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THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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

You are invited: 26 years ago, Rockridge residents formed a Mello-Roos district to ensure the neighborhood would have a beautiful, vibrant library. On October 22, we celebrate 20 years in the library at 5366 College Avenue that Rockridge's highly engaged residents helped fund and design. We'll enjoy games, memories, cake and delicious refreshments (provided by Market Hall). The celebration begins at 11 a.m. and wraps up at 3 p.m. | *From an announcement by Paul Schiesser, Rockridge Branch Library Manager.*

Rockridge Builds a Library, 20 Years Ago

First of two installments

by Annette R Floystrup

"Rockridge is the only community in the nation to finance and drive to completion the building of a local library." — State Librarian, Kevin Starr (September 1996)

The above statement is as true today as it was 20 years ago after Rockridge residents raised $3.5 million to build a 15,000 square foot library with two large community meeting rooms and shelving for approximately 75,000 books, CDs, DVDs, audio books, video games, magazines and newspapers for patrons of all ages. Just how did Rockridge manage to do that?

First and foremost, Oakland is a library town. Its public library system began in 1878, and as far as it is possible to tell, no library measure has failed to pass since.

The Rockridge branch library opened in 1919, and moved into a store front at 5701 College Avenue, across from Claremont Junior High, in 1924. That space, now Bica Coffeehouse, ran the length of the building from its College Avenue frontage down Miles. This small library served the community for 63 years. In 1987, the property changed hands and the new owner raised the rent from $500 to $5,000, rendering the space unaffordable. The library closed in September 1987.

The Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) quickly formed a Library Committee. The immediate need was a temporary site where the second busiest library in Oakland could continue to function. With cooperation from the Oakland Unified School District, the Director of Library Services, the city manager's office, the Department of Public Works and then-Councilperson Marge

Rockridge Builds a Library, page 13



Celebrating Jack London: Readings; Tours; Talks

by Annalee Allen

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Jack London, Oakland's most famous author. A coalition of literary groups, volunteers and historical societies is sponsoring tours, lectures and performances in celebration of his legacy.



Jack London.
THE BANCROFT LIBRARY

The Oakland Public Library is hosting a series of readings, film screenings and discussions commemorating the centennial. Book discussions of one of London's best-known works – "White Fang" – are taking place this month at library branches.

- The Rockridge Branch hosts its White Fang discussion Saturday, October 22, 11:30 a.m.
- A film screening of White Fang starring Ethan Hawke will be held at the Elmhurst

Celebrating Jack London, page 14

RCPC October Town Hall

October 20, 7-9 p.m.; Rockridge Branch Library

League of Women Voters of Oakland Presents a Ballot Measures Review

November 8, election day, is little more than a month away. Oakland voters will be called upon to vote up or down on five City ballot measures; Alameda County, BART, AC Transit, and Oakland school district measures; and 17 new State of California propositions.

To learn more about these issues before voting, join RCPC and the League of Women Voters of Oakland (LWVO) at the October Town Hall when League representatives will provide information and answer questions on state and local ballot measures. The Oakland measures include the soda tax; expansion of just cause eviction and rent adjustment protections; an infrastructure bond; creation of a new Police Commission; and extension of the duration of the City Council's authority to lease City-owned land.

The California propositions include schools bonds, a tobacco tax measure,

October Town Hall, page 12

Rockridge Halloween Parade: Ghoulish Tradition



The Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) and the Rockridge District Association (RDA) invite all the ghosts and goblins of all ages to celebrate Halloween on College Avenue. **From noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, October 30**, participating merchants will host trick-or-treating along both sides of College Avenue from Alcatraz to Broadway. Join the costumed procession: Meet at Halloween Central in front of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue, at 11:45 a.m. At precisely noon, we'll kick off trick-or-treating, leading the first group along the avenue. At 12:45 p.m., return to Halloween Central for spooky storytelling and silly, scary sing-alongs. A storyteller from the Storytelling Association of California will spin Halloween yarns in front of the church and a singer will serenade the costumed crowds.

Happy Halloween



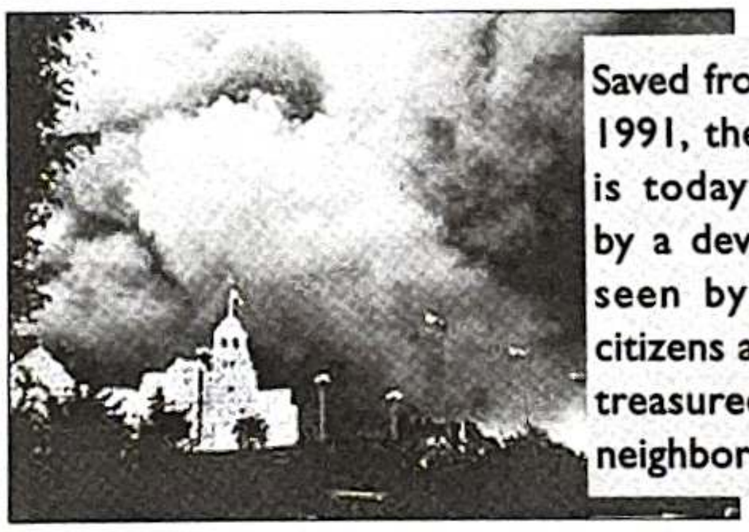
OpEd

Claremont Hotel Development Plans Worry Neighbors, Businesses

by Wendy Markel, community preservationist

On this 25th anniversary of the Oakland Hills firestorm we are full of stories of loss and survival: The loss of lives, of homes and of neighborhoods.

One thing we all remember is the survival of the Claremont Hotel as flames and smoke raged above it. It became part of our community's psyche, and even home to some, as we began to recover. Today, we fear that the hotel was saved only to face a new threat.



Saved from the Firestorm in 1991, the Claremont Hotel is today under new siege by a development proposal seen by many concerned citizens as unsuitable for the treasured landmark and its neighborhood.

Current owners AccorHotels, an international hotel chain, recently acquired the Fairmont Hotel consortium connected with financier Richard Blum. Signature Development has been hired to prepare expansion plans. Gradually, word has spread in nearby neighborhoods, and concerned citizens have realized the project is massive and unsafe for the setting and the community.

