THE Rockridge News
The Rockridge News 30
www.rockridge.org
VOL. 31 ■ NO. 3 ■ ISSUE NO. 331 ■ March 5, 2016 CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES
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The Rockridge News Marks 30 Years of Headlines

Yesteryear's Headlines; Still Today's News

Expanding from telephone pole broadsheets to today's 16-page publication, The Rockridge News has offered analysis of development and city planning proposals, and news of events of community interest for 30 years. With your continuing support, we look forward to an enduring Rockridge. Don Kinkead, Editor.



The Rockridge News
March 13, 1986 Vol. 1 No. 1
WHEN IS THE NEXT MEETING?
Dreyer's Plans Final!
Ready for City Submission
Presentation to Neighborhood Scheduled
Shafter Avenue Housing Proposed by Wilson Bros.

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www.rockridge.org
RCPC General Meeting Agenda
Frog Design Day Has Everyone Hopping!
April 19 RCPC General Meeting to Feature City Attorney John Russo
Earth Day
Temescal Creek Cleanup Brigade Mobilizes For Action
CPC Board Elections

THE Rockridge News
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Surrounding Multi-Unit Projects: Many New Neighbors for Rockridge
ebruary Town Hall: RCPC Community Grants Program
PC Invites Candidates r April Board Election

RCPC Presents, Discusses Community Grant How-to

"I'll Grant You That..."

by Leonora Sea, RCPC boardmember

A dozen Rockridge neighbors gathered at the most recent Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) Town Hall on February 18 to learn about the new Community Grants for Community-led Projects initiative of the RCPC board.

The program is rooted in the concept that the people who live in an area often have the best understanding of how to make it better. The assembled group amply illustrated how true this is, as participants listened, asked excellent questions, and exchanged some great ideas for using the first round of funds for improving Rockridge.

Guidance about the program can be found at www.rockridge.org, but the audience also wanted to know:

■ What kind of projects WON'T be funded? Political campaigns or anything promoting a specific religious orientation.

■ Can service providers who don't live in Rockridge be hired? Yes, but please do try to find someone who lives or works in the neighborhood first.

■ Will projects only for neighborhood beautification be considered? No, RCPC hopes for a wide range of interesting ideas.

Suggestions and ideas coming out of the Town Hall include a parent-student-merchant landscaping project at Claremont Middle School; improved monitoring systems for some problematic areas around Chabot School, notably under Highway 24 at Presley; a Rockridge Running Festival; a Rockridge Music Festival; and a suggestion for upgrading overlooked potential green spaces such as the Claremont median near Hudson. A few attendees said they had glimmers of ideas, but wanted to think about them a little longer before sharing.

If you live in Rockridge, have an inspiration for a grant and want to apply, here's the date to remember: **April 1, 2016**. Applications must be received by the RCPC board by this date. Send your grant idea to info@rockridge.org. In total, $2,500 is available for grants in 2016. The maximum award will be $750.

Please follow the links to the handout and presentation at rockridge.org for more in-depth instructions before applying. Further questions may be directed to info@rockridge.org.

Part 2: A Look at the Past. Rockridge Residents Recall Impact of the Coming of BART and Highway 24



Three neighborhood boys survey likely play opportunities amongst the construction debris of BART and Highway 24 between Keith and Miles avenues.

From "Temescal Legacies," by Jeff Norman. Rockridge BART station and freeway under construction, January, 1968. "Courtesy of BART."

by Edward Guthmann

This is the second half of a two-part oral history of Rockridge and the construction of BART and the Grove-Shafter Freeway in the mid- and late 1960s.

Last month, a number of current and former residents recalled the years leading up to the construction, the displacement of homeowners and the extensive demolition of homes, shops and commercial buildings.

This month we continue with the beginning of construction in 1966: Fifty years ago.

Camille Trentacoste, Rockridge resident 1964-1971: Demolition and construction were a constant background noise of my childhood, since we were just a block away. I remember using the repetitive sounds of the pile driver as a metronome when I practiced piano.

Claire Lomax, RR resident 1945-1979, 1987-present: Pile drivers. BONG! BONG! That went on forever.

Annette Floystrup, RR resident 1955-1972, 1981-present: A huge amount of space was taken up by staging areas for dirt-moving equipment and demolition equipment.

Greg Brennan, RR resident 1957-present: It was kind of a mess with the dirt and dust. We were kids, we didn't care. I don't know what our parents were going through at the time.

Camille Trentacoste: There were constantly big trucks going up and down on Keith. I remember the pink cement mixers from Kaiser and big semis that hauled away the rubble.

Ron Fujie, RR resident 1965-1986, 1991-present: The construction site was a great playground for kids, with large open spaces and a huge pit that filled with water. We'd throw rocks into the pond. My friends and I got caught only once by construction workers and we were just

Rockridge Evolution, page 12

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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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Jo Ellis.....Asst. Editor
Judith Doner Berne.....Eyes on Rockridge
Jo Ellis.....Advertising & Community Calendar
Susan Montauk.....Business Manager
Don Kinkead.....Graphics & Layout

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Contacting The Rockridge News

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

Contact us at one of the following:
Editor: editor@rockridge.org;
www.rockridge.org;
The Rockridge News,
4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611

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 April issue is:
☛ April 2, 2016
☛ April deadline is March 17.
Advertising rates are $26/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or e-mail joellis1@hotmail.com. RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate. (Classified ad contact, page 14.)

