THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

Remember: No Newsletter in August. No Mtg.!

VOL. 31 ■ NO. 7 ■ ISSUE NO. 335 ■ July 2, 2016 CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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Coming August 2: National Night Out. Plan and Register Your Block's Party by July 15– Details, page 4



Sunday, October 9: Out and About. A Day of Live Music, Street Entertainment, Gourmet Food, and More.

National Night Out August 2, 2016: Spotlight on 62nd Street

by Carrie Crespo, 62nd Street

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community building campaign developed by the National Association of Town Watch that "promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live." The National Night Out program culminates annually on the first Tuesday of August when neighbors participate across thousands of communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories and military installations, and Canada, as detailed on the organization's website: https://natw.org/about.

Many Rockridge

Spotlight on 62nd Street, page 4

Rockridge Gearing up for 10th Out & About Fest! Popular Street Fair Returns Sunday, October 9

The Rockridge District Association (RDA) is gearing up for its 10th Rockridge Out & About fair. The ever-popular street fair revs up Sunday, October 9. A festive, family-oriented event, it showcases Rockridge as a great place to live, work, shop and play. Mark your calendar now.

This year's events stretch over several blocks of College Avenue, starting at Manila and running up to Alcatraz to include the new Safeway store and plaza.

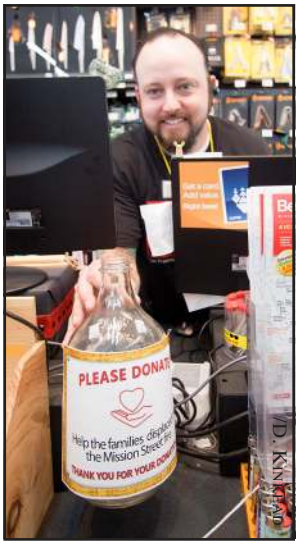
The event will blend crowd favorites with new activities promising fun and enrichment for all, including: live music on multiple stages; Market Hall's annual Picnic & Dance; the always-exciting Kinetic Arts Center Circus Stage; artisan booths; wellness activities; and tons of fun for the kids.

Watch for additional programming details to come soon, including a special commemoration of the Oakland Firestorm's 25th Anniversary, also in October.

Event Info: rockridgeoutand-about.com.

Presenting a large-scale street fair free to the public is no easy task. Festival organizers are seeking sponsors to make it all possible. Interested? Email festival co-producer Samee Roberts, samee@rockridgeoutandabout.com or call 510/550-4804. Your support will be acknowledged in festival marketing and on-site during the event.

Fire Destroys Cole Hardware's Mission Street Location



Cole-Rockridge Counterman Eric Filippi highlights a donation jar at the front counter.

Store Sites Accepting Donations for Displaced Neighbors; Further Statement and Photo Page 8

Cole Hardware owner Rick Karp announces: We have set up our Coins for the Community spare change jars and POS (point of sale) prompt donations for the residents displaced from the fire, where 100 percent of the funds collected will go directly to the victims who lost their homes.

Thank you for your support. We will provide updates in the future.

Joint Meeting: OPD Foot Patrols; Neighborhood Law Atty; Domestic Violence Safe House; 'Quakes

by Laura Schlichtmann, RCPC

The audience at April's joint RCPC/NCPC (Neighborhood Crime Preventon Council) meeting were introduced to College Avenue's newly assigned OPD foot patrol officer, Ofc. Ryan Jensen, and heard CRO (Community Resource Officer) Anthony Hutzol discuss recent crime trends in the neighborhood.

NCPC then introduced Farrah Hussein, the new Neighborhood Law

Joint Meeting, page 10



CRO Anthony Hutzol

Broadway Pollinator Garden Needs New Community Leadership, Support



The Broadway side of the Pollinator Garden looking north from Keith Avenue at Broadway toward Hwy 24. /Gordon Piper

The flourishing garden enjoys Caltrans support and services

Enjoy gardening? One of Rockridge's special gardens, the Broadway Pollinator Garden located at the intersection of Broadway and Keith Avenues, just south of Highway 24, is looking for a new Adopt-A-Highway sponsor to take over from the Oakland Landscape Committee. Oakland Landscape Committee Chair Gordon Piper has helped over the last 10 years in the development and maintenance of the Broadway Pollinator Garden, but now seeks a Rockridge area resident or organization to assume leadership in partnering with Caltrans on this distinctive public garden serving Rockridge residents and area pollinators.

Piper noted the Broadway Garden features an automated drip irrigation system, and that Caltrans helps in picking up green waste from the Garden. The garden features hundreds of roses, salvia, agapanthus, succulents and other attractive flowering shrubs and trees. A number of Rockridge area residents have helped Piper and the Oakland Landscape Committee in recent years in working with crews of high school

Pollinator Garden, page 12

Find more about pollinator gardens and the resources and support available for them at: https://www.fws.gov/pollinators/pollinatorpages/yourhelp.html#garden

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ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY
5366 College Avenue at Manila | 597-5017
Library program details/hours: Calendar, page 15

The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded March 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly (except in August) 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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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?

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Articles submitted for publication may be e-mailed or mailed to the above addresses. Submissions are limited to 600 words, must include the author's name, phone number, e-mail address, and city or neighborhood of residence, and are subject to editing. Views expressed in articles accepted for publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Rockridge News, its editor, or the board of directors of the Rockridge Community Planning Council. To reprint a Rockridge News article, please contact the editor.

Newsletter Advertising/Deadline
Publication date of the September issue is:
☛ September 3, 2016
☛ September deadline is August 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.)

RCPC Land Use Committee

The next Land Use Committee meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday, July 27, 7:30 p.m., at the Rockridge Branch Library, 2nd floor. Check the RCPC website at www.rockridge.org the week before for the agenda.

Land Use Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee co-chair

■ **Site of Current Barclay's Pub, 5940 College Avenue**

The proposal to replace Barclay's with a new pub, but one that would also serve liquor and might stay open later than midnight, generated a strong reaction from nearby residents. The City received at least 300 email responses, many of which opposed either the longer hours, the addition of liquor, or both. In addition, the State Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC) also received numerous complaints about the license transfer/amendment, and will apparently now hold a hearing on the application. The majority of comments on Next Door Rockridge were favorable to the proposal.