The project would create new residential parcels on a portion of the hotel acerage (an area protected by its nomination for the National Register of Historic Resources and listed as a State of California Historical Resource), to enable construction of a four-story, 43-unit condominium complex atop an underground two-story garage, as well as two large single-family homes. The structures would rise above Tunnel Road and form a wall right next to the historic Short Cut footpath.

To the northwest, there would be enlarged recreational facilities designed to serve up to 1,000 new Club members including: a new pool and deck of 15,000 sq. ft; event lawn; regulation tennis courts with bleachers to seat 400; an additional parking structure with raised tennis courts on top (adjacent to the famous Berkeley Tennis Club); and a half basketball court across Claremont Avenue from St. Clement's parish church and residences.

Primary health and safety issues include, but are not limited to, the proximity of the Hayward Fault and underground water tables running through the Claremont property which make it a dangerous

▸ Claremont Hotel Concerns, page 10

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

The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded 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?

Contact us at one of the following:
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Newsletter Advertising/Deadline
Publication date of the November issue is:
- **November 8, 2016**
- **November deadline is October 20.**

Advertising rates are $26/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or email 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 scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 7:30 p.m., at the Rockridge Branch Library, 2nd floor meeting room. Check the RCPC website, www.rockridge.org the week before for the agenda.

Land Use Committee Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee Chair

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

RCPC and the Nautilus Group have finalized their agreement to allow the project to move forward towards construction while protecting neighborhood residents from potential problems that might result, especially in terms of traffic and parking. We believe the agreement demonstrates how RCPC and developers can work together to produce a "win-win" solution. Once fully executed and recorded, the agreement will be posted to the rockridge.org website

■ Oakland Off-Street Parking Requirements for New Projects

RCPC submitted comments to the City Council explaining why, RCPC supports the City's concept of "just right" off-street parking requirements, but feels those requirements need to take into account the current status of on-street parking in the area, and particularly the extent to which establishment of residential permit parking zones should be a red flag that the area is in danger of becoming "overparked." This would be bad for residents and local businesses.

Unfortunately, the Council disregarded RCPC's concerns, and the ordinance was approved with little change. The one bright spot was that the Council agreed to review the effects of the new ordinance in two years. Hopefully, at that point it will still not be too late to revise the ordinance if the parking situation continues to worsen.

■ Revision to CN-1 Use Permit Requirements; CN-1 Zones Throughout the City

For the past two years, RCPC has been working with residential and business groups from the various CN-1 areas of the City on revising use permit regulations for these neighborhood commercial areas. The aim has been to help preserve the areas as local retail centers and prevent them from losing valuable ground floor retail space to other uses such as office space. The result was a proposal that would allow a use permit for a non-retail use to be "extinguished" if it had been abandoned for more than a

Land Use Update, page 11

Chabot Elementary Fall Carnival

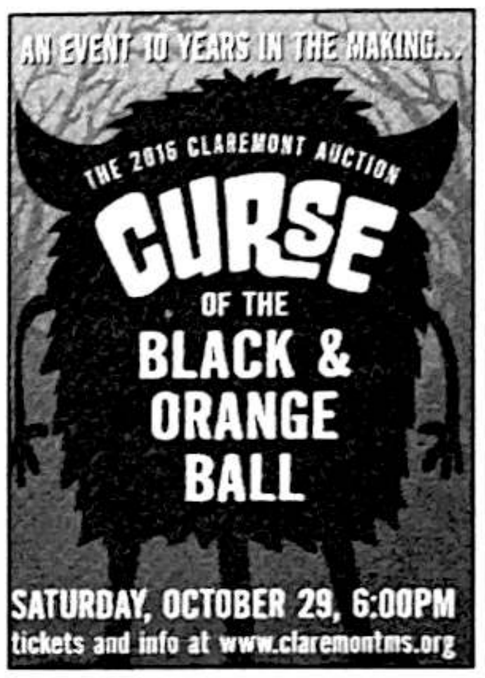
Chabot Elementary's Fall Carnival has been a Rockridge tradition for many years. This year's event will be Sunday, October 16, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., on the Chabot campus, 6686 Chabot Road. The event is a fundraiser for Chabot Elementary School, and all residents and neighbors are welcome to join in the fun and festivities. **Admission is free**. Enjoy a family lunch from one of the food stations, such as El Tonayense Taco Truck, Pizza, or our famous Dad's Club Pulled Pork Sandwiches. Then satisfy that sweet tooth by grabbing a treat from our Benefit Bakesale or ice cream sandwiches. To burn off some of those calories, the Carnival offers a variety of games for kids of all ages – plan on winning some prizes, testing your bravery on the



Chabot Carnival, page 10

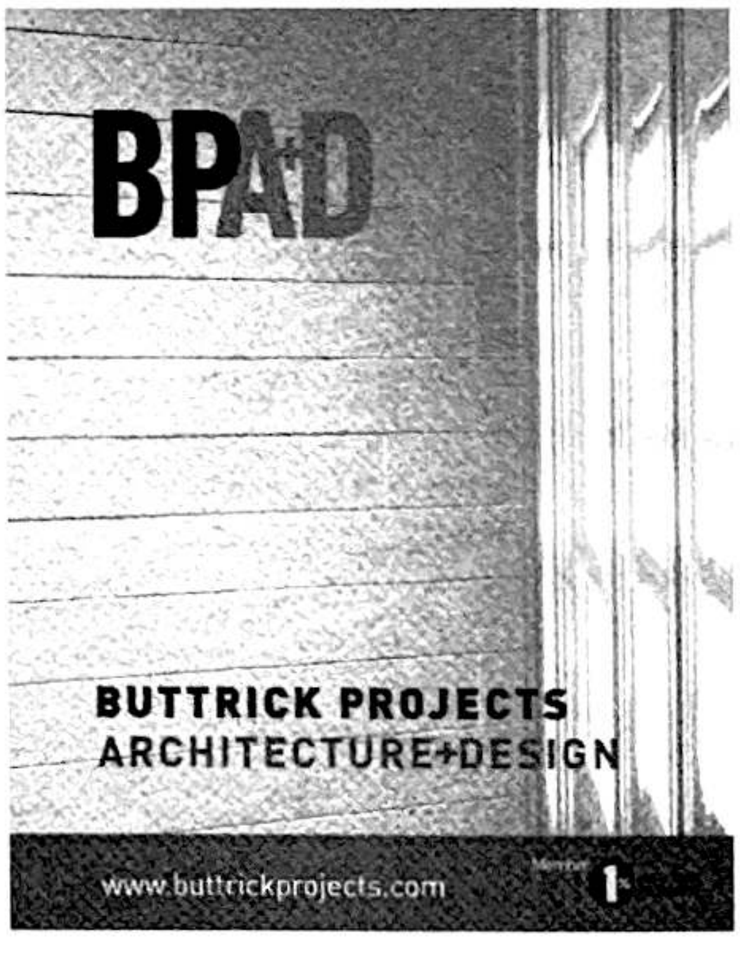
The Claremont Middle School Auction Marks Its 10th Year

