16,000. Scholarships will be phased in by school, contingent on funding. To ensure students graduate from college ready for career success, EBCF, in partnership with colleges and other organizations, will align services, providing counseling, mentoring, and peer support.

Funding

The Oakland Promise has $25 million dollars in expected contributions over the first four years out of an estimated cost of $38 million. Major donors include:

- Kaiser Permanente: $3 million over three years;
- PG&E: $1 million over five years;
- East Bay College Fund: $1.5 million annually;
- OUSD & City of Oakland: $1.25 million annually;
- Payette River Foundation is sponsoring scholarships for OUSD's Coliseum College Prep Academy (CCPA) High School

Information provided and reviewed by the Office of the Mayor of the city of Oakland.



Letters to the Editor

The Rockridge News welcomes posted letters and e-mails to the editor. Your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and city/neighborhood must be included in either for verification. Only your name will appear with your letter. Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity at the editor's discretion. Views expressed in any letter are the writer's own, and may not necessarily be shared by the editor, or by RCPC.

Increasing Density Forever Changes the Environment; How Crowded Should Our Neighborhoods Get? Who Decides?

Editor:

We see the typical pattern of development occurring in the greater Rockridge area being built right now – e.g., Pleasant Valley Road and 51st Street – is large bulky projects with multiple linear apartments packed on top of retail space with little or no set-back, thus looming over the street. Such designs emphasize the perception of objectionable congestion and urban density in addition to contributing greatly to both in reality.

Not considered in these buildings are modern design elements that optimize openness and visibility. This lack can be mitigated by ordinance. For example, a requirement that three hours of sunlight, as measured in the winter solstice, must reach each apartment is already in existence in Qinhuangdao, China.

The December 9, 2015, RCPC meeting with the city's Planning Department staff and District 1 Council Representative Dan Kalb regarding easing restrictions on building secondary units and the abolishment of their attendant parking requirements raises the ever important central issue: Just how shall we build a better city? Is ever-increasing density and congestion as dictated by our state and local politicians (founded on past population growth extrapolated in a straight line infinitely upward) just absolutely inevitable? No matter how increasing urban density is dressed up to appear more palatable (e.g., more affordable, more sustainable, etc.), it does forever change our urban environment and our quality of life.

How crowded should our city and our neighborhood get? Shall we be the ones to decide this or shall it be dictated by state government?

Step by step, seemingly inexorable changes in Oakland zoning and building regulations are being pushed that intensify congestion as they accumulate. Are the current planning and zoning regulations adequate to mitigate the impact of density?

The quality of life in the planet's most densely congested areas is found seriously wanting – we know this. Yet we continue to allow ourselves to be pressed – mainly by politics and politicians– to continue piecemeal poorly conceived urban planning that ignores the central question: When is enough enough? When will our area reach maximum urban density as we, the residents, define it, and what will it look like then? Will you want to live here?

— Janice Yager

We Need Better Urban Planning for More Open Space, Not Less

Editor:

Let's face it, people own cars whether we "count them" or not, so it would be a mistake to change the off-street parking regulations for new development. The result will be large, dense buildings with insufficient parking and more crowded street parking which increases the danger for pedestrians and makes driving more hazardous. If we must, let's create more public open space as a trade for less off-street parking.

Regarding more secondary housing units, I don't see those as feasible for Rockridge since lots are on the small side. But why further encourage people to cover what little green space they have with more buildings? Once gone, so goes the backyard garden, the trees and a quiet place to relax.

Both of these issues will have a negative impact on the quality of life in Rockridge. Instead we ought to strongly encourage the City to create more "Rockridges" via smart urban planning along our major streets (most of Broadway, lower Telegraph, San Pablo, International Boulevard) to replace underutilized commercial spaces. At the same time developers should be encouraged to create integrated open spaces/parks to offset the "backyards" not built, since adults and kids need spaces to play. The original Oakland planners skimped on open spaces and this is our chance to correct their mistake.

— John Dal Pino

Yes to Parklet in Front of Market Hall

Editor:

Thank you for your detailed response to Donald Swetlick's letter about parklets in Rockridge (The Rockridge News, January 2016).

I agree with Mr. Swetlick's perspective about a possible parklet in front of Market Hall along the College Avenue side:

- The location is already very popular
- The sidewalks are crowded
- Existing seating and tables constrict pedestrian movement.