RCPC submitted a letter noting the neighborhood's concerns and suggesting that the new bar should retain the same hours as Barclay's did. The letter also proposed that if the license was to be expanded to include liquor, the pub have written policies in place to ensure that drinking-related problems would not result (a so-called "alcohol management plan"). RCPC has received no response to its letter and has not heard of any final decision on the use permit modification.

■ **Nautilus Mixed-Use Project, Telegraph Avenue Between 51st Street & Claremont Avenue**

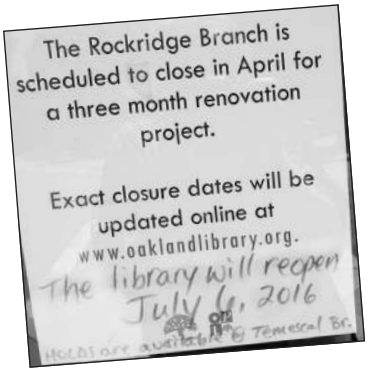
The Planning Commission approved this 204-unit mixed-use project after the applicant had incorporated several changes suggested by RCPC. Unfortunately, the Commission would not consider limiting the use of on-street residential parking permits by occupants of the project, although the project sponsor was not opposed to such a restriction. (Commissioners may have been influenced by one speaker's reference to a state Attorney General opinion critical of ordinances that impose blanket bans on residential parking permits for multi-family housing.) The Commission's refusal to act on this point places at risk those neighbors,

Land Use Update, page 10

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

FORL Seeks a New Board Member

The Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) is seeking a candidate to fill an open seat on our board. Our all-volunteer board collaborates with library management and staff to fund programs and resources not covered under the library budget. In particular, we're looking for a candidate who is interested in helping us grow our donor base. That person may have a strong sales or communications background, a comfort with public speaking, can balance tenacity with persuasion, and enjoys building relationships and communicating the value of the library to potential supporters. We're a creative and active bunch, eager to hear your ideas on how you might lend your time and skills to support the library we all love. The board meets 5-6 times a year on Tuesday nights. Please contact Carol Bieri at cbieri@pacbell.net with your interest.



There is good news about the library. According to a note taped to the front door, pictured at left, "**The Library will reopen July 6, 2016**." A more formal version of the message is posted on the Rockridge Branch's website at http://oaklandlibrary.org/news/2016/05/oakland-public-library-s-rockridge-branch-close-temporarily-repairs-updated. That posting lists the work done as interior painting, carpet replacement, and some light fixture replacement, and credits project funding from the Mello-Roos special tax district paid by Rockridge area property owners. — Editor



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Proposal: Renovations to Country Club facilities, including: Main Clubhouse - addition of 334 square foot expansion to women's locker room; Golf Pro Shop and Cart Shed - demolition of both structures and rebuild as one two-level structure with pro-shop above and cart storage below; Tennis Pavilion - partial demolition and remodel; Site Work - miscellaneous site work, extension of new accessible pathways, includes removal and replacement of seven trees.

Applicant / Phone Number: Mike Mussano for Ward-Young Architects, 925/283-3278

Owner: Claremont Country Club

Planning Permits Required: Regular Design Review for the renovation, including additions, demolition and reconstruction of country club facilities, and miscellaneous site work; and Minor Conditional Use Permit to expand the floor area of a legal and non-conforming activity.

Historic Status: OCHS Rating, A3.

Case Planner: Ann Clevenger, 510/238-6980 or aclevenger@oaklandnet.com

National Night Out 2016

National Night Out

Research shows that when neighbors know each other, neighborhoods are safer. Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (natw.org), NNO is America's night out and a time for neighbors to get together to have a block party, ice cream social, potluck, or other outdoor event to build neighborhood spirit and unity, which is the first defense against crime.

Host a National Night Out Party

The City of Oakland welcomes the participation of any neighborhood or community group in National Night Out, and encourages you to utilize this event as a way to bring people together and to have fun.

Go to https://solar.oaklandnet.com/go/nno to **register by July 15**, and to receive giveaways for the kids, and a special gift for the host.

Spotlight on 62nd Street

from page 1

residents have helped organize NNO events on their street in past years with the event becoming a forum for neighbors to meet each other as well as meet visiting elected officials while learning about new policing activity and getting departmental updates.

One Rockridge street in particular has gained recognition for its creativity with regard to community organizing for the event.

Since 2013, the National Night Out event on the 400 block of 62nd Street has featured food trucks, music and a bounce house for kids. The street has hosted a variety of food vendors, invited mayoral candidates for meet-and-greets, provided residents with updates from Town Hall meetings on safety as well as information about volunteer opportunities in Oakland. This neighborhood's celebration has grown in attendance over the years.



62nd Street celebrated National Night Out in 2014 under a canopy of trees.

In March, RCPC announced a call for proposals for its community grants program. RCPC has approved a proposal to help support the event which would allow Fist of Flour Pizza Company of Oakland to have their mobile oven and sell pizzas on the 400 block of 62nd Street during this year's NNO festivities: Pricing is $18 for a whole pizza, $10 for half a pizza, $6 for a quarter pizza.

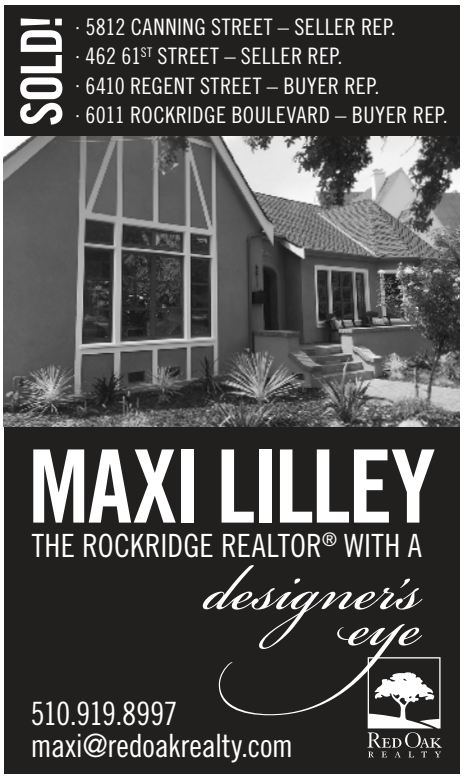
Also, there will be a discussion at the event about the current City Council measure regarding Independent Police Oversight and information about the Bay Area H.E.A.T. Coalition, which fights human trafficking (BAHC info: http://www.heatwatch.org/heat_watch/what_we_do/bahc).