Just in time for Halloween! The Claremont Middle School Auction returns for its tenth year on Saturday, October 29, starting 6 p.m. at St. Peter's Parish at Lawton and Broadway in Rockridge. The "Curse of the Black & Orange Ball" will feature dinner, drinks, music, silent and live auctions, and raffle prizes. Following tradition, party goers are encouraged to wear a costume or wear the school colors of orange and black.



Claremont Auction, page 10





2001: Building a Park, Building a Community

by Theresa Nelson

Fifteen years ago this month, Frog Park was born, thanks largely to the tireless commitment of volunteers who envisioned a children's park that could bring a community together.

The Search for Space

After a few years' search, the community embraced the idea of converting some mostly-vacant land owned by the Alameda County Flood Control District into a park. For another year, designs were developed, money was raised, permits were obtained, volunteers were recruited, and community meetings were held.

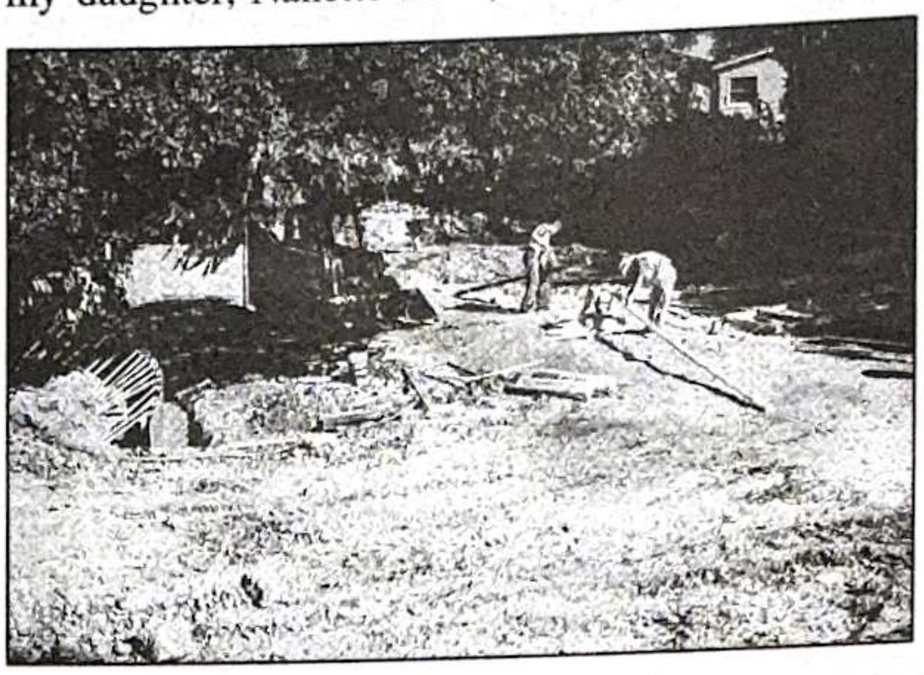
The land where the Big Frog play structure now sits near Hardy Court was crowded with shoulder-high weeds behind an 8-foot chain link fence. Redondo, now Little Frog, was a creek access with trees and a picnic table.

Volunteer-Led and Built

Transforming that space into a community park took place mostly over 10 days in October 2001, a time called "The Big Build." More than 1,300 volunteers worked 12-hour days to build the one-of-a-kind play structures now at Hardy and Redondo.

The volunteers were led by volunteer captains — men and women from the community with building experience, professionals and people good at home repair — who worked the entire 10 days. Tasks changed daily, from installing the primary columns to linking the towers; from preparing thousands of board-feet of lumber; to hand-crafting playful touches such as raccoons and butterflies. Overall, the building was supervised by Mark Leathers, son of designer Robert Leathers whose firm specializes in customized, community-built play structures.

Many people played essential roles in the park's first phase, including the Big Build, forming the core of the volunteer project management. Steve Costa served as co-founder and FROG's (Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt) first president; I am proud to have served as the co-founder of the park project; Eileen Fitz-Faulkner was overall coordinator for the Big Build; Lisa Kissinger Kaplan headed volunteer recruitment, ably assisted by Carol McClellan; Ken Cluff headed Tools; Sally Fitzhugh headed Marketing; Anne Braghetta and Terry Hayes were in charge of the free childcare for parent volunteers; Jimmy Pederson managed materials; Kate Runyan and Gail Durkin secured food donations; my daughter, Nanette Love, managed the children's committee, in which my other daughter, Madeleine Nelson, participated, celebrating her 11th birthday on the first day of the Big Build.



Early steps fashioning a park from neglected bare land. Later, more than 1,300 volunteers worked 12-hour days to build play structures /Courtesy of FROG Park

Committee chairs worked closely with David Stein at the Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation, our fiscal agent, and with BBI Builders and MIG Design, who designed the rest of the park, including paths and basketball courts, bench installations, and creek renewal. Our Big Build Captains were: Ben Bromham; Chad Thompson; Eric Neville; Glenn Tripp; John White; Sue Levy; Tony Kay; Wally McClellan; Alex Rood; Piet Visser; and my husband, Barney Smits.

A Community Comes Together

One of the most inspiring aspects of the Big Build was how people jumped in to help, even when they had not been involved earlier: Commuters waiting at the casual carpool at Hudson and Claremont decided to take a day off and join the fun; people came one day and then returned the next with friends or family; others brought work groups or clubs with them. Restaurants and cafés on College Avenue and Telegraph Avenue, such as The Pasta Shop and Rockridge Café, donated food, and nearby neighbors donated power and water. The Rockridge Methodist Church donated its church hall for childcare; the Port of Oakland donated shipping containers for tool storage; Cresco Equipment Rental loaned a giant crane to lift the tower roofs into place; and Home Depot and Ace Hardware donated thousands of dollars of supplies.