Beyond that, research (Google "parklets") suggests that pedestrian-friendly space such as wide, welcoming sidewalks and parklets would not only increase district vitality

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Letters

from page 8

(impromptu interactions), people's health (increased physical activity) and global health (reduced greenhouse gases) but would also significantly increase merchant and ultimately city revenue. I don't see a downside to making Rockridge more of a people-centered place.

—Rachel Hollowgrass

I like living here but traffic and airplanes are troublesome

Editor:

I have been living in Rockridge for the last seven years and, for the most part, I am very happy here. There are, though, a few things which bother me:

- I live on Colby Street. Despite the speedbumps and stop signs, my street is much busier than I would like for it to be. Colby is used as a cut-off for people traveling between Claremont and Alcatraz. I don't know what can be done, but there is way more traffic on my street than the surrounding streets;
- Also, I realize we are on one or two airline flight paths. Usually this doesn't bother me, but the other day at 3:25 a.m., a plane flying low over my house woke me up. I have heard in other counties that neighbors make agreements with airports to deter planes from flying over certain locations and at certain times. Is there something that can be done about this?

— Philip von Furstenberg

Love Your Dog: Leash Your Dog

Editor:

I'd first like to acknowledge and applaud responsible dog owners who ensure their dogs and their neighborhoods are well looked after. But mainly I've written this letter for the woman on my street bitten by an off-leash dog while walking home from work (that would be me); for the two cats in my neighborhood killed by off-leash dogs while sunning themselves on their own property; for the off-leash dog that ran into the street and was hit by a car; for the many animals (dogs, cats and birds) injured or killed by off-leash dogs; and for the homeowner whose new plantings were ripped up by a "playful" off-leash dog.

Most amazing about this widespread problem is that even after damage has been done and tears have been shed, some dog owners continue to let their dogs run off-leash on city streets.

There are laws to protect our dogs, other animals, neighbors, public and private property, such as the following from Ordinance #12835 passed by the Oakland City Council:

"LEASHED: All dogs shall be leashed and securely and continuously held by a responsible person when on public property.

"NUISANCE: Dog guardians shall maintain control at all times in order to prevent the dog from trespassing onto private property.... All dog guardians shall pick up after their dogs."

View the full ordinance at: oaklandnet.com/attachments/17769.pdf

You and your dog, and your neighbors and their pets, are entitled to a safe and happy existence. Simply obeying the law is the responsible and caring thing to do.

— Margaret Wahlberg

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Rockridge Evolution

from page 2

Greg Brennan: Not affluent the way it is today.

Claire Lomax: This was not "Rockridge" when I grew up. There wasn't that kind of trendiness.

David Chilimidos, RR resident 1957-72, 79-82, 85-92: There was a mix of white, Hispanic, Italian, Greek and Portuguese families. Mostly blue-collar.

Eric Clausen: It was probably 90 percent Italian. The kids I grew up with all went to Catholic schools. I knew them from the neighborhood but never saw them in school.

Jeannette Lakness-King: I grew up on Hudson Street between Claremont and Miles. Within half a block of our house, there were three grocery stores. We also had a pharmacy with a fountain, a liquor store, two beauty salons and a dry cleaner.

Michael Kan, RR resident 1961-74, 2009-present: Chimes Market occupied the current Cactus Taqueria and Maison d'Etre space. Across was the Chimes Theater.

Greg Brennan: The Chimes Theater burned down when I was 8 years old, in 1963. There was a skating rink upstairs in the same building, a bowling alley downstairs.

Claire Lomax: There was Woolworth's where Cole Hardware is now.

Catherine Griffing: There was a newspaper stand inside The Hut. My Dad would get tobacco for his pipe, and I would get comic books.

Greg Brennan: Before the freeway, Shafter Avenue didn't bend to the right [at Forest], but continued on an angle through what's now the BART parking lot. It intersected College Avenue at a vee corner, like where Lawton meets College at Eddie's Liquors.

Annette Floystrup, RR resident 1955-72, 1981-present: We had a classic, flatiron Bank of America on that corner. With architectural medallions of the Christopher Columbus ships. It was a gorgeous building and it smelled divine inside.

Claire Lomax: It had brass window grilles, marble floors. Austere, classical. That bank was built to last forever.

E.G.: The Bank of America came down in 1966, along with dozens of shops, churches and public buildings in Rockridge, Temescal and West Oakland. The State Highway Commission decided what route the Grove-Shafter Freeway would take, with little regard for the disruption of neighborhoods.