Rockridge Community Planning Council

2015 Financial Statement

Fiscal Year January 1 – December 31, 2015

RCPC General Fund	P&L DATA (cash basis)
Income	
Rockridge News	$41,807
Kitchen Tour	$32,833
Interest Income	$16
Contributions	$1,323
Merchandise Sales	$239
Total Income	$76,218
Expenses	
Rockridge News	$34,684
Other Program Expenses	$1,110
Kitchen Tour	$7,585
Contractors	$6,294
Insurance, Permits and Sales Tax	$1,738
Misc. Administrative Expenses	$2,915
Grants / Awards / Scholarships	$5,100
Total Expenses	$59,426
Net Receipts	**$16,791**
Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt (FROG)	
Income	
Donations	$23,485
Interest Income	$17
Total Income	$23,502
Expenses	
Playground New Construction & Planning	$834
Playground Maintenance	$818
Misc. Expenses	$1,109
Total Expenses	$2,760
Net Receipts	**$20,742**
Scenic Streets	
Income	
Donations	$1,184
Total Income	$1,184
Expenses	
Misc. Administrative Expenses	$548
Total Expenses	$548
Net Receipts	**$635**
Locksley Gardens No activity in 2015	
BALANCE SHEET DATA	
RCPC ASSETS	
RCPC Savings/Checking	$88,758
RCPC PayPal	$130
TOTAL RCPC	$88,888
FROG Assets (1)	
FROG CD	$10,399
FROG Savings/Checking	$80,313
FROG PayPal	$1,832
TOTAL FROG	$92,545
Scenic Street ASSETS	
Savings/Checking	$41,426
PayPal	$0
TOTAL Scenic Streets	$41,426
Locksley Gardens ASSETS	$749
Total Assets (1)	**$223,608**
Liabilities & Equity	
FROG Liabilities, MIG invoice	$9,727
Equity	$213,881
Total Liabilities & Equity	**$223,608**

(1) Excludes $100,000 of Fourth Bore Coalition settlement funds towards FROG's playground improvements

RCPC Land Use Committee

The next Land Use Committee meeting is Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge Library. (**Note:** The library may be closed for several months for repairs. Check with the library or for updates at rockridge.org.)

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee co-chair

College Avenue Safeway Project: College & Claremont Avenues

Terramar Retail Centers, the current owner of the retail building in the Safeway Shopping Center at College and Claremont avenues, wants to lease the large space at the southern tip of the building – closest to the intersection – to Fremont Bank. Under the site's CN-1 zoning, this will require obtaining a Conditional Use Permit from the city. The Land Use Committee met with representatives of Fremont Bank and Terramar to discuss the proposal. Fremont bank is a local and privately owned bank

Land Use Committee, page 13

Appointment Adds to RCPC Board Count

A month ahead of the RCPC election to be held in April, the organization's board appointed a new member to fill out the remaining term of a member who had resigned prior to the completion of his term. This brought the boardmember count to 8, six short of the 14 prescribed by RCPC bylaws. The appointee's statement of his interest in board service and his photograph follow below.

Election Note: The application period for Rockridge residents to declare their interest in board candidacy closed March 2. The election will be held April 21 at the RCPC Town Hall. Watch for information in the April issue of The Rockridge News.



Mike Lin

My name is Mike Lin and I join RCPC with 20 years of brand, marketing, and innovation experience. I've spent the last seven years at Kaiser Permanente working with a team of designers to design better care experiences for KP's members and the staff who serve them.

My wife and I have lived in Rockridge for 3-1/2 years, and I decided to join the board because – simply put – I just wanted to help out. I'm grateful for all the work that past community members have put in to make Rockridge what it is today. As a new board member, I am excited to learn more about where my skills can be of the most value to the work of the RCPC and the community.





Join Oakland Cyclists — Teachers, Parents, Students, Volunteers — in a Ride to Improve School Funding

by Paul Vetter, ride organizer

How many bake sales does it take to pay the salary of a full-time school teacher or counselor? The depressing result of that calculation pushed some Oakland residents towards a political engagement to help schools more broadly instead of just through the endless cycle of fundraising and volunteering. The Ride for a Reason event is designed to raise awareness of and to change how the state allocates funds for public schools, while raising money for Oakland public schools.

Now in its eighth year, the Ride for a Reason (R4R) — to be held this year on May 14 — is a fully-supported bike ride from Oakland Technical High School to the Capitol in Sacramento, 109 miles. A second course option of 45 miles rides from Vacaville to the Capitol and is designed for families, students, and novice long-distance riders. Whichever route you choose, organizers provide all the support you will need to prepare for, have fun on, and go the distance on the ride.

Riders are encouraged to solicit donations and pledges for their ride. The funds raised go equally to six Oakland public schools: Emerson Elementary; Claremont Middle School; Westlake and Edna Brewer Middle Schools; and Oakland Tech and Oakland International High Schools. Each of these schools serves a diverse student population, and all of them need the funds that the ride generates.



Triumphant R4R cyclists raise their bikes aloft in front of the Capitol upon their arrival in Sacramento. /Courtesy R4R

Ride for a Reason helps provide the kind of wrap-around student support services at these campuses that the state budget cannot. California is well below average in the United States for funding its public schools on a per-student basis. Many public schools in Oakland do not have a PTA group to help provide educational basics such as a library, after-school care and activities, support for music and art, or psychological counselors. Although they might seem to be basic school services, the state does not provide those things, and many districts and regions must rely on private fundraising to enhance their schools.