RCPC encourages surrounding streets in Rockridge to stop by the 400 block of 62nd Street. Support the event: Buy a pizza and join the community crime prevention effort.

Following is the schedule of activities:

- 6:30 - 9 p.m.: Pizza service and bounce house open.
- 7 p.m.: National Night Out officially starts
- 7:45 p.m.: Presentations on police oversight and BHAC
- 8:15 - 8:45 p.m. (approximate) Dan Kalb (scheduled) and OPD stop by and talk with residents
- 9 p.m.: Event wraps





Volunteers Help Keep Rockridge and Greenbelt Healthy

by Leonora Sea, chair, DMV Neighbors, and RCPC board member

Next time you walk through the stretch of the Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt between Clifton and Cavour streets, you may notice that the tree canopy is healthier and more open, that your dog's coat sports many fewer foxtails, that the area is almost trash-free, and that the blackberry and ivy jungle is less intimidating.

For these improvements to the Greenbelt and creek, I'd like to thank the group of Rockridge neighbors and members from the DMV Neighbors Association, who spent the morning of June 18 weeding, picking up trash, pruning, digging, and making this section of the park ready for summer fun.

Especially wonderful was the participation of Luciano Cortes-Nicholas, who took care of the park for the Oakland Parks Department for many years before his retirement in 2014. Luciano is a Master Gardener and knows the park very well. It was a pleasure to have him join us with his expertise, and give gentle and graceful instruction on the care of many of the plants.

The June Interim Cleanup comes roughly midway between Earth Day in April and Creek-to Bay Day in September (hence the "Interim"). In some years this is the only organized volunteer cleanup event between those two days, and it's important to keeping this part of the park healthy and safe.

If you missed this cleanup, you still have a chance to help clean and green the Greenbelt and creek on Creek-to-Bay Day, part of International Coastal Cleanup Day on September 17. See you then.



Rockridge neighbors and DMV Neighbors Association members spent one morning in June on an interim cleanup of the Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt. Leonora Sea

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Volunteering How-To

How difficult is it to find a local project to volunteer for? Locksley Avenue resident Andrew Burnson, at right, found no difficulty at all. Equipping himself with a day-glo vest, a trash-picker and a trash bag, he began cleaning up the recurring litter at the Locksley and Forest corner. "I just like things clean," he said. When Locksley and the Locksley Gardens area get cluttered, he gets to work. Andrew has lived in Rockridge for three months.



/Don Kinkead

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Eyes on Rockridge

Out- of-Town Families Warm Up to Neighborhood Ice Cream Tour

by Judith Doner Berne

Getting the scoop on the Neighborhood Heritage Ice Cream tour took only an hour and a walk along several College Avenue blocks.

I met guide Linda Kay and two of the three families signed up for the tour (one was a no-show) outside Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream parlor at 3 p.m. on a splendid Sunday afternoon in early June.

The ice cream tour, starting its second summer, is an offshoot of the more extensive and adult Rockridge Neighborhood Heritage & Walking Food Tour, a mile-and-a-half route that encompasses six stops over two hours along College Avenue, spilling over to a few nearby neighborhood streets.

That tour, offered at 11 a.m. Sundays, can also be booked by private groups. For instance, on a recent Tuesday, a group of freelance food writers from six countries learned a bit of Rockridge history and visited A-16, Market Hall, La Farine, Ver Brugge, Zachary's and Dreyer's.

Both are the brainchild of Lauren Herpich, who with her husband headed directly for an apartment in Rockridge when they moved from Chicago in 2013. Expecting their first child and priced out of houses here, they are now in Lafayette where she worries that their eight- month-old won't be exposed to the diversity Oakland offers when he's ready for school.

Herpich, who used to lead all the tours before she became a mother, now limits herself to one or two a month and employs three free-lance guides. "It's a side job for them." The Sunday ice cream tour "is sold out every week," she told me over lunch at child-friendly High Peaks Kitchen. "It's a big hit with families. People try to find things to do in summer."

That was definitely the case for Pierre Bull, Ariana Rickard and their nearly two-year-old son Dimitri, who live in Pleasant Hill. To escape the heat, "We are always looking for things to do on this side of the hills in summer," Bull told me.

And it was an eighth birthday celebration for Vishwa Krishnaswamy of San Francisco whose parents, Thilee and Ranjani, also invited his seven-year-old cousin Vijay, who lives in Moutain View, to join them.

Tour guide Kay, who has a degree in food communication and has led food tours in Europe and in Virginia, began in the shadows of Dreyer's by asking everyone to name their favorite ice creams. We got a pistachio, salted caramel, mango and praline from adults and a mint and "I have five, starting with chocolate chip," from the cousins.

"I hope you'll be open to trying new flavors," Kay said, as they moved inside and sat down to sample Rocky Road, which Dreyer's lays claim to having invented. Founder William Dreyer, she said, opened this first and only ice cream parlor in 1928. Rocky Road, a combination of chocolate and marshmallow, was named, not for the area, but because of how rocky things were as the Great Depression took hold. "His wife used to cut up the marshmallows with her sewing scissors," she added.

"What's the next ice cream store?" Vijay wanted to know. And we were off to Cream, where he got to pick from among a variety of mini-versions of their ice cream cookie sandwiches which they brought out to the sidewalk on a tray. Several passers-by were eager to join in, mistakenly thinking they were offering samples.

After explaining that Cream was begun by two brothers in 2010, and only opened in Rockridge last year, Kay said that both the ice cream sandwich and the ice cream cone were reportedly invented in New York City around 1900. "Before then you really couldn't walk around with ice cream, you had to eat it in the shop" – probably a shoppe in those days!