Opposition "was strong then, very strong," Oakland native Ray Mellana says in Jeff Norman's 2006 book "Temescal Legacies," but ultimately inadequate to stop the multi-million-dollar project. The Oakland City Council voted in 1958 to green-light the State Highway Commission's plans, angering citizens who felt the decision was a concession to outside interests at the expense of Oakland residents.

A citizens' group, The North Oakland Home Defenders, tried to block the Grove-Shafter Freeway. Their lawsuit, dismissed by the State Supreme Court in 1960, claimed that the agreement between Oakland City Council and the highway commission was unconstitutional – an effort to transfer city legislative powers to the state.

Catherine Griffing: I remember being in third grade at Rockridge Elementary School on Broadway Terrace [1965-66]. Representatives of BART came to the school doing their PR. They showed us pictures of BART and talked about how fast it would get from Oakland to San Francisco. They talked about a tube going under water.

Pat Nolan, RR resident, 1957-present: Even when they started talking about it, things began to change.

E.G.: Hundreds of homes were destroyed to clear a wide pathway for the freeway and BART, from the Caldecott Tunnel to West Oakland.

Jeannette Lakness-King: Around 1959 we first learned that the state would be buying the houses in our neighborhood.

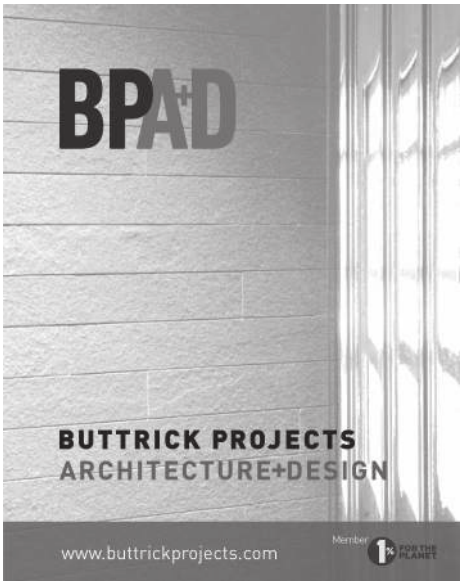
Claire Lomax: We were in an upstairs flat [on Oakgrove] and could look over to Miles. When the sun went down, you'd see this beautiful light on the eucalyptus trees. My sister had friends on Miles, and their house was going to be taken by eminent domain. My sister was outraged.

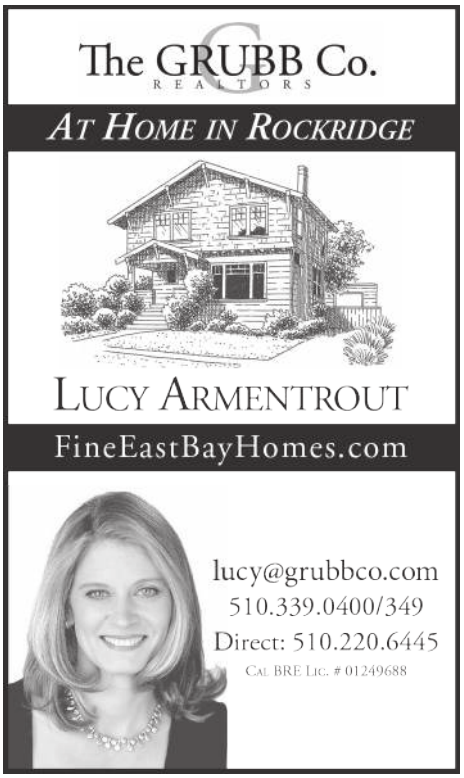
Evelyn Clevenger, RR resident since 1927: They took all the houses, didn't pay much for them. They gave it a fancy name: "Eminent Domain." I call it stealing.

Greg Brennan: It was crazy. They

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Rockridge Evolution

from page 10

were getting ready to tear down a lot of the homes. A lot of people had abandoned them, and we used to break into those houses. You'd find old appliances, refrigerators with leftover food. Kids would break windows.

Eric Clausen: My neighbor was an old British guy who paid me to go in those old houses and find stuff. He'd then sell it at the Alameda penny market.

Jeannette Lakness-King: My parents went to court to ask for more compensation for the house. They did not get much more, but we stayed there until it was settled. In the meantime, nearly all the other houses in the neighborhood that were slated to be demolished were taken down.