Ride for a Reason tries to change this way of approaching public school funding. The R4R organizers believe that for California to continue to be a vibrant place to live, our public schools must be more than minimally funded warehouses to train students for standardized tests.

The Ride has grown over the last few

Schools: A Reason to Ride, page 4

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Next NCPC Meeting: The Greater Rockridge NCPC meets only in even-numbered months on the second Thursday of each meeting month. Next meeting; April 14, 7:30 p.m. **Location:** to be announced. (The Rockridge Library – our regular location – may be closed for renovations.) Email the NCPC at chair@rockridgencpc.com if you have items to add to the NCPC agenda. Go to http://bit.ly/1LgW9JC for the current agenda.

NCPC Notes and News

NCPC Has an Open Volunteer Position for Treasurer

We're looking for a volunteer to take on the NCPC treasurer position. The new treasurer will manage the organization's small bank account and likely work with the city as they decide how to handle providing funds to NCPCs – what paperwork has to be done, what reports filed, and so forth. The treasurer will be an officer of the NCPC board. If you are ready to fill this position, email chair@rockridgencpc.com.

At the February Meeting

■ **Residential Permit Parking**

In attendance at the meeting, Councilmember Dan Kalb was asked about the status of recent Residential Permit Parking (RPP) fee increases and the process to bring RPP to a given street. Kalb said the fee issue was settled. The city decided to raise fees from $35 to $82 for the 1st permit and $59 for annual renewals. One day permits are now $5 (the city wanted $9, but Kalb successfully pushed for a reduction); a two week (14 day) permit is now $25. More streets in the neighborhood now have permit parking, Kalb said. A street can get permit parking if the residents petition the city for it. District 1 has half the permit parking in the city, Kalb said. Residents interested in establishing Permit Parking on their street can learn more at http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Parking/#RPP.

■ **Report: Community Resource Officer Anthony Hutzol**

Officer Hutzol described a parking meter scam that is lucrative to its practitioners and annoying at best, costly at worst, to its victims. A driver feeding the meter may be tipped to the scam when money put in the meter does not register and no time is added. The hapless driver will likely either chance a ticket or move to a functioning meter at another space.

Hutzol explained that the scam generally involves two miscreants. One puts a rigged piece of paper into the meter's coin slot. The paper is attached to a fine thread, which blocks the coins from falling into the coin box. Later, an accomplice, the "ripper," comes by with a specialized hook and fishes the coins out. The rub for the public, aside from the revenue loss, is that Parking Control views the meter as unpaid and tickets the car.

Hutzol reported the scam can net $800-$1,000 per day for the crooks, a figure based on the net loss reported by the electronic parking meters.

"Data drives deployment," Hutzol said. He thus got an undercover team posted to watch for the team in action, but the scammers weren't out that day.

Police advice: If you see someone fiddling with a meter and there's no car in the metered space, it's probably the scammers. Report the evident tampering, if you can do so without attracting the scammers' attention.

■ **7-11 Presentation of Plans for a Store at 6606 Telegraph Avenue, site of White Horse Liquors**

Two representatives from the 7-11 corporation presented renderings showing the company's proposed plans for façade and interior layout changes to the building, and discussed security concerns and plans for the 24-hour operation. Officer Hutzol and audience members questioned aspects of the plan and offered staffing and security suggestions. An audience member suggested the proposed plans should also be discussed with RCPC's Land Use Committee. See the RCPC Land Use Committee report, beginning page 3, for more information.

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Eyes on Rockridge

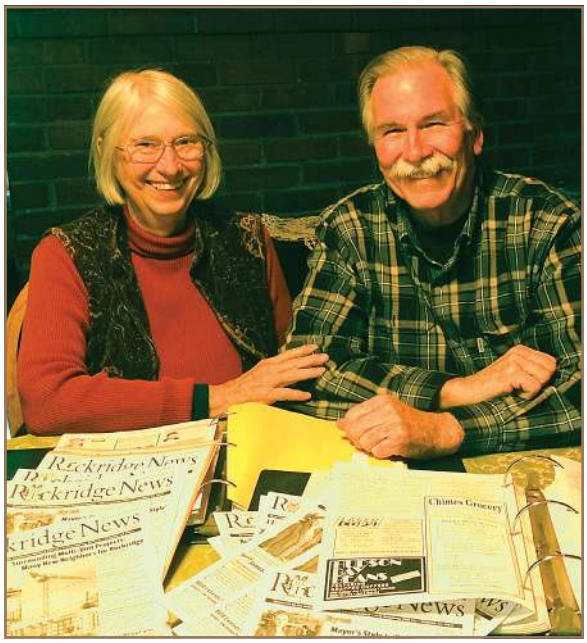
It's 30 years and Counting for Your Rockridge News

by Judith Doner Berne

From a cozy garret not much bigger than a walk-in closet on the second floor of his longtime Rockridge home, Don Kinkead gathers material for, edits, lays out and often writes for The Rockridge News.

Kinkead, a retired Alameda County social worker whose journalistic training was a semester's course at Berkeley High School, is founding editor of the newsletter you find on your doorstep each month – which celebrates its 30th anniversary with this issue.

Yes, I write for The Rockridge News – but only for the past few years. And, as a Judy-come-lately, I didn't know how the paper came to be which, as it turns out, is also why it remains relevant in this age of online journalism.