Speaking of shoppes, we continued on to Powell's Sweet Shoppe, just over the Rockridge border, modeled after candy and ice cream parlors of yesteryear. Begun in 2006, the Rockridge version opened in 2010. "Here we're going to have gelato rather than ice cream," Kay told us.

Gelato is the Italian word for frozen, she said. It has less fat and less air than ice cream and can be served at a warmer temperature, which enhances the flavor. The group then retired to some seats at the back of the store, to watch snippets

A Cool Tour, page 7

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A Cool Tour

from page 6

from the original *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* film, which apparently plays non-stop.

"We absolutely love" being part of the ice cream tour," Shahrazad Junblat, Powell's owner, told me. "It's an opportunity for a food tour for children. We get to introduce people to gelato and we get to talk about our history. Powell's is about memories," she said. "What you ate as a child; what your parents ate as children."

Although the food tour often includes new residents of Rockridge, nearly all sign-ups for the ice cream tour are from elsewhere, Herpich said. But both couples on this tour said they would be back. "This was good. We don't really know this neighborhood," Rickard said. And the Krishnaswamys were excited by the many dining options they saw as they walked.

Herpich has tweaked the tour since last year, giving out smaller ice cream samples – half scoops and mini-sandwiches. "We started out offering too much. I don't want it to be a sugar tour," she said. And she requires at least one adult for every four youngsters because "We're not a babysitter."

I was surprised that Smitten Ice Cream wasn't part of the experience, but according to Herpich, their individually made-to- order ice creams, as novel as they are, would take too long to concoct. And, she said: "I think three stops is just perfect for kids."



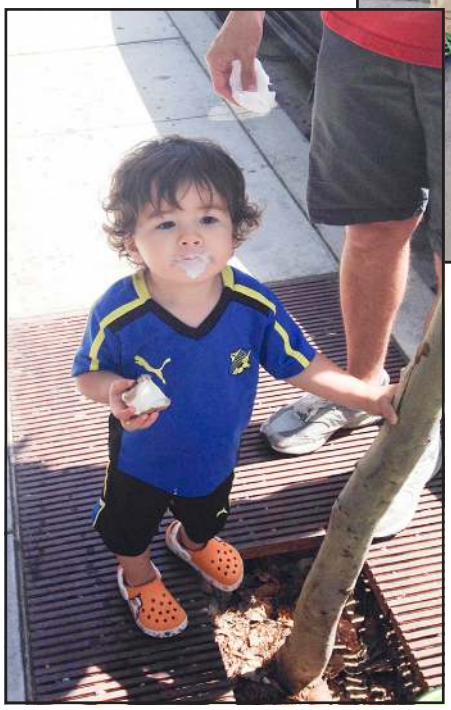


Photo right, upper: Cousins Vijay, 7, and Vishwa Krishnaswamy, 8, make themselves comfortable as they enjoy ice cream sandwiches at Cream, one of three stops on the summer-time ice cream tour.

Right: Dimitri Bull, even at 22 months, has got the "pin wheel" motion of eating an ice cream sandwich down pat. A clean face is not required.

Photos: Judith Donar Berne



For more information, go to rockridgefoodtour.com. One dollar from each ticket purchased goes to the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

To comment on this column or to suggest topics for future stories on your Rockridge neighbors or neighborhood, email judyberne@att.net.

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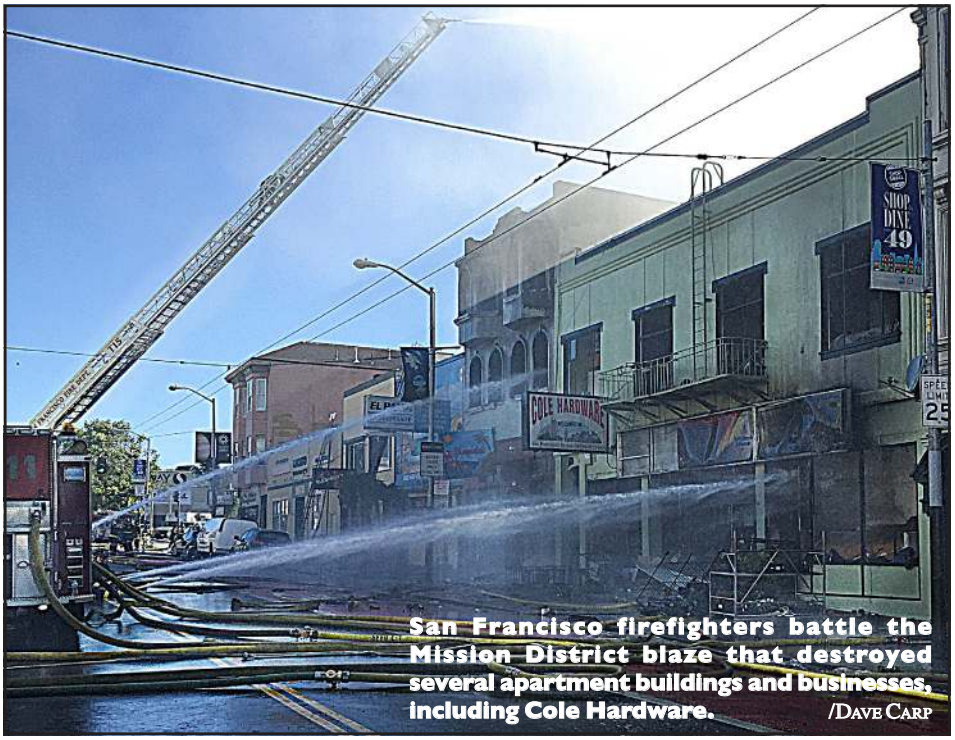
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Fire Destroys Cole Hardware Mission Street Location

On Saturday, June 18, a raging fire gutted our Mission neighborhood store at 3312 Mission Street. Opened in 1984, this was the second of our five locations. We are grateful no one was injured and we were able to relocate all of our staff members into our other stores.