Pat Nolan: It very quickly became like pictures you see of places that have been bombed out.

Annette Floystrup: They started tearing houses down long before they began construction. It was terribly sad.

Jeannette Lakness-King: Ours came down in 1966, one of the last on the street to be leveled. We moved to Oak Crest Drive. [When the Hudson Street house was leveled], my mom got a call from one of the neighbors and we went down to watch. To my best recollection, they used a wrecking ball and took it down in no time flat.

Scott Donaldson, RR resident 1953-69: The demolition changed the neighborhood completely and seemed to last forever to a young kid.

Greg Brennan: They ran a wrecking ball through all of that stuff. Somebody could have made a fortune on the doors, the hinges, all the brass, old crystal doorknobs. There was just heaps of stuff and they ran bulldozers through all of it.

Claire Lomax: Residences were overgrown with weeds. Everything was just, like, gone.

Scott Donaldson: I felt betrayed. It was years before they actually built the freeway. Things were never the same again.

E.G.: A small number of houses were moved to other locations. One belonged to a family on Shafter Avenue east of College Avenue. After the freeway construction, that part of Shafter was renamed Miles.

Name withheld by request, RR resident 1958-present: I was married in 1955 and in 1958 we bought the house at 5682 Shafter, next to the Claremont Jr. High schoolyard. We lived there five years. When the letter came in the mail [announcing the freeway] my husband immediately went into action. He said, "If this house goes down I go with it." We moved the house to Ivanhoe St. They gave us the value of the home and the lot, so we had that money to buy this lot.

In the next issue, we'll look back at the impacts made on Rockridge during the construction of the Grove-Shafter Freeway and BART.



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Scouting Awards

from page 4

In addition, each scout must complete an extensive self-directed service project including planning, organizing, leading and completing the project prior to his 18th birthday. On average, scouts spend around 130 hours on their project.

"It takes a great amount of service, discipline, perseverance, and commitment to become an Eagle Scout," says Troop 202 Scoutmaster Rick Prime. "These young men worked hard to achieve the honor."

Cheyenne Jacobson attended Chabot, Montera and Oakland Tech, and will be attending Merritt College this spring, pursuing studies relating to business and finance. His Eagle project at Redwood Regional Park involved planting native redwood trees, running drip irrigation to them, removing invasive species and building a fence to protect newly planted trees.

Kyle Merritt grew up in Rockridge. He was home-schooled prior to attending Oakland Tech, where he landscaped, built a path, and planted drought-resistant species in a heavily trafficked area of school for his Eagle project. Kyle is taking a gap year and serving as a volunteer reading partner at Sankofa Elementary as he prepares to start college next year.

John Oberholzer is a freshman at Stanford, where he is studying chemistry. An accomplished musician, he was home schooled and attended the Conservatory of Vocal and Instrumental Arts (COVA) for middle school prior to Oakland Tech. For his Eagle project, he rebuilt two exterior staircases and painted the interior of a shelter for women and children in North Oakland.

Connor Prime attended Chabot and Claremont and is currently a senior at Oakland Tech. He created paved patios, refurbished a bench, and landscaped an outdoor recreation area at a transitional housing complex for formerly homeless and abused women in Alameda for his Eagle project. He plans to study marketing and creative writing when he starts college in the fall.

Jack Lewis Honored

As part of the recognition ceremony, an honorary Spirit of the Eagle award was presented to the Lewis family. The special posthumous national award memorializes scouts for their contributions to scouting and to the troop. Jack Lewis was a member of Cub Scout Pack 274 while a student at Chabot, and joined Boy Scout Troop 202 while at Claremont Middle School.



Jack Lewis

"Troop 202 is a very active, close-knit and inclusive group. Jack was a member of our family, and his enthusiasm and sense of adventure were immeasurable. These young men had many adventures together, backpacking in the mountains of New Mexico and the Trinity Alps in Northern California, sailing in the Florida Keys and summiting Mount Shasta, among others," said Prime. "Jack was on the path to becoming an Eagle, and it was an honor to recognize him with our Eagle Scouts."

Troop 202 has been active since it was chartered in 1927 and is the second-oldest Boy Scout troop in Oakland. The troop draws scouts from the Rockridge and Montclair districts and all across Oakland.