Bobbie and Don Kinkead leaf through archives of The Rockridge News. /Judith Doner Berne

That inaugural issue of March 13, 1986, printed on both sides of an 8-1/2 by 11 inch sheet, and many of those that followed, were meant to alert residents to development proposals that could be inconsistent with the "pedestrian and retail friendly" zoning the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) had proposed and the city had approved in the 1970s.

Realizing that the initial system of placing meeting notices on utility poles wouldn't reach the broader neighborhood audience, Kinkead, his wife Bobbie Kinkead and a concerned group of neighborhood activists – who reinvigorated the then-passive RCPC – came up with the idea of a regular newsletter to be sponsored by the organization.

Armed with a Macintosh IIe computer and the newly available PageMaker software, Don, careful to foster community input, christened the newsletter The Rockridge News. But, he told readers: "The newsletter title is a working title and subject to change," and invited readers to phone in suggestions. No one called and the name stuck.

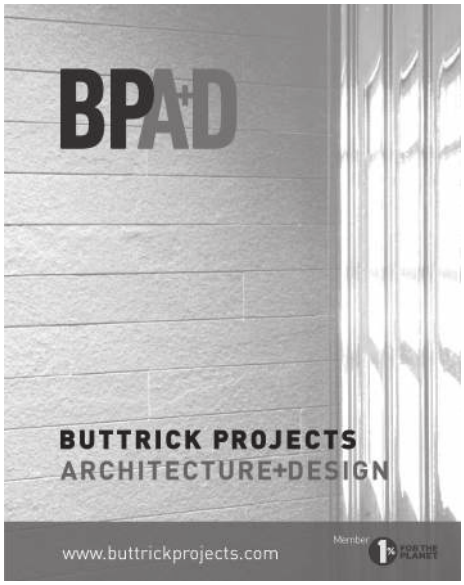
As a tool to enhance community involvement and to ensure uniform delivery of the newsletter, Bobbie and Rockridge resident Barbara Anderson, who became RCPC chair later that year, spent weeks mapping out a block-by-block distribution system staffed by Rockridge neighborhood volunteers that – though expanded – is still in use.

"Don Kinkead deserves every single kudo for slogging through those early years of production, issue after issue, month after month," Anderson told me. "Looking back at the first three issues of The Rockridge News, you can already identify the professional tone, even-handedness and attention to detail which has marked his editorial leadership…."

"There is no question that we would not have been able to be as informed as citizens had it not been for The Rockridge News," adds Annette Floystrup, who grew up in Rockridge and was also an RCPC leader at that time.

What was at stake, Floystrup says, was whether Rockridge would continue to develop as a low-rise, pedestrian-friendly

Thirty Years, page 7





Thirty Years

from page 6

neighborhood with a majority of individually owned businesses.

"I think The Rockridge News has been incredibly responsible for the sustaining of the neighborhood," she emphasized. "The paper immediately filled a niche."

And as I leaf through the archives, that is evident by the newsletter's seemingly organic growth. The second month's issue was a wee bit larger, printed on both sides of an 11 by 14 sheet. By the third month, it had expanded to four pages and, for the first time, announced its circulation as 4,000 residences and 200 businesses. It is now up to 5,800 residences, reflecting RCPC's expanded boundary.

Less than a year later, in January 1987, the newsletter grew to six pages, and that April, to eight. It swelled to 12 pages with the January 1994 issue and to its current 16 pages in September 1998.

Everyone told me, in one way or another, that the RCPC's function as a community watchdog and Don's and other editors' commitment to communicate that information paved the way for the neighborhood that Rockridge is today.

Cy Gulassa, editor for all but two years between 1997-2008, reports that "to produce an issue, the editor collaborates with RCPC, the community, the city and local schools." That means attending RCPC meetings, identifying newsworthy items and soliciting articles from RCPC and community members.

Thirty Years, page 11

Selected Headlines and Issues: Rockridge News; March 12, 1986 – January 11, 1992

Dreyer's Plans Final, Ready for City Submission. Presentation to Neighborhood Scheduled
March 12, 1986

Neighbors Quick to Save Engine 19
December 13, 1986

Rockridge Moving Toward Library Funding
February 13, 1986

Dreyer's New Development Concept: No Factory
March 12, 1988

Community Forum Slated to Help Shape the Future of Rockridge
October 15, 1988

Rockridge Attacks Dreyer's Project EIR
May, 1989

Why is RCPC Suing the City of Oakland? Staff Report Disregarded
September 16, 1989

Planning Commission Certifies Dreyer's EIR
June 17, 1989

Dreyer's Site Leveled; RCPC Presses Court Action
January 13, 1990

Dreyer's Suit Judgment Goes Against RCPC
November 17, 1990

Selected Headlines, page 11

Specializing in Rockridge Real Estate

* Low but slowly increasing inventory plus low interest rates = Great time to sell this year
* Rockridge Alternatives:

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285 Lester, 3 unit building near Lake Merritt, 1 unit vacant. List $799K

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Scenic Streets Update and Invitation to Volunteers

by Judy Weiss

After Scenic Streets founder and leader Peter Lund moved out of state in November, four Scenic Street volunteers — Lee Patterson, Robert Firehock, Betsy York and Judy Weiss — created the Scenic Streets Steering Committee early in 2016 to provide oversight and direction for the organization's four outstanding projects:

■ Maintenance of the landscaping on the Highway 24 on- and off-ramps;

■ Maintenance of the Claremont Avenue sidewalk trees and trashcans (including the landscaping beside the DaVita Dialysis property);

■ Renovation of the Hardy Dog Park;

■ Beautification of the Claremont Avenue median strip under the freeway crossover between the Hwy 24 on- and off-ramps.