College Prep High School Steps U

A unique aspect of the Build was that College Preparatory High School's entire freshman class came with their senior advisors to help. This became an annual tradition; this fall marked the 15th anniversary of their commitment. Many students who worked on the park in recent years say they grew up going to the park as children, and enjoyed the opportunity now to give back to their community.

Frog Park: Community Built, page 5



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I Was a Frog Park Volunteer Builder; I Feel Fortunate

by Patrick Hoge, Frog Park Volunteer

Fifteen years ago, my wife Michelle was five months pregnant with our first child, Natalie, when we learned that just blocks from our new Rockridge home a host of volunteers was in the midst of building a playground.

Thrilled at the thought of my daughter having a place to cavort, I walked over to see if I could help.

What I found stunned and humbled me: Scores of citizens spread across a construction site much larger than I had imagined were purposefully engaged in a wide variety of tasks. Some were hunched over blueprints; some were going in and out of a giant metal shipping container that housed the hundreds of tools their neighbors had loaned for the effort; others were wielding electric saws and drills and the like.

I was assigned to sand the sharp edges off the emerging play structure, a mission I quietly pursued with zeal for hours while I imagined the countless little fingers that would follow.

As I encountered other volunteers, smiles seemed to come easily. I felt lucky.

In the following years, I have spent many happy hours with my daughter and son at Frog Park as they toddled and ran and hid and climbed like monkeys. Consistently, I have been amazed at the spectacular number of people who, like me, seek refuge and connection with family and friends in a little patch of green next to a freeway over-crossing. Always, I have felt fortunate that I got to play a small part in making the vision a reality.

Now my daughter is in the 9th grade at nearby College Preparatory School, which for the last 15 years has sent students to work for a day at Frog Park as part of its community service program. This month, Natalie and her classmates got their turn to do some upkeep on the equipment and grounds that daily absorb so much joyful use.

It's hard to believe, but my beautiful baby girl, whose tiny footprints remain preserved on a commemorative tile at the park's edge, is today thinking about how she can help the kids coming after her.

And in no small part because of the generosity of those who labored to create Frog Park, a place of happy memories, I know she feels lucky for that opportunity.

Frog Park Today

Now, 15 years later, Frog Park is an integral part of the community, the site of daily play sessions, birthday parties, picnics on the grass, and strolls to the Farmers' Market. Newer residents in the area can't remember a time when the park was not there. Others remember when Rockridge had no children's park, and a community came together to build this essential part of what makes Rockridge and Temescal so welcoming.

Join us for a day of maintenance, or helping to update the website, or recruiting volunteers for special cleanup days, or just volunteering: www.frogpark.org, or contact Carol Behr: chair@frogpark.org.