Information about Troop 202 and its activities is available at the Troop website: www.troop-202.net

School Auctions

from page 3

Cruise." Suggested: cruise wear; formal wear; or pirate wear. Tickets: $25 in advance, $30 at the door. Dance, mingle and support the Peralta Parents Teachers' Group's annual budget. The PPTG funds what the district doesn't: Peralta's art, music, language, sports, gardening education, librarian and teacher support staff. More info and advance tickets: Peralta.Auction@gmail.com.

• **Oakland Tech Auction: Saturday, March 12**. With less than two months to go, Tech is ready for your donations. Those valuable contributions ensure our success. Ideas: Restaurant gift certificates, vacation rentals, homemade jewelry and artwork, homemade desserts, anything else that would generate bidder buzz. Donations are tax deductible (Tax Id 94-6174624). Contact audreymyoung@gmail.com with donations or questions. More info at oaklandtech.com/staff/ptsa-2/auction/. Need an item picked up? Contact auctiondonation@oaklandtech.com. Mail donations to: Oakland Tech Auction, PO Box 22524, Oakland, CA 94609.

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In Memoriam
Ray Raineri (1938–2015)

The Oakland Heritage Alliance (OHA) community has lost a guiding light with the passing of local historian and tour leader Raymond Raineri. Ray, as he was popularly known, devoted himself to collecting memories of his childhood North Oakland neighborhood, and his Italian American heritage. Following his retirement, Ray's enthusiasm for North Oakland and Temescal history found a wide range of outlets including curating numerous exhibits at the History Room at the Oakland Main Library, and contributing articles to local newspapers such as the Piedmonter and the Montclarion.

Ray led the popular OHA summer walking tours of Temescal for several years and he co-authored the publication, "A Walk Through Temescal," a self-guided tour pamphlet, published by OHA in 1997.

According to fellow Temescal resident Jeff Norman, who worked with Ray on many projects, Ray had amassed a very large collection of historic photographs of North Oakland and he generously shared his collection and knowledge with one and all.

He was excited to take part in the Oakland Technical High School Centennial Project this past year and was a proud alumnus of Tech. He also attended and graduated from San Francisco State with a degree in Sociology.

Ray's expertise ranged from early public transit in Oakland (the Key System trains and ferries) to the Oakland Oaks baseball team, to the city's Italian American heritage. He was a long-time member of the Colombo Club, an Italian social club located on Claremont Ave, across from the DMV. The club was formed by Italian quarry workers who had moved to Oakland after the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906.

Whenever he spoke, said Jeff, "Ray always brought his unique style, combining historic fact with personal anecdote, in a way only someone who has lived it can provide."

A celebration of his life was held in November.

— Annalee Allen

Annalee Allen is Tours Coordinator for the Oakland Tours Program, a long-time member of the Oakland Heritage Alliance, and an Oakland Tribune columnist.

Report: Safer Rockridge

from page 5

- 75 percent believe that patrol officers should make citizens' arrests for property crimes, including, if necessary, using reasonable force as permitted by law
- 71 percent feel that the patrol officers should not be armed
- 65 percent want patrol hours to be increased.

Among survey respondents, 83 percent are homeowners, 11 percent are renters, and 6 percent are business owners and "other."

Considering the survey results, Safer Rockridge will continue to operate at least through the end of 2016, and the patrols will continue to be unarmed.

Despite respondents' desire for more citizen's arrests, Safer Rockridge feels the patrols should emphasize passive enforcement absent immediate threat of injury to a person. That said, this policy is under review. Additional issues raised by poll data are also under consideration.

Safer Rockridge shares the goal of increased patrol hours, but hours are constrained by the amount of contributions. While most supporters pay monthly using PayPal deductions, others pay at irregular intervals by check or credit card, so total monthly contributions (and thus, patrol hours) fluctuate.

Safer Rockridge is also working to make patrol vehicles more visible, which should aid visual deterrence and improve public confidence.

Safer Rockridge is a nonprofit public benefit corporation. All of its directors are volunteers and it has no employees. Contributions to Safer Rockridge are not tax-deductible; the application for 501(c)(3) status was denied by the IRS.

To get current patrol hours, to contribute, or to be added to the Safer Rockridge newsletter mailing list, email SaferRockridge@gmail.com. You may also register at www.SaferRockridge.org.

Ed. Note: Survey findings have been rounded to the nearest whole number.