Spring is upon us. We and other volunteers are weeding, pruning and applying mulch to the planted areas. Additional help would get the tasks done sooner. If you have a free hour or two, and are interested in joining the effort to sustain Rockridge community landscaping, contact Lee Patterson (510/923-1084) or Judy Weiss (judy_b_weiss@yahoo.com).



Claremont Avenue trees, trashcans and landscaping beside DaVita Dialysis

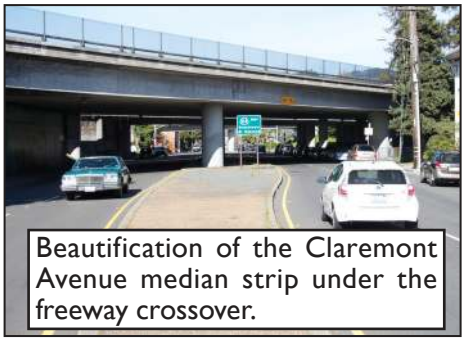


Hardy Dog Park Renovation.
Christopher Ames and Buddy at Hardy Park.

Help Scenic Streets maintain this main entry point into Rockridge. See above to learn how you can help with weeding, pruning and mulching to keep this urban oasis vibrant.



Landscaping of the Highway 24 on- and off-ramps.



Beautification of the Claremont Avenue median strip under the freeway crossover.



Foxtail Season: Problems for Animals and Their Guardians

This is the beginning of Foxtail season, This means big problems for animals harmed by contact with the barbed plant. You can help by watching for foxtails – see picture below – when out walking and yanking them out by the roots, putting them in a plastic bag and then into the trash (not the green bin). – Sari Kulberg, 653-6432.



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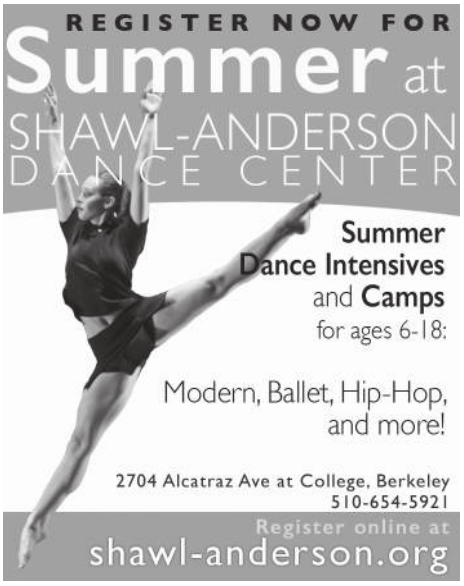
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Schools: A Reason to Ride

from page 4

years to become a fun event with more than 200 cyclists — teachers, parents, students and community members — supported by dozens of volunteers. Late springtime weather and the satisfying exertion of a tough athletic endeavor generate great feelings. Gathering on the steps of the Capitol at the end of the ride gets everyone fired up to support public schools.

Further information about signing up for the ride, volunteering to help, or pledging for a cyclist is on the R4R website: http://rideforareason.dojiggy.com. Contact ride organizer Paul Vetter (pavetter@comcast.net) for further information.



Calendar Love for Your Local Park: April 23 is Frog Park Earth Day Cleanup

With February's spate of warm, sunny days Frog Park has been teeming with families. We'll have an update soon on plans for new swings and play features to be installed in 2016, but right now we need to keep the current park clean — especially with all the El Niño rain and recent heavy use.

Plans are coming together for our annual Earth Day celebration and cleanup of Frog Park. Please contact us at info@frogpark.org if you or a group you're involved with wants to volunteer Saturday, April 23, from 9-12 for our annual Earth Day Cleanup. We'll have opportunities for everyone to take part in our ongoing efforts to keep Frog Park a safe, clean and fun destination for Rockridge residents and all our Oakland neighbors.

Volunteers are needed year-round to help with Frog Park's fundraising, communications and planning efforts — tasks big and small — many of which can be completed from the comfort of your home. Contact us at info@frogpark.org.



Mayor Libby Schaaf, FROG representatives and city Parks staff at Earth Day in Frog Park, 2015. Photo/Kenneth Rice Photography

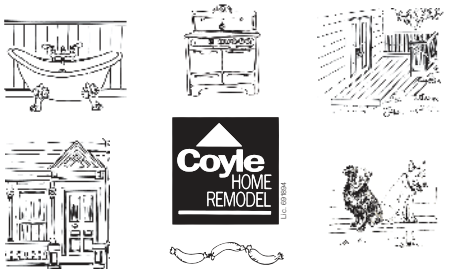




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Learn DIY Bike Repair on College Avenue


PHOTO/ALEXIS COLIN

by Don Kinkead

When Rockridge resident and seven-year bicycle commuter Cindy Warner saw one day that she had a flat tire, she did what she had always done when the rim hits the road: She visited her nearby bike shop.

Pushing the bike into Hank and Frank's on College Avenue, she was pleased to learn that not only could the flat be repaired, she could learn to take care of future flats on her own.

Store manager Karin Austin explained to The Rockridge News that the bike shop has a business relationship with ***Liv***, a subsidiary of Giant bicycle company, that sponsors repair clinics at selected bike shops. The clinics are taught by women for women, she explained. Tools and materials are supplied during the clinic. The company's goal, of course, is to spread ridership among women, but also to give them the ability to repair a breakdown on their own when cycling away from handy repair shops.