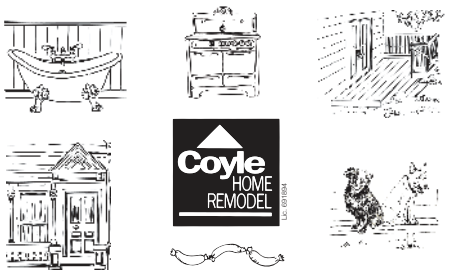
Unfortunately, nearly 60 residents of the surrounding apartments were displaced by the fire. To help these neighbors, all our stores are collecting funds through our Coins for the Community program. We're working with the Mission Economic Development Agency to ensure that 100 percent of money collected will go directly to the fire victims. Cash can be donated in our "spare change" jars at each register or through a credit or debit card during checkout.

The outpouring of support we have received from the community has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated. We are very happy to be a part of the vibrant Rockridge district and hope to be a part of the Mission neighborhood again soon. **~The Cole Hardware Crew**

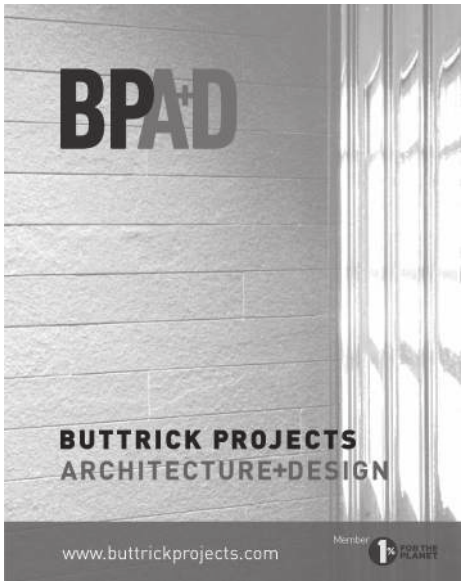


San Francisco firefighters battle the Mission District blaze that destroyed several apartment buildings and businesses, including Cole Hardware. /Dave Carp


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Letters to the Editor

The Rockridge News welcomes posted letters and emails to the editor. Your name, address, phone number, email 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.

Editor's Note:

In the June issue of The Rockridge News, a letter from J. Lawrence was published in which the writer called for a reply to an earlier letter sent in December, 2015, which asserted that revenues from Residential Permit Parking (RPP) sales would be sufficient to meet program costs – even at the permit rates in effect in fiscal year 2010-2011 – if the city efficiently and consistently enforced the RPP area time limitations.

Informed of the December letter, Dan Kalb replied that he had put in a request for additional cost information. J. Lawrence's June letter confirmed problems with inconsistent or non-existent enforcement, similar to those pointed out in the 2015 letter. The letter came too close to press time for Kalb to reply, and he was promised space in the July issue. His letter follows.

Analysis is still in process, but indications are of a need for more staff.

Editor:

Here is some updated information on the residential parking permit (RPP) challenges facing many Rockridge residents.

I've received a number of inquiries and complaints over the past few months about the apparent lack of parking enforcement on some streets in RPP zones in Rockridge. It is my belief that this is due to the significant increase over the past year-and-a-half in the number of streets that are now under the RPP program, and the lack of additional staff to do the ongoing enforcement.



A couple months back, I proposed that the Administration analyze the staffing and route assignments for the RPP enforcement staff to determine what might be causing this inconsistent enforcement problem and how better to use the parking enforcement staff to ensure fair and adequate enforcement in all RPP zones. While their analysis is still in progress, their preliminary assessment appears to support my call for additional parking enforcement staff. That is why I proposed, successfully, to add one additional parking enforcement officer in the mid-cycle budget that we've just adopted. After the Administration completes the analysis, we may need to add a second new parking control officer.

Other residents want their street added into the RPP program and have submitted the requisite number of petition signatures. However, due in large part to the staff shortages, the city has not yet been able to move that process forward. I have asked the Director of Public Works to look into this and get back to me post haste.

While the costs to the city to administer the RPP program have steadily risen over the past 30 years, there have been only two fee increases approved during that time frame. Consequently, the Council did approve the Administration's request to bring the fee for the new permits up to the amount needed for full cost-recovery of the permit issuance program. However, because that jump in the fee was large all at once, I pushed back on the 2015 proposed RPP fee increases. Because of my actions, the RPP renewal fee is $59 instead of the $82 that had been proposed. I was also successful in knocking down the daily guest parking pass fee from the proposed $9 to $5 per day.

When someone violates the RPP parking restrictions, they should receive a parking ticket (a fine) for parking illegally—no different from parking in a red zone or at an expired meter. Tickets for residential parking violations are issued by the same parking enforcement staff as the rest of the parking enforcement within the city. The enforcement costs of RPP parking are combined with all other parking enforcement expenses and apply to any and all types of parking infractions. The fines for all parking enforcement are based in large part on deterring illegal behavior and are separate from any RPP administrative program equation. Fees and fines are not commingled when determining costs of a given program.

My staff and I will continue to monitor the enforcement situation to ensure that residents in RPP zones who have a permit are able to park on their own street, while those without permits are limited to the posted number of hours.

— Dan Kalb, Oakland City Councilmember, District One

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Land Use Update

from page 3

especially the elderly or disabled, who are dependent upon on-street parking. (The project sponsor was not opposed to such a restriction.) The Commission also refused to direct that City-held fines from past code violations at the site be set aside to mitigate unexpected future project impacts. Again, the project sponsor did not object to this provision.

After the project was approved, RCPC met with the applicant and reached a separate agreement – not involving the City – to address the concerns just mentioned. That agreement is currently being finalized, after which it will be recorded against the property to secure the permanent protections for the neighborhood that the Commission was unwilling to provide. RCPC appreciates the project sponsor's willingness to step up to the plate to ensure that its project doesn't happen at the expense of the well-being of the project's neighbors.

■ Construction Impacts Around the Broadway/51st Street/ Pleasant Valley Intersection

With three major construction projects happening around this busy intersection, a certain amount of construction-related impacts is predictable. Recognizing this, the City required that each of the three projects have a construction management plan to prevent or mitigate these kinds of impacts. Despite these plans, however, RCPC is receiving complaints of parking and traffic problems for the nearby residential streets, including construction worker parking overburdening on-street resident parking; construction traffic; and cut-through traffic on residential streets as cars try to bypass congestion at the major intersections. It appears that the projects' construction management plans either weren't sufficiently thought through, or are not being adequately enforced. In either case, local residents are paying the price. RCPC will be working with neighbors and other local community groups to try to get the City to take action to reduce construction-related impacts, something that was supposed to be guaranteed by the conditions placed on the project approvals.