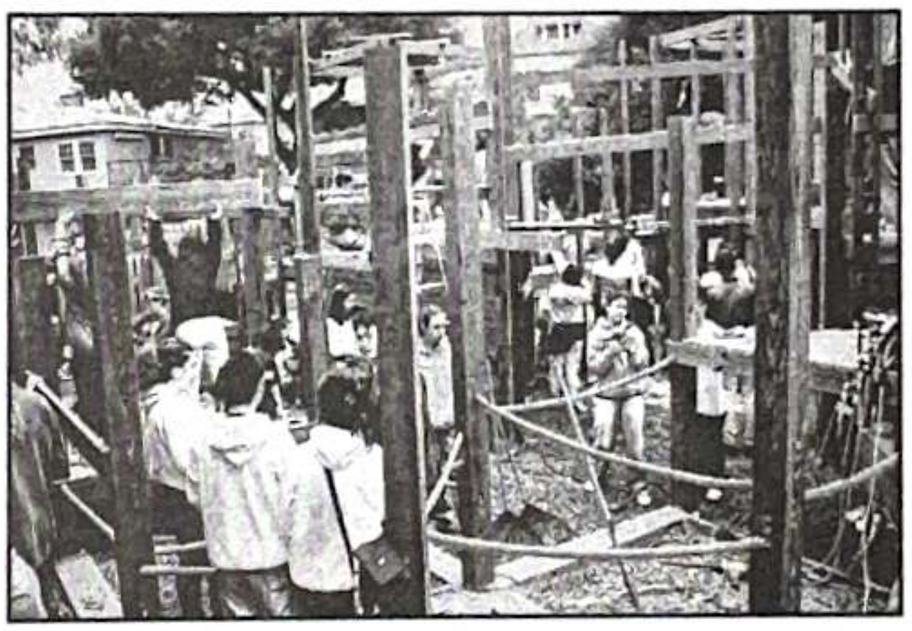
Frog Park: Community Built

from page 4

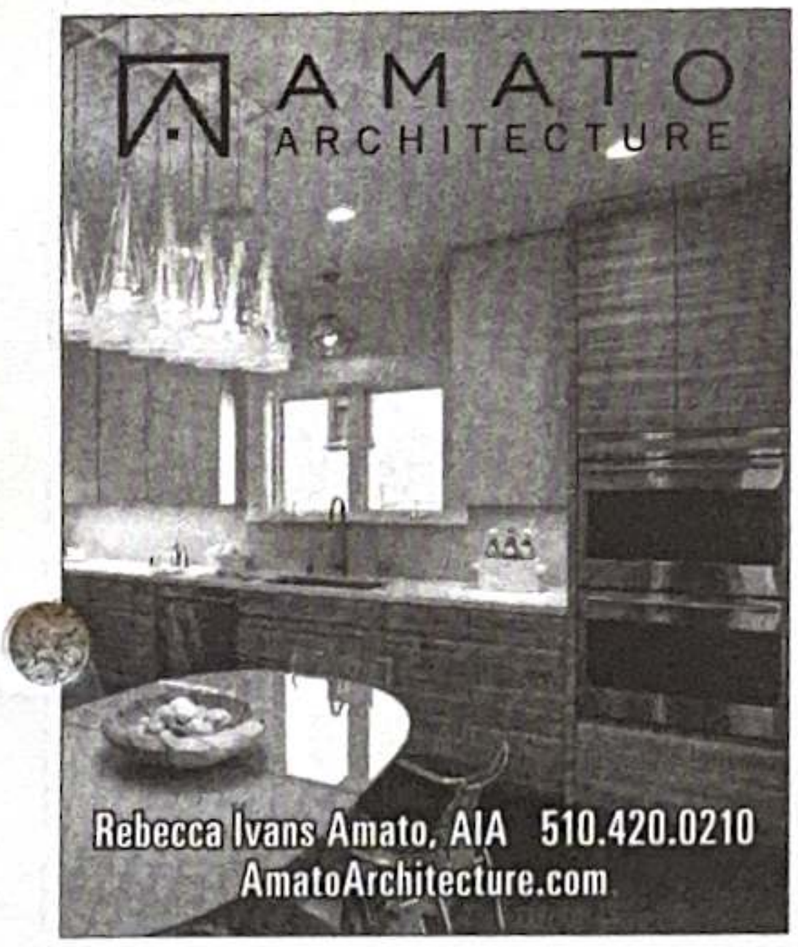
Phases 2 and 3: More Amenities

Frog Park then had a Phase Two in 2006: renovating the basketball courts; creating the Lily Pond Plaza picnic tables; making the path from Clifton to Cavour (where the Farmers' Market began a few years later), and adding disabled-accessible play equipment. In 2011, a bathroom was added. FROG had paid for the park's Porta-Potty from 2001-2011. In 2014, a community survey identified a need for more "big kid" swings and toddler swings. FROG began raising funds and working with the designers on the plan. We expect to finalize the design soon and begin construction in early 2017. Contact FROG chair Carol Behr, chair@frogpark.org for more about this project.

The park's total cost is almost $3 million. About $500,000 of that was donated by the community. The rest came from city and State Parks bonds, which we competed for, and creek restoration funds.



Park play structures begin to take shape during the Big Build when 1,300 volunteers worked 12-hour days assembling the pieces of what would become Frog Park. /Courtesy FROG Park



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Eyes on Rockridge

Ginormous Safeway Launches 'The Ridge' Shopping Center

by Judith Doner Berne

When we moved to Rockridge five years ago from our manicured Detroit suburb, I was dismayed at the condition and contents of the Safeway store at Broadway and 51st — within walking distance of our new home.

To be fair, the store did improve – becoming cleaner and stocking better quality meats and produce – although my husband insists I merely got used to it. But as the anchor of the Rockridge Shopping Center that, too, had seen better days, its essential shabbiness could not be erased by even the store's friendly staff.

Happily, at least in my mind, both that shopping center and that Safeway are no more. After a number of fits and starts, it took more than two years to knock down and re-build the first phase of a new center, christened The Ridge.

The Safeway that opened September 11 (replacing what was, in the '70s, Payless, then Rite-Aid, then Longs, and lastly CVS) is eye-popping in its bright lights, wide aisles, carefully curated fruits and veggies, bins of colorful bulk candy, nuts and trail mixes plus so many prepared foods – including sushi, Mexican and Asian – that you conceivably would never have to cook again.

At 72,000 square feet (the College Avenue Safeway has 45,000), it's so spacious that some of the take-out food offerings seem a bit redundant. For instance, prepared, wrapped sandwiches in a bin vie with prepared but unwrapped sandwiches at the deli counter; or you can have one made to order at the adjacent artisan sandwich counter.

"So many customers told me they couldn't believe how beautiful the store and the shopping center are," said a beaming store manager, Karl Moore.

That includes Ione Harris, who lives on the bluff directly above the new center. "I like it a lot," she said. "The lighting is good for me. I really like how much organic food they have. It's been fun watching it go up."

"Oh, it's nice," said Harvey Sohner, who drove over from the Trestle Glen neighborhood for the store's first day. The "fresh, new, spiffy displays" reminded him of "driving a new car – the feeling lasts for a couple of months."

"I'm very impressed," Berkeley resident Jose Linares told me. "It's awesome. It has class and cachet and feels like a Whole Foods."

"It's kind of what I expected, although larger," said Joe Liss, who lives in Upper Rockridge. But Liss, who moved here five years ago from Southern California, posed this question: "Why did they make it look like Palm Springs driving in? That's the developer's mistake."

"We like rocky formations," his wife, Julia, added. Of the store itself, brimming with employees and boasting meticulously stocked shelves: "I'll be curious to see they can keep it up."

In the parking lot, I intercepted Peter Hewitt, a dapper, 80-something gentleman, who recently moved to Oakland after nearly 30 years in Berkeley. "I love it," he said of the new Safeway. More specifically, he liked the larger Wells Fargo Bank that is still within Safeway and the low price of Peet's Coffee.

Speaking of coffee, two – count them – two – full Starbucks are nestled within the new center. One is part of the new Safeway, featuring counter, table and outdoor seating. And the other, a fixture of the old shopping center, is at the center's south entrance off Pleasant Valley Avenue, next to Jamba Juice.

The College Avenue Safeway was haunted by controversy over its size, architecture and the traffic it generates. But the Safeway at The Ridge was already part of a shopping center so "fitting in" was not the issue. However, once the rest of the center opens, some neighboring residents fear cut-through traffic as drivers seek shorter, less crowded routes.



Lisa Buccino and daughter Grace Monroe, a second grader at Chabot Elementary, shop for pumpkins on Safeway's opening day.

/Judith Doner Berne

Oakland City Councilman Dan Kalb, who lives nearby, apparently isn't one of them. "This is exactly the place in Oakland you would want to see a Safeway superstore," he said at the low-key ceremony launching the new market.