Pictured above are store manager Karin Austin, left, and newly trained bike rider cum bike fixer Cindy Warner, both displaying hands appropriately dirtied during the clinic. Another bonus: After the clinic, participants break for adult beverages, chips and hummus at nearby locations where such rewards are available.

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2/16/2016	3	3	5116 Miles Ave.	$1,275,000	$1,275,000	1	$1,525,000
2/19/2016	3	2	6033 Chabolyn Ter.	$849,000	$849,000	14	$1,107,250

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Thirty Years

from page 7

"Don's job as editor," Gulassa explains, "is to prioritize these views and squeeze them into 16 pages along with volunteered articles and community feedback. Before going to print, a committee of RCPC members, past editors and writers of articles review all the copy for fairness and accuracy."

"The Rockridge News helped organize the community on many local issues," current RCPC Land Use Committee co-chair Stuart Flashman says. These range "from land use struggles including the Dreyer's project, the two Safeway projects and the continuing efforts to keep College Avenue retail alive and vibrant, to supporting community projects like the library and FROG Park, to addressing ongoing issues like traffic, crime, and noise."

In his mind, "Don and the other editors over time made The Rockridge News one of the most effective community newsletters in the East Bay. They, and the efforts of the Rockridge News, have been instrumental in making Rockridge one of the East Bay's most widely known and most successful neighborhoods."

"It has also been a forum for community discussions long before there were online forums like Facebook and Nextdoor," Flashman says. "In spite of those faster media, residents continue to eagerly await each new issue of The Rockridge News."

Even so, current RCPC chair Brendan Havenar-Daughton says RCPC is exploring the design and launch of a more up-to-date website "to increase community awareness and inspire community engagement." The board is also looking to provide the paper in digital format, in addition to its hard copy version, to offer "a more mobile, friendly access to The Rockridge News 30 years later."

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"It's such a unique avenue to the community," says Havenar-Daughton. "Not many neighborhoods have their own newsletter." The 35-year-old, who grew up in Rockridge, delivered the newsletter as a youngster "as one of my chores."

That gives him first-hand knowledge of the importance of the 150-plus volunteers who bundle and who hand-deliver the paper door-to-door each month.

"Using Bobbie's innovative and efficient distribution system, our volunteers get 6,000 papers on their way to everyone in Rockridge within a few hours," says Jo Ellis, assistant editor and advertising manager, whose large dining room table serves as ground zero for bundling and boxing the newsletters for monthly delivery.

The paper is self-supporting, thanks to its advertising revenue. Ellis has a waiting list of display advertisers and gives first dibs to Rockridge businesses and residents.

Of Don, she says: "He loves putting out the paper and makes it fun. It never seems like a chore. You can often see his whimsical sense of humor reflected in the headlines."

To Susan Montauk, the newsletter's long-time business manager and a former RCPC chair, Don and the other Rockridge News editors and staff have sustained a newsletter that is an important means of communication and has helped Rockridge to be a unified community. "The more I'm involved with it, I see that no other neighborhood has our kind of cohesion."

For my part, it was hard to get Don to agree to this story. He kept reminding me: "It's not just me. It's a neighborhood group effort. The article should be more about the community and the newsletter and less about the current editor."

The father of two and grandfather of three, however, did want those who have moved to Rockridge more recently to know that RCPC and the newsletter were not obstructionists. "Nobody ever said, 'Don't build,'" Don told me. "Just do it in a way that works for the neighborhood."

He is pretty satisfied with the results. "I think it (the Rockridge neighborhood) turned out as people thought it would in the beginning – and then some. Nobody ever heard, back then, of a walk score."

Email judyberne@att.net to comment on this column or to suggest ideas for future stories about your Rockridge neighbors and neighborhood.

Selected Headlines, from page 7

EIRs Invade Rockridge: BART Pursues Massive Parking and Development Plans for Station
June 15, 1991

RCPC Opposes BART Parking Expansion Development
November 16, 1991

Schools, Neighbors Work Together to Rebuild Routine After the [Oakland Hills] Fire
November 16, 1991

Rockridge Station Garage Plan Will be Reevaluated, Says Agency
November 16, 1991

Rockridge Library Funding at Risk; Committee asks Community Support
December 14, 1991

Library Funds Approved!
January 11, 1992

More headlines from past issues of The Rockridge News will appear in future issues of the newsletter.

Rockridge Evolution

from page 2

told not to play there again.

Greg Candler, RR resident 1955-1973: Myself and two of my buddies actually got to ride in the trucks as they took loads up to the areas being built up for the freeway. We got to pull the levers that opened the doors and released the dirt. That was a big thing as a 10- or 11-year-old.

Eric Clausen, RR and Temescal resident 1959-2009: We used to climb the big concrete towers that hold the freeway, stand in the middle of them and look around.

Greg Candler: There was dirt everywhere, especially along Hudson. These big brown water trucks had a giant spigot on the back, and would spray water as the truck went down the street and flooded it. The water rushed down the curbs and we'd start at the top with little boats and see whose would make it to the end of the block first.

Pat Nolan, RR resident, 1957-present: They made such a wide hole; they were creating more than just a new freeway. You could see for blocks and blocks.

Eric Clausen: It was kind of like living in a suburb when they're building it from scratch, but instead of building houses they were building a freeway. Suddenly you had all this land where there was nothing.

Annette Floystrup: I think the hardest part for people to understand today is that eventually this became the highest crime neighborhood in Oakland.