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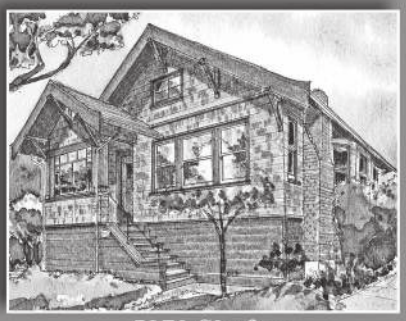
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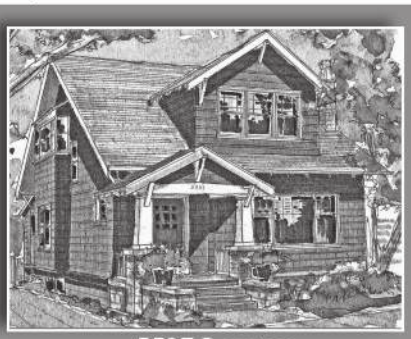
Couples Workshop!

Build communication and intimacy skills. Friday, Feb. 26, 7-9pm, Rockridge, $60/couple. Safe and fun atmosphere. Sharing with group is totally optional. Diversity always welcome. Esther Lerman, MFT (#MFC22591). Call 510/548-6241 or email estherlermanmft@gmail.com. www.oaklandcouplestherapy.com

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by Ron Kriss, Broker


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425 Clifton sold for $910,000
427 Clifton sold for $1,300,000
429 Clifton sold for $925,000


5727 Vicente
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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

Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

Discuss crime and public safety with reps of OPD. 2nd Thurs. every other month starting in Feb. (2/11) 7:30pm. Rockridge Library, 5366 College (at Manila). More info: www.rockridgencpc.com or chair@rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

For all ages: Computer Tutors. Get help with basic computer skills, email, and e-book & audio book downloads. You can bring your own electronic devices. Drop-ins welcomed every Saturday, 2 – 4pm.

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:

- **Making Valentines:** Sat, 2/ 6, 3-4:30pm. Bring a list of classmates –make one valentine for everyone. All materials provided. Ages 5 to 13 years. (Children under 9 years old must come with an adult.)
- **90-Second Newbery Film Festival:** Short films made by children and teens. The films will be screened and celebrated here on Sat., Feb.13 at noon. **Free for all ages** and **free popcorn**. See details and **get your free ticket to save a spot** at: http://jameskennedy.com/90-second-newbery/.
- **African Queen Dance Company:** Workshop and short performance to celebrate African American Heritage Month. All ages welcome. Tues, 2/23, 7pm.

CALLING ALL 'TWEENS: 6:30 – 7:45pm. A monthly, tween-directed writing, reading, crafts, and community volunteer group. Each month we will plan the next 3 months of tween-choice activities. **February Activity: Pen Pals. Art supplies, snacks, and camaraderie provided free to all participants ages 9 to 12 years.** More info: Children's Librarian Erica Siskind, 597-5017.

FOR TEENS

- **Teen Advisory Board (ages 14-18):** Meet with other teens, plan and organize library activities, and get community service credit for school. 1st Sat. each month, 1 to 2pm.
- **Teen 'Scape:** Play video & board games; make crafts; do homework. Snacks provided. Tues, Thurs, and Fridays: 3:30 -5 pm and Wednesdays: 1:30 - 5 pm.
- **Craft Program to celebrate Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day:** Make felt fortune cookies and felt flowers. 2/10 at 2pm.

FOR ADULTS

- **eBook Help:** download eBooks to your Kindle, Nook, smartphone, or laptop. Tuesdays **(by appointment)**, 6 – 7:30pm. Make appt. at the library or online at www.oaklandlibrary.org. Call 597-5017 for more info.
- **Lawyers in the Library:** Free legal advice and referrals. **1st Tues each month, NOTE: New times and procedures starting in Feb: 6 – 8pm.** We will use a lottery drawing 15 minutes beforehand to determine who may see the lawyer. (Advance sign-up starts 5 pm at adult reference desk, **must be present for lottery drawing at 5:45**. Call day of program to confirm: 597-5017.
- **A Journey to the Heart of Cheddar:** Cheese monger **Gordon Edgar** will read from his new book, *Cheddar: A Journey to the Heart of America's Most Iconic Cheese*, and provide some tasty samples. Tues., Feb., 9, 7pm. Sponsored by Friends of the Rockridge Public Library.
- **Radical Fiction: Authors Exploring Activism.** Three local authors, **Barbara Rhine** (*Tell No Lies*), **Steve Masover** (*Consequence*), and **Kate Raphael** (*Murder Under the Bridge*) will read and discuss how they express progressive political activism through literary fiction. **Coffee and light refreshments served.** Sat, 2/20, 11:30am.
- **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 Sat. each month,** 1 to 5pm; wheelchair-accessible. Sponsored by the Calif. Writers Club, Berkeley branch. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.