Kalb highlighted that "most all of your workers (close to 300, many of whom are

Launched: 'The Ridge,' page 7

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from page 6

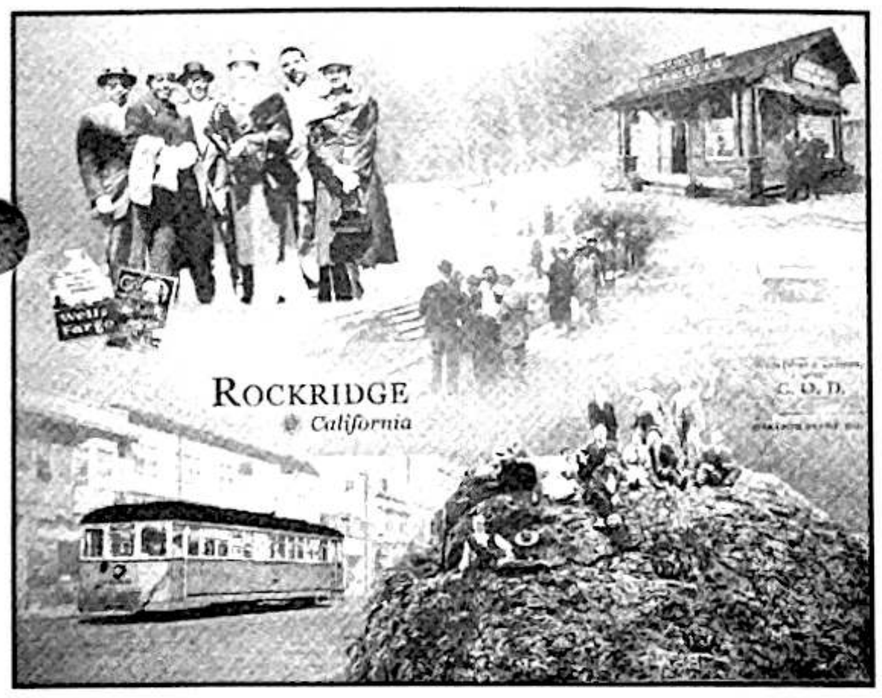
new) are union workers. I appreciate that." He noted that the expanded shopping center should provide an uptick to Oakland's tax base as well as more local shopping choices. "We're Oakland people who live in Oakland and should be able to shop in Oakland," he said.

The new center certainly will provide a more pleasant backdrop with its landscaped setting and quarry pond views as construction continues. In fact, the parking deck atop Safeway is surrounded by nature and offers a scenic vista including San Francisco's skyline.

But as far as shopping choices, the only new tenants are several restaurants and two still vacant spaces which are reportedly



At its official opening, Safeway presented $2,500 each to two Oakland charities: Oakland Promise and the Prescott Joseph Center. City Councilmember Dan Kalb, left, Oakland Promise representative Kyra Mungia, Store Manager Karl Moore and Safeway District Manager Lloyd Asatou took part. /Judith Doner Berne



A historically-themed plaque in the store pays tribute to Rockridge history. /Judy Berne

slated for personal services – perhaps a spa and/or nail salon. Oakland already has more than its share of both. (Two restaurant spaces and both personal services slots still have "for lease" signs in their window. They are "at or near lease execution," according to sources close to the project.)

Still, both Pieology and Habit Burger, well-reviewed upscale pizza and burger chains respectively, are making their first appearances in Oakland. By peering in the windows, you can see that when Pieology opens, it will offer both indoor and outdoor seating. Habit Burger Grill officially opened Wednesday, October 5, according to general manager Elida Rojas.

Pet Food Express, already open a couple of weeks, flanks Safeway as it did in the previous shopping center. With 2,500 more square feet than their old store, it has expanded its offerings, assistant manager Marek Majeski told me. These include: A state-of-the-art pet wash that will be free of charge through October 9; a VIP wellness center open Monday-Friday; a full-time cat and kitten adoption center; a puppy play center; and Sunday dog training.

I caught Ming Tang, the owner of Rockridge Cleaners, readying her new space. Tang, who is so far the only "mom and pop" enterprise, is both excited and nervous after being closed for more than two years. "I moved in two days ago and have already run into some of my old customers," she said. "But it takes time to build up the business."

Rockridge Cleaners, Boston Market and Great Clips, all carrying over from the former center, are expected to be ready for business in early October. But Chase Bank, which was once expected to occupy the first completed building, won't move to its new location until December, according to a Chase spokesman.

So the current Chase, occupying the old center's most prominent corner, will apparently be the last business to move, since building demolition to make way for Phase 2 of The Ridge is expected to begin this fall.

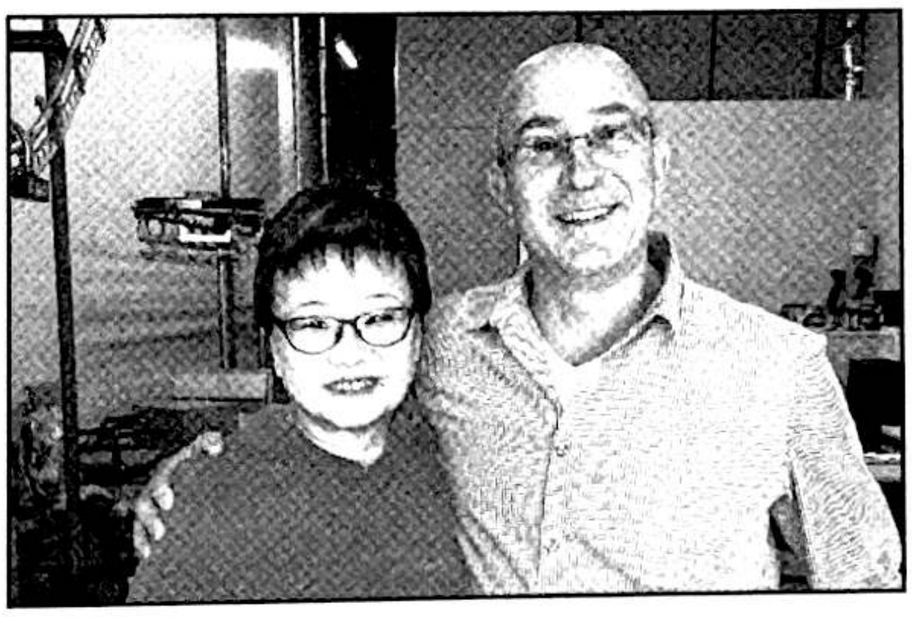
Rumors are flying as to what will be its focal point. Sources close to the project say that "an ultra-luxury theater" with food and drink service is likely. Stay tuned.

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

Previous Tenants of Rockridge Shopping Center Welcomed Back as The Ridge Opens for Business

"I love the Mom and Pop owners," Greg Dalal, director of tenants for The Ridge shopping center, says of Ming Tang, owner of Rockridge Cleaners, which was in business at the former Rockridge Center for 25 years. "I'm glad she's back."

/Judith Doner Berne



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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.

COUNCILMEMBER DAN KALB RESPONDS TO A LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM JON GABEL, APPEARING IN THE ROCKRIDGE NEWS, SEPTEMBER 2016.

"UNDERSTANDING THE FINANCING OF OAKLAND'S RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING PROGRAM"

EDITOR:

While I appreciate Mr. Gabel's focus on questioning the Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program's financing in last month's Rockridge News, there is some confusion I want to clear up.