Catherine Griffing, RR resident 1957-present: It just didn't look welcoming. A lot of storefronts were closed, and College Ave. was really kind of sketchy. I remember being dropped off by my middle school teacher on College Avenue and saying, "Oh, I can walk the rest of the way home." He didn't think it was a safe neighborhood for me to walk alone.

Claire Lomax: In 1966, I got a job carrying mail for the post office, and worked out of the Temescal station. I would leave the house at 5:30 a.m. and walk down Claremont. There was no freeway or BART, but everything was torn up. And the only noise was the plastic tags attached to the stakes in the ground marking things off. That snapping sound in the wind.

Pat Nolan: There was a real feeling of loss. I don't know why we stuck it out.

E. G.: In September 1969, the freeway was completed from the Caldecott Tunnel to the MacArthur Freeway and 27th Street off-ramp. BART construction continued until 1972.

Camille Trentacoste: The BART parking lots were finished very early in the process and they were great for roller skating. When the freeway was mostly complete but not open to cars, we walked as far down as Children's Hospital.

Greg Candler: It was kind of exciting, the whole idea of BART. You look at the trains now and they're outdated, but as a kid it was such an incredible "Wow" factor. They looked so sleek and shiny. Futuristic, almost.

Camille Trentacoste: I remember my parents being very pleased when the freeway actually opened. It made the traffic on Broadway much lighter.

Annette Floystrup: A huge number of people left the neighborhood because they lost their homes, and other people because they just couldn't deal with it. All the mess, the noise.

Catherine Griffing: My school went to sixth grade, and after sixth grade [in 1969] the majority of my friends all moved to the suburbs.

E.G.: College Avenue was hit badly. Freeway construction bored through the heart of the business district, and the avenue was closed to through traffic for several years. Shoppers avoided Rockridge.

Annette Floystrup: College Avenue was at least 50 percent boarded up, and there were giant gaping holes where the staging areas had been. This had always been a really vibrant shopping area – a real solid neighborhood – and when that feeling disappeared it took a long time to come back.

Eric Clausen: We used to go inside the stores on College Ave. that were closed down. There was a hat store and the old guy who ran it just left everything behind. Wooden blocks all over the place and hundreds of hats in different colors and sizes.

Claire Lomax: You could pick up property here for nothing.

David Jacobs, RR resident 1968-present: In 1968 my single mom bought our two-story, five-bedroom house on Hardy Street for $18,000. It was close to the freeway so she got a deal.

Kim Richards, RR resident 1969-1976: My parents paid $40,000 for our 4,200-square-foot Tudor home on Mendocino Avenue, which seemed astronomical to them at the time.

Marti Fischer, RR resident 1955-1967: I left for college in the fall of '67, then got married and moved to the East Coast. I came back in '72 and was totally shocked by the freeway and BART and how much the neighborhood had changed.

E.G: Recovery was slow and gradual after BART and the freeway cleaved the neighborhood. In the late '80s, Market Hall was built kitty-corner to the BART station and ushered in an upscale demographic and identity for Rockridge.

Annette Floystrup: We didn't roll over and play dead. Rockridge is pretty darn pro-active and [after the freeway construction] we eventually started what became the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Marti Fischer: Even though it's come back in a big way, it's not the same quiet, middle-class neighborhood.

Catherine Griffing: The choices of restaurants, upscale dress shops — that's completely different than when I was growing up. I was not keen about Market Hall coming in. I didn't like the height of the building, and I thought it was just going to take the character away. But I use it. It's pretty lah-dee-dah.

E.G.: A half century makes a world of difference. The College Avenue shopping district devastated in the late '60s is thriving today, and houses that sold for $40,000 are asking $1.5 million and up. For long-time residents the memories of a pre-BART, pre-freeway Rockridge are distant and sweet, the past irretrievable.

Thank you to these Rockridge residents who shared their memories of that seminal time in Rockridge history.

Greg Brennan	**Greg Candler**
David Chilimidos	**Eric Clausen**
Evelyn Clevenger	**Scott Donaldson**
Marti Fischer	**Annette Floystrup**
Ron Fujie	**Catherine Griffing**
David Jacobs	**Michael Kan**
Jeannette Lakness-King	**Claire Lomax**
Pat Nolan	**Kim Richards**
Camille Trentacoste	

Land Use Committee

from page 3

with several East Bay locations, but none in the Oakland-Berkeley area. They would propose to make their space available for community meetings, and to have evening events for their customers and the community.

The committee felt that, given the difficulty in finding a retail tenant, the bank use would be acceptable, and is recommending that RCPC not oppose the use. The board will vote on this at its March meeting.

■ Proposed 7-11 Convenience Store: 6606 Telegraph Avenue, Site of White Horse Liquors

A proposal has been submitted to the City to place a 7-11 convenience store at the site currently occupied by White Horse Liquors. While the site is outside RCPC's boundaries, it is just across 66th Street from RCPC's area. Therefore, RCPC has concerns about the project. The site appears to have adequate parking; would perhaps be a convenient place for local residents to pick up a quick bottle of milk or loaf of bread; would no longer sell hard liquor, although it would sell beer and wine.

The main concerns expressed were about the store's proposed 24-hour operation. 7-11 stores sometimes become an attractive nuisance, and have been the site of armed robberies at other locations. The committee therefore recommended that, to address those concerns, RCPC ask that the store have a security guard in the evening hours, and that, if it is to be open 24 hours, it be staffed by at least two people in the late evening and early morning hours.