LIBRARY HOURS

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

Closed: Sun and Mon; also Fri, 2/12 and Tues, 2/16.

Diesel Book Readings and Events

FREE and open to the public.

- Sun, 2/14, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Ginger Murchison** and **Murray Silverstein**.
- Tues 2/16, 7pm. **Idra Novey:** *Ways to Disappear*
- Tues, 2/ 23, 6:30pm. **Norman Fischer** and **Susan Moon:** *What is Zen?: Plain Talk for a Beginner's Mind*.
- Fri, 2/26, 9pm (doors open 8:30). **Music Performance** with bluegrass banjo and guitar impresario **Avram Siegel** with guitarist **Beppe Gambetta** and **Mike Witcher** on dobro. Note: $15 cover charge; all proceeds go to musicians.
- Sun, 2/28, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Merle Lyn Bachman** and **Sharon Coleman**.
- Thurs, 3/2, 6:30pm. **Escape from Reality – Freud's Bar** hosted by **Marc Wallis**, LCSW, presents *The Bottle Let Me Down*.
- Tues, 3/8, 7pm. **Wes "Scoop" Nisker:** *You Are Not Your Fault and Other Revelations: The Collected Wit and Wisdom of Wes "Scoop" Nisker.*

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

Wisteria Ways House Concert

Yolo Mombo: Transglobal Rhythms. Sat., Feb 20, 8pm (house opens at 7:30pm). Sample tunes at http://www.yolomambo.com/Store.html. 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.

22nd Annual College Prep Book Fair

Used book sale fundraiser: all kinds of books and at great prices. Sat, 2 /27, 10am to 4pm and Sun, 2/28, 10am to 1pm with **a bag of books for $10 at noon.** College Preparatory School, 6100 B'way, Buttner Auditorium. **Free parking in our lot.** Info: 420-2351.

North Oakland Senior Center

- **FREE AARP Income tax preparation help**. Sign up now; call or walk in for appointments. Thursdays February 4 to April 14. More info: 597-5085.
- **Trip to Pacific Orchid Expo at Fort Mason**: Fri, 2/26. $35. including lunch in San Francisco.
- **Seniors Small Business Workshop**: Assistance from City of Oakland Revenue Division staff with forms and revenue payments. Thurs, 2/18, 10am to 12:30pm. More info at Oakland Business Tax Office, 238-3704.

Annual $12 membership entitles seniors 55 + to discounts on activities and trips. Mon. – Fri., 9am to 4:30pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.

Secondary Units

from page 3

address Airbnb – whereas a Berkeley law relating to secondary units does – existing Oakland zoning regulations prohibit short-term rentals for less than one week. Ranelletti said that Airbnb rentals are a city-wide issue receiving plenty of attention but that no timeline has been established for creating new regulations for such rentals. The city collects tax revenue from Airbnb, but the intent of the new secondary unit regulations is to create housing for long-term residents, not to create competition for local hotels. On the other hand, secondary unit rental owners would receive income from Airbnb, some of it likely to be spent locally, so financial impacts of either course are hard to quantify. The subject is currently being debated nationwide at the U.S. Conference of Mayors, so it is reasonable for Rockridge residents to raise these concerns and ask that the City Council address this issue.

The Mayor's Office will soon release plans for Oakland's housing problems. Although secondary units are expected to be a part of the overall solution, exactly how that might happen continues under discussion.

RCPC Election

from page 1

process is serious and has important results. Nationally or locally, voting for office holders is an important civic duty.

RCPC offers the annual opportunity for service-minded Rockridge residents to declare their candidacy for a position on the RCPC board of directors if they are 18 years or older and live within RCPC boundaries: See www.rockridge.org/boundaries.

Elections will be held in April. This is your opportunity to help promote community projects in Rockridge, to help represent Rockridge to the City on matters of zoning, development and crime, and to be involved in strengthening your community. Email info@rockridge.org not later than close of business **March 2** to tell the board of your interest and to receive an informational package. Visit www.rockridge.org/about for more details.



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