First, Mr. Gabel offers an estimate of the total revenue of the RPP program by totaling RPP permit revenue and RPP enforcement revenue and subtracting a fraction of total parking enforcement costs (an estimation of the amount of parking enforcement resources used for RPP enforcement). But there is not just one RPP program. The RPP permit issuance program is a program, and parking enforcement, which handles all types of parking infractions of which RPP violations are just a subset, is another program. Staff for these programs are in different departments.

More importantly, Mr. Gabel inadvertently leaves out of his chart and calculations the City costs for administering the permit issuance program itself. That inflates his estimation of excess revenue.

As I noted in my letter in the July Rockridge News, RPP fines "are separate from any RPP administrative program equation. Fees and fines are not commingled when determining the costs of a given program." The staff proposal to increase the RPP permit renewal fee to $82 is based on an analysis of the average staff time and City resources needed to issue each renewal permit. Despite his statement that the $82/permit cost is not consistent with the data he received, none of the data offered by Gabel addresses the staff analysis (and, as noted above, he does not provide any data regarding the cost of actually administering the RPP permit program).

Such staff analyses are done for all administrative fee increases for the City (as published in the Master Fee Schedule) and legally required by state Proposition 26, passed in 2010, which prevents the amount of a new or increased fee from exceeding the cost of the government regulation or service. Thus, my success in reducing the renewal RPP fee increase to $59 means the administration of the RPP permit program operates at a loss for the benefit of residents renewing RPP permits.

Mr. Gabel also states the excess RPP revenue figure (inaccurate and inflated, as I noted above) could reduce or eliminate RPP permit fees. He proposes that fines collected by parking enforcement pay for the staff needed to process and issue RPP permits. This would set a bad precedent.

Even assuming hypothetically that Mr. Gabel's estimated excess revenue for the RPP program was accurate, it is not wise in government to tie the administration of services, such as issuing RPP permits, to the enforcement of law, such as parking fines. The public policy goal of enforcement is to achieve as much compliance with the law as possible, with greater compliance resulting in less revenue. To tie the ability to offer services to the generation of enforcement revenue creates a system where the City's ability to offer a service is dependent upon fining people, thereby encouraging enforcement behavior at odds with the goal of improving compliance. That is not a good way to finance a regular City service. This is why permit programs are typically funded through permit fees, and not from fines or penalties.

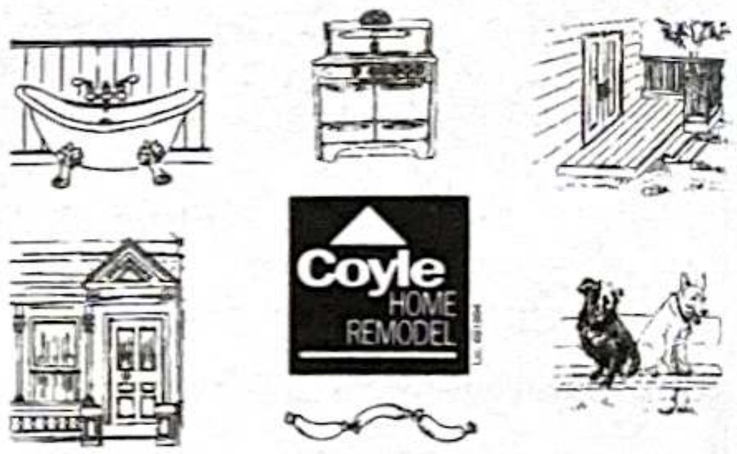
In Michael Reardon's subsequent letter reacting to Mr. Gabel's OpEd, he asks related follow-up questions. First, he asks why total

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Letters

from page 8

parking enforcement costs went up while total parking citations have dropped. Looking at the total parking enforcement cost number provided in Mr. Gabel's chart, the only precipitous increase in costs was between Fiscal 2011-12 ($1,425,472) and 12-13 ($3,882,027). The jump in the cost stems from the restoration of staffing following the budget cuts and layoffs during the big recession. As for the modest decline in parking citations, the City's adopted 2015-17 budget document (see page E-85: www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca1/groups/cityadministrator/documents/policy/oak055628.pdf) explains that current "decreased parking citation issuance [arises] from the implementation of several parking friendly policies, including the five-minute grace period and the park mobile program." To the extent we are getting better compliance, the overall drop in parking citations is a good thing.

Mr. Reardon also asks why RPP permit revenues have increased while RPP citations have dropped. RPP permit revenues do not have any direct correlation to RPP citations, as the amount of permit revenue, or even the amount of permits, does not have any bearing on the number of persons without permits who violate the RPP parking area rules.

Nevertheless, I share the concerns offered by Mr. Gabel and Mr. Reardon, as well as other residents I have communicated with directly, that there is a lack of adequate RPP enforcement. As I noted in my July letter, I believe this is due to the recent significant increase in the number of RPP street zones, for which parking enforcement staffing has not kept pace.

Also, I have heard from residents about the bottleneck in processing requests for new RPP parking zones. The Administration is still conducting analyses I requested months ago about these issues. Once I obtain the requested information, I intend to publish an update in my newsletter, as well as plan any necessary budget adjustments as appropriate to achieve the level of enforcement and service the public rightfully expects.

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Claremont Hotel Concerns

from page 2

location for the underground parking garage and condominiums. Considering the pedestrian, vehicular and possible emergency traffic, the project would create persistent gridlock and massive parking problems in an area already stretched to capacity. Neighborhood shops and restaurants near the Domingo/Russell corner would land in the eye of a vehicular storm.

Oakland's General Plan calls for housing near public transportation, access for emergency vehicles, and retail access. These conditions are not met, nor does this project provide affordable housing.

In 1991, we lost our home above the Claremont Hotel in the firestorm, escaping only with our lives. The Hiller Highlands and Caldecott Tunnel condominium complexes were destroyed. The high density of these structures made them impossible to save. To propose another condominium structure wedged within the Landmark Hotel grounds, abutting private residences and near the emergency access of Tunnel Road, seems truly foolhardy.

After the fire, I joined a local Oakland/Berkeley group that worked with the city and the preservation community to designate the Claremont Hotel an Oakland Landmark and to have it (and 12 acres around it) listed as a California Historical Resource. The significant defining features for these designations were found in the hotel's building history, architecture, and community resources, and in its setting within the surrounding homes and natural hillside, making it visible from local streets and downtown freeways. This setting would be irrevocably damaged by the proposed project's combined effects.