NCPC Meeting: August 11, Rockridge Library, 7:30

Find more NCPC information: http://www.rockridgencpc.com/

Our August meeting will have a presentation from Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY) on "Building Alternatives to Youth Incarceration."

RJOY has had programs at three school sites: West Oakland Middle School; Ralph Bunche Continuation School; and a three-year demonstration program at East Oakland's Castlemont Community of Small Schools funded by a grant from The California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities Initiative. Goals of the demonstration program were to reduce violence, arrests, and suspensions (particularly of youth of color) while decreasing associated costs and promoting parent and community engagement. / From the Restorative Justice website: http://rjoyoakland.org/about/

Joint Meeting

from page 1

Corps Attorney, who invited residents with problems to contact her (fhussein@oaklandcityattorney.org); and Claudia Romero described A Safe Place, a domestic violence protection/prevention program that provides battered victims and their children with safe shelter and resources (http://www.asafeplacedvs.org/).

Next, the RCPC board screened a demonstration of the Temblor.net website, created by two USGS alums, which enables individuals to estimate their property's risk of damage from earthquakes, liquefaction, or landslides. (The RCPC board is interested in learning neighbors' questions and or comments about Temblor. Visit the website, then email info@rockridge.org with your comments.)

City planner Devan Reiff then updated the audience on the city's new Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and CORE program coordinator Dena Gunning told attendees of the availability and value of free CORE training through the Fire Department that teaches block groups to serve as their own first responders. CORE information://www2.oaklandnet.com/government/o/OFD/s/CORE/index.htm.

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Competition Continues To Drive Rockridge Prices in June

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
6/1/2016	3	1	5359 BELGRAVE PL	$975,000	$1,000,000	53	$1,000,000
6/3/2016	4	3	427 Cavour	$1,595,000	$1,595,000	14	$2,025,000
6/13/2016	4	3	370 60TH ST	$1,395,000	$1,395,000	13	$1,740,000
6/14/2016	3	1.5	6410 Regent Street	$1,200,000	$1,200,000	11	$1,785,000
6/14/2016	2	1	5398 BRYANT AVE	$849,000	$849,000	13	$1,050,930
6/17/2016	3	1	6225 Auburn	$985,000	$985,000	14	$1,330,000
6/17/2016	3	3	6011 ROCKRIDGE BLVD	$1,595,000	$1,595,000	15	$2,096,930
6/21/2016	4	3	5244 LAWTON AVE	$1,495,000	$1,495,000	15	$1,700,000

Homes sold in June closed 26% over the asking price on average.

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A Thousand Words...



Claremont and College Weeds: Begone

The long-neglected weed patch at the empty corner of College and Claremont – pictured far left – has been mowed. At last. For some reason, the area under the redwood trees was left uncut, with some piles of weed clippings left behind.



Rockridge Street Trees Surveyed for Ash Borer Infestation

Many years ago, Oakland's tree services department listed the evergreen ash as an approved street tree. Residents of several Rockridge streets found the trees attractive and arranged to have them planted in front of their homes.

The trees flourished and now many of them keep PG&E busy trimming their branches away from power lines, sometimes to the detriment of the tree's appearance.



A new threat to the trees has emerged: the ash borer. Likely brought into the country in an unspecified load of wood, the borer has put ash trees across the country at risk. To measure infestation, Department of Agriculture contractors put traps (photo at left) in various locations throughout Rockridge and other areas of Oakland, posting notices on these selected "survey trees," as pictured above.

According to a person reached at the contractor's office, occurrences of ash borers caught in a survey tree trap will be reported to the agriculture department. The person did not know what might happen after that.

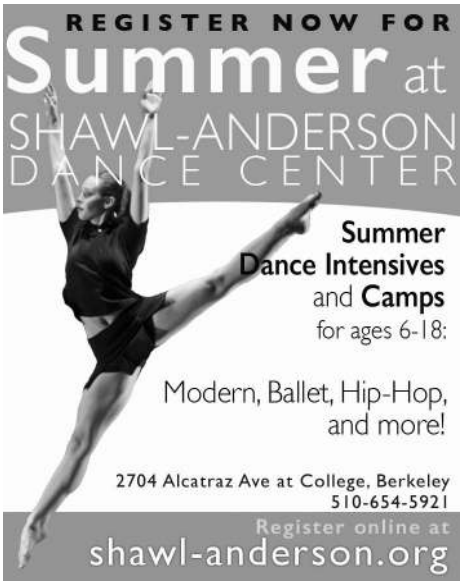
Learn about the ash borer and other bothersome species at: http://www.hungrypests.com/. Thank you to the alert neighbor who spotted the notice and the trap and notified The Rockridge News. **— Editor**

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Woodminster Opens Summer Musicals 50th Season

Woodminster Summer Musicals are performed under the stars at Woodminster Amphitheater, the open-air performance facility in Joaquin Miller Park at 3300 Joaquin Miller Road, high in the Oakland hills. The park's spectacular views and serene woodsy environment made it the perfect setting for the amphitheater, cascades, reflecting pool, and paths originally built as a WPA project in 1939-40. For many local families, it is a long-standing summer tradition to enjoy a picnic in the park and then see a musical at Woodminster.

Over the last 50 years, Producers Associates has presented 157 productions, entertaining about a million Woodminster Summer Musicals audiences. The shows have been performed by more than 5,000 actors, over 20 percent of them members of Actors Equity Association, making the organization one of the Bay Area's most reliable employers of professional actors. The musicals have always been performed with live professional orchestras, which have included 23 different conductors and over 1800 members of Musicians Local #6. In addition, the organization has employed 25 professional set designers, 17 lighting designers, 24 costume designers, 6 sound technicians, 18 choreographers, 6 directors, and over 1,500 young backstage interns.

The 2016 Season

The three musicals scheduled for the 2016 season are: ***Shrek The Musical; Chicago;*** and ***La Cage aux Folles***. All performances start at 8 p.m.