Caldecott Projects Underway



Bicycle lane striping, a part of the Caldecott settlement funded projects, is underway on Upper Broadway. PHOTO/RONNIE SPITZER

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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. **Meets on the 2nd Thurs, in even-numbered months**, 7:30pm: Next mtg. Apr 14. Rockridge Library, 5366 College (at Manila). Confirm info at: www.rockridgencpc.com or chair@rockridgencpc.com.

District 1 Councilman Dan Kalb

Drop-in Community Office Hours at the Temescal Farmers Market, 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Telegraph) at DMV parking lot on the 3rd Sunday each month,10:30am-12:30pm. For times and locations of other Office Hours and more information from Dan Kalb: www.dankalb.net/contactdan.

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 EVENT:

- **Chabot Star Lab:** Tues, Mar 22, 7pm. Come into the dome of the Chabot Space & Science Center's mobile planetarium to hear stories about the stars. All ages welcome. Details: Erica Siskind, 597-5017

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. **March 8** and **April 12 Agenda:** Pen Pals, Friendship Bracelets, and Creative Writing. **Art supplies, snacks, and camaraderie provided free to all participants ages 9 to 12 years.**

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 -5:00 pm and Wednesdays: 1:30 - 5:00 pm.
- **Video Game Tournament & Pizza Day:** Super Mario Smash Tournament. **Pizza will be served.** March 12, 12:30pm.
- **Teen Tech Week:** Make Galaxy Goo on Mar 16 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 information and referrals. **1st Tues each month, NOTE: New times and procedures: 6 - to 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.
- **Lit Club:** Pick up a copy of Rex Pickett's novel *Sideways* from the Library, then meet at the Barrel Room (5330 College Ave.) to enjoy discussion and a complimentary wine tasting. Learn more about the rivalry between Pinots and Merlots and see if you can taste the difference. Due to the size of the venue, only the first 35 people to sign up in person at the Rockridge Library will be able to participate. Sat, Mar 12,1pm.
- **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 (3/19), 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.

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Diesel Book/Poetry and Events

FREE and open to the public.

- Tues, 3/8, 7pm. Local author **Wes "Scoop" Nisker:** *You Are Not Your Fault and Other Revelations: The Collected Wit and Wisdom of Wes "Scoop" Nisker.*
- Thurs, 3/10, 7pm. **Charlotte Shane:** *Prostitute Laundry.*
- Fri, 3/18, 7pm. **Melissa Broder:** *So Sad Today: Personal Essays.* Joined in conversation by **Katie Assef.**
- Sun, 3/20, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Laurel Blossom** and **Brian Komei Dempster**.
- Thurs, 3/24, 7pm. Calif. Author **Tracey Helton Mitchell:** *The Big Fix: Hope After Heroin*.
- Sun, 4/3, 3pm. **Michael Reardon:** instructional art book *Watercolor Technique: Painting Light and Color in Landscapes and Cityscapes*. A discussion and demonstration of his painting techniques.
- Tues, 4/5, 7pm. Publication Party for **Rachael Herron:** *The Ones Who Matter Most.*
- Wed, 4/6, 6:30pm. **Escape from Reality- Freud's Bar** (monthly talks given by local Bay Area psychoanalysts aimed at students ages 16-25, while enjoying drinks and snacks). **Michael B. Donner**, Ph.D. presents *Wrecked by Success*.

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

Wisteria Ways House Concert

Ya Elah: ensemble of vocalists, harp and percussion perform Balkan and Middle Eastern style spiritual music and original compositions. Sat, Mar 12, 8pm (house opens 7:30). Sample tunes at http://magnatune.com/artists/albums/yaelah-each?song=1. **Inside venue; not wheelchair accessible.** $15-20 donation for musicians (cash only at the door). 383 61st Street. For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

Jazz at the Chimes

CD release event with vocalist **Mary D'Orazi** and pianist/composer **Marcos Silva**, performing songs on their recent recording "To Brasil and Bacharach: A Tribute", joined by electric bassist **Scott Thompson**, drummers **Phil Thompson** and **Greg German** and saxophonist **Zack Pitt-Smith**. Sunday, Mar 20, 2 pm. Tickets at the door (cash only) beginning 12:30pm (doors open 1:30): $15 general; $10 srs. (60+) and students or in advance at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2493540. Refreshments and reception follows to meet the performers. Info at http://www.marydorazi.com. The concert series honors the individual stories and unique artistry of Bay Area jazz musicians in a landmarked Julia Morgan venue: Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. **Wheelchair accessible. Free parking**. More info: www.jazzatthechimes.com, chimesjazz@gmail.com or 654-0123.

North Oakland Senior Center

Programs include: Arts/crafts; health counseling; dancing and exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's caregivers support groups, computer classes/more.

- **Eat Smart. Live Strong**. **FREE** 4 sessions nutrition class for seniors presented by UC cooperative Extension. Tuesdays, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29 from 10:30am to noon. **Pre-register at 597-5085**.
- **FREE AARP Income tax prep help**. Call or walk in for appointments. Thursdays, through April 14.
- **AARP Refresher Driver Safety Class**. Thurs, 3/31, 9:30am -2pm. $20. (AARP members $15).
- **AARP Original Safe Driver Class** for first – timers. 4/5 and 4/7, 9:30am -1:30pm. $20 (AARP members $15).

Receive DMV certificate for safe driver insurance discounts.

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

Square Dance In North Oakland

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

Temescal Farmers' Market

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



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