The opening show of the 50th anniversary season is *Shrek The Musical*, performed July 8-17. The production will be directed by Joel Schlader, with music direction by Daniel Thomas and choreography by Jody Jaron. The final dress rehearsal of Shrek The Musical on July 7 will be open to the public. Performance starts at 8pm; all tickets are $20 at the door; and seating is open, first-come, first-choice. No group rates, Kids Come Free, or other further discounts apply for the final dress rehearsal. Gates open at 7 pm that night, and audience members are welcome to bring picnics and use any open tables.

Chicago will be presented from August 5-14: Directed by Joel Schlader, with music direction by Daniel Thomas and choreography by Lainie Sakakura

The third show, *La Cage aux Folles,* from September 2-11: Directed by Joel Schlader, with music direction by Michael Horsley and choreography by Jody Jaron.

Tickets

Tickets for summer musicals at Woodminster Amphitheater range from $30 to $64 with a $2 discount for children and seniors. Season tickets provide about a 15 percent discount over the single ticket prices. Groups of 25 and more can purchase blocks of seats for about half price, providing an affordable outing or fundraiser for a service group, or neighborhood association.

Woodminster Musicals, page 14

Pollinator Garden

from page 2

students from the Alameda County Probation Department Weekend Training Academy program in periodic workdays in the Garden.

Piper pointed out that Caltrans has provided him the paperwork necessary to assist a new organization, business or individual(s) that would assume the Adopt-A-Highway sponsorship role in the Broadway Pollinator Garden. "This could be a great way for someone to help in supporting Rockridge and pollinators such as bees, butterflies and birds that enjoy the flowers in this public garden."

Piper served on Oakland's Keep Oakland Beautiful Board (KOB) in 2006, when Caltrans approached KOB about helping to develop the Broadway Garden as a distinctive public garden. Piper had developed the Firestorm Memorial Garden in Hiller Highlands on another Caltrans site, and offered to work with area residents on the development of the Broadway Pollinator Garden.

"I hope a Rockridge resident or organization will continue the work on this exciting garden," Piper noted. "I have enjoyed helping to add many plants and new habitat for wildlife in our community. I can provide advice to the new sponsor on resources that might help in developing or maintaining the garden."

For more information or to explore serving as the new Adopt-A-Highway partner for the Pollinator Garden, contact Oakland Landscape Committee Chair Gordon Piper, at 910-2969 or rgpiper33@gmail.com.

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As expected, we had a slight increase in inventory end of May through June and the seasonal summer drop in inventory has begun. While demand in Rockridge is still much greater than supply, economic indicators suggest the peak of a cycle is near, if not here. If you are thinking of selling, now is the time! Let me help evaluate your property value using my proven experience and knowledge of the market.



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Dropped it? Fix it: Phone Repair Hut

Axel Olson, left, and Oliver Lorenz are 20-somethings who have just opened the Phone Repair Hut in the brightly hued kiosk that once was a flower shop at 5319 College. The two, who became friends at Berkeley City College, specifically targeted Rockridge for their enterprise. "This is a quaint place," Olson told me. "We have a boutique aesthetic." They offer pick-up and delivery and courtesy phones for customers getting theirs repaired. Although open only a couple of weeks, "We've been more successful than we expected," Olson said.

— Judith Doner Berne



Judith Doner Berne

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New Rockridge News Routes Open Along Claremont Avenue

Summer has brought a number of resignations from our volunteer delivery corps. Two of the routes that we announced in the June issue were grabbed up but we have a couple more this month, both on Claremont Avenue. Thanks to Alicia Rozum who delivered to those routes; she hopes someone will step forward to replace her.

Block Captain/ Route 21G	Odd numbers along the 6000 block of Claremont Avenue
Block Captain/ Route 18Ga	Both sides of Claremont Ave from freeway to Clifton
Block Captain/ Route 16D	Both sides of 5200 Claremont and 5400 block of Claremont Ave west side only from Clifton to Cavour.

Block captains deliver door to door. It takes about 15-20 minutes of your time the first weekend of each month except August, when the newsletter is not published. It's a great way to get some exercise and meet your neighbors. Call 510/547-3855 or email Susan at smontauk@gmail.com to sign up.

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RN classifieds

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Your 36-word message is $22. (Phone number counts as one word.) Mail to: **RN Classifieds**, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. *September issue deadline is August 18. (The paper does not publish in August.)*

For information: smontauk@gmail.com

Summer Special! Penelope's Aesthetics Skin Care Salon

25 percent off waxing and facial services. Come visit my salon in a serene garden setting and receive excellent, relaxing services with a gentle and personalized treatment. www.penelopecalef.com. By appointment: 510/594-1552.

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Looking for Writers

Six experienced writers of short stories and memoir are looking for a seventh to join us. We meet every other Tuesday evening in lower Rockridge. Adele: 510/594-9686, abmendels@gmail.com.

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Singers Wanted!

The Rockridge Chorale Founded in 2003 performing in the Bay Area August 13 and 14 and at CARNEGIE HALL, JANUARY 16, 2017. Fun & Challenging Music Repertoire. Rehearsals underway. Send inquiries to Devi_jameson@rockridgechorale.org Website: www.rockridgechorale.org

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Deco Art Course Schedule, 5495 Claremont Ave

Collage and Doodling, July 23, 10-2 pm, $35. August 5, First Friday drop-in, Collage and Doodle, Women's Creative Circle, 6-9 pm, Sliding scale $5-25. RSVP 593-4574 or Carolinestern@sbc.global.net.

Woodminster Musicals

from page 12

Woodminster continues its popular Kids Come Free program, where children and teens 16 or younger attending with paying adults can get free tickets on performance nights. In its 25-year history, the Kids Come Free program has provided over 43,000 free tickets to young theater-goers.

Tickets are available by phone, 510/531-9597, online at www.woodminster.com, or in person at the amphitheater 11-4 daily or at the box office before any performance.

For more information about tickets, other discount programs, or about the plays or cast and crews, call 510/531-9597 or go to www.woodminster.com.



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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 N'hood 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. August 11**. Rockridge Library, 5366 College (at Manila). Confirm mtg. at: www.rockridgencpc.com or chair@rockridgencpc.com. See details, page 10.

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
Closed for Renovations:
Scheduled to Reopen Wed., July 6.

FOR CHILDREN

Starting July 9: **Story times:** for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, & children **every Saturday** at 10:30am (except when live animals come to visit) and **every Thursday** at 10:30am. All story times followed by Play Time; parents and caregivers invited.

Sign up for the Summer Reading Program, or come in & pick up your prizes all day any day we are open.

Special Events in July & August; for all ages, (unless otherwise specified):

- Tues, 7/12, 7pm: **Reading Buddies Pajama Party** (older kids read aloud to younger ones - in pajamas).
- Tues, 7/19, 7pm: **Taiko Drums**.
- Tues, 7/26, 7pm: **Magical Nathaniel**.
- Sat,7/30 10:30am: **Montclair 4H** - live animals.
- Tues, 8/2, 7pm: **Circus of Smiles;** clowning & tricks.
- Sat, 8/6,10:30am: **Little Explorers Petting Zoo - live animals.**
- Thurs, 8/11,10:30am: **Little Kid Olympics**.

FOR TEENS

- **Teen Summer Passport Program:** Sign up at www.oaklandlibrary.org/summer to explore Bay Area hot spots or review books, movies to win prizes.
- **Rockridge Teen Advisory Board:** Help advise the library how to better serve teens -- and get community service credit for school. 1 - 2pm, first Sat. each month.
- **Teen 'Scape:** Play video & board games; make crafts; do homework. **Snacks provided.** Every Wed., 2 - 3:30pm
- **Henna Program:** Get a temporarily tattoo of your favorite design: July 20 from 2 to 3:30pm.
- **Wear Your Poetry:** Design your wearable words. Workshop presented by Angie from The Oakland Handmade, Aug 10 from 2 to 3:30pm.

FOR ADULTS

- **eBook Help:** Tuesdays **by appointment**, 6 - 7:30pm. Get help downloading eBooks to your Kindle, Nook, smartphone, or laptop. Make an appointment online at www.oaklandlibrary.org or in person at any library location.
- **Lawyers in the Library: 1st Tues each month,** 6pm-8pm. **Free legal information and referral.** A lottery system determines who may see the lawyer. Sign-up opens at 5pm; must be present for lottery drawing at 5:45. Call day of program to confirm: 597-5017.
- **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 of Berkeley. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com. Call to confirm.
- **National Night Out with the Bike Library:** Tues, Aug. 2, 5-7pm.The OPL Bike Library will be out and about in the Rockridge neighborhood for National Night Out. The Bike Library will liven up your block party with free books, Wi-Fi, and a special craft. Call Emily at 597-5017 if you want to ride with us or to make sure we stop by your party. **For all ages.**
- **Photo Walk with a photographer from the Oakland Art Assoc.:** Learn what makes truly stunning photographs. Bring a digital camera or smart phone so you can take your own photos. Sat., Aug. 6, 11am. **For all ages.**
- **Writers and Their Libraries:** Join the Mystery Writers of America and librarian **Emily Weak** to learn how writers (aspiring as well as published) and libraries can work together. Sat., Aug. 13, 11:30am
- **Designing your Bay-Friendly Garden with ReScape:** A **free workshop** on water-wise gardening, with local experts from EBMUD. **Coffee, tea, and snacks provided.** Sat, Aug.20, 11am.

LIBRARY HOURS

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm. Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sun and Mon; call **597-5017 for info on other closed days.**

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings and Events

FREE and open to the public.

- Every Sat., 10:30am. **Children's Story Time:** Join booksellers Katherine and Brad for great stories, fun songs, and silly rhymes. Ages 5 and under (and parents).
- Thurs, 7/7, 6:30pm. **The Young Writers' Camp** read selections of their work.
- Sun, 6/12, 3pm. **Poetry Flash with Brynn Saito:** *Power Made Us Swoon*; and **Jacqueline Tchakalian**: *The Size of Our Bed*.
- Thurs, 7/14, 7pm. Memoir by musician **Hassan El-Tayyab:** *Composing Temple Sunrise*.
- Fri, 7/15, 7pm. FRESH AND BEST poetry reading series. **Solmaz Sharif:** *Look: Poems*. An evening of poetry, community, and beverages.
- Tues, 7/19,7pm. **Joy Williams:** *Ninety-Nine Stories of God*.
- Fri, 6/24, 6pm. **Pajama Party Story Time for Kids**. Come in PJs, bring teddy bear, have milk and cookies. Hear bedtime story by author/illustrator **Arree Chung:** *Ninja! Attack of the Clan.*
- Sun, 8/7, 3pm. Poetry Flash with **Judy Halebsky:** *Tree Line*; and **Nina Lindsay:** *Because*.
- Wed, 8/17, 7 pm. Publication Party for local author **Erica Reischer, Ph.D.:** *What Great Parents Do: 75 Simple Strategies for Raising Kids Who Thrive*.

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

Jazz at the Chimes

"I Could Write a Book," featuring **Wesla Whitfield** and **Mike Greensill** with bassist **John Wiitala** performing the story-telling songs of the Great American Songbook - from Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin to Cy Coleman. Sun., 7/17, 2pm. Advance tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2554823 or at the door (cash only) beginning 12:30pm (doors open 1:30): $15 general; $10 srs. (60+) and students. Refreshments and reception follows to meet the performers. Info at www.weslawhitfield.com; www.mikegreensill.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.

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.

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.

- **Complete your own Advance Health Care Directive: FREE Comfort Homesake Workshop** shows ways of expressing your health care wishes with your family (more info at 496-4574). Tues., July 19, 10am to noon. Pre-register at reception desk or call 597-5085.

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.

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.

***Note the second entry of the Calendar**: District 1 Councilman Dan Kalb holds Drop-in Community Office Hours at the Temescal Farmers Market. Bring your questions and concerns.

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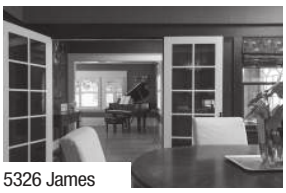
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