This time around, a group of concerned citizens formed Save Our Claremont (www.SaveOurClaremont.org), to evaluate the impact of the proposed development.

I am writing for myself but have joined Save Our Claremont to inform the community and elected officials of Oakland and Berkeley that this project is inappropriate for our East Bay landmark. It will cause significant negative impacts on the surrounding residences, schools, streets and commercial environment.

More at: www.SaveOurClaremont.org.

A past president of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA), Wendy is a member of the Oakland Heritage Alliance (OHA), the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society, the Vicente Canyon Foundation and is an Oakland Museum of California Natural Science Docent.

Chabot Elementary and Claremont Middle School Host Holiday-Themed Fundraisers

— Both articles continued from page 3 —

Chabot Elementary Carnival

Jumpy Slide, and decorating pumpkins and sugar skulls.

The Chabot Carnival also offers lots of fun entertainment such as Jeremy the Dancer; great music; and a silent costume contest. For those that like to shop, stop by the Craft Faire featuring designers and crafters from the Chabot community.

Join us in celebrating all the fun that Fall has to offer – games; food; prizes; music; and crafts – there is something for everyone. All proceeds from this family-friendly event benefit the Chabot Elementary PTA and fund enrichment programs such as the library; music; art; science; Spanish; the garden; coordination of numerous after-school programs; and help in the classrooms. Special thanks to our sponsors for supporting the Chabot community: MPR Financial; Piedmont Dental by Design; Yovino-Young, Inc.; and 1st United Credit Union. Visit www.chabotelementary.org for more information.

Claremont MS Auction

The auction – encompassing an Online Auction from October 17 through 26, and the gala event — is Claremont's biggest fundraiser. Proceeds provide critical support for programs including outdoor education, Math & Science Night, and Family Literacy Night. The event has already received generous donations from many Rockridge merchants – including merchandise and sponsorships – as well as Claremont families, staff, and other Bay Area businesses.

Tickets: $25 advance/$30 door.

Tickets/more info at

www.claremontms.org/auction.

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8/15/2016	2	2	5577 TAFT AVE	$1,249,000	$1,249,000	12	$1,640,000
8/22/2016	3	2	5525 Taft Avenue	$928,000	$928,000	13	$1,400,000
8/24/2016	2	2	5290 BROADWAY TER	$550,000	$550,000	62	$540,000
8/24/2016	2	1.5	5119 DESMOND ST	$849,000	$849,000	14	$1,085,000
8/26/2016	2	2	5589 LAWTON AVE	$2,700,000	$2,500,000	27	$2,400,000

Homes sold in August closed 20% over the asking price on average.

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A Face-to-Face Connection in the Age of Social Media

by Anne Schreiner

Neighborhood community-building is alive and thriving in the age of Social Media: Just ask the folks on the 6400 block of Benvenue Avenue — between Alcatraz Avenue and Berkeley's Woolsey Street — who recently held their first-ever block party. With a little bit of old fashioned door-to-door rallying mixed in with a blend of phone calls, texting and emailing, their block party came to fruition.

More than 90 neighbors and friends gathered to enjoy wonderful food, drink and the company of one another on a very warm and sunny Labor Day. Each household contributed in various ways through food, music, Bouncy House rental, tables, chairs, decorations, and setup and cleanup.

Taking the time to make this event happen became even more worth the effort when a neighbor who has lived on the block for 45 years told the block party organizer how much she enjoyed meeting another neighbor who has lived on the block for 35 years. This was their first time meeting and they live a half-block from each other.

The City was wonderfully responsive to the organizers' request for permits to close the street. The toughest part in organizing the event was gathering signatures from neighbors to block off the street. This request was met with tremendous enthusiasm by 99.9 percent of the neighbors.

Thank you, OPD Officer Andrew McNeil, Special Events section, for your support. The block thinks "YOU ROCK."

It took 10 years of thinking about hosting a block party before the first step was taken. Given the success, the organizers will not wait another 10 to host the second one. Who says Social Media has negatively impacted our human connection?

Thanks to both the social (neighbors) and the media (text and email), we will continue to make human connections that are so valuable on the little block of Benvenue Avenue.

The College Avenue Presbyterian Church Invites You to Plan and to Dance

- **Community Inclusive Planning Meeting** for our annual Community Thanksgiving Day Meal. Wednesday, October 12, 7 p.m. Come help us make this annual community event another great success with your skills, time and connections.
- **Family Friendly Square Dance**: Saturday, October 22, 6:30-8 p.m. in our Gym: $2 entry, $5/family. Come meet neighbors while we dance and celebrate making space for your family and children to participate.

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The market remains strong in Rockridge. While condo sales in SF and other markets showed signs of slowing due to more inventory of condos, prices remain solid for desirably located and maintained homes in Rockridge. Interest rates remain at near all time lows. We've had our September increase in inventory in general in the greater No. Oakland area but new listings are trailing off as is a typical pattern. October can be a great month to list your home due to proper balance of inventory, weather and buyer demand.

Enjoy our October "Summer"!



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Land Use Update

from page 3

year. Thanks to Councilmember Campbell Washington, who took the lead in supporting the proposal, it is now moving forward to formal consideration by the Planning Commission. RCPC will be working with City staff and groups from other CN-1 areas to finalize the proposal and bring it back to the City Council for approval.

- **Proposed Oakland School of Music; 5391 College Avenue (Former Site of Loot)**

When the antique store Loot moved to 5357 College Avenue [former site of Lost and Found], its old space became vacant. Kim and Micah McClain, music teachers who use the Orff Schulwerk method, propose to establish a music school at the site. It would have small, soundproofed practice rooms; a larger room for ensemble practice and performance; and would cater to children and adult students. Although music performance has a risk of becoming a nuisance, the school's small scale, acoustic, non-amplified music instruments, soundproofing, and lack of immediate residential neighbors (their closest neighbors are other commercial spaces, the Rockridge library, and the Berkeley United Methodist Church) would reduce that risk. The Land Use Committee felt the use might stimulate the area by bringing more families to College Avenue. There was also discussion of limiting the business's use permit to the duration of the school, so that the space would not be permanently lost to retail use. The proposal will be considered by the RCPC board at its October meeting.

October Town Hall

from page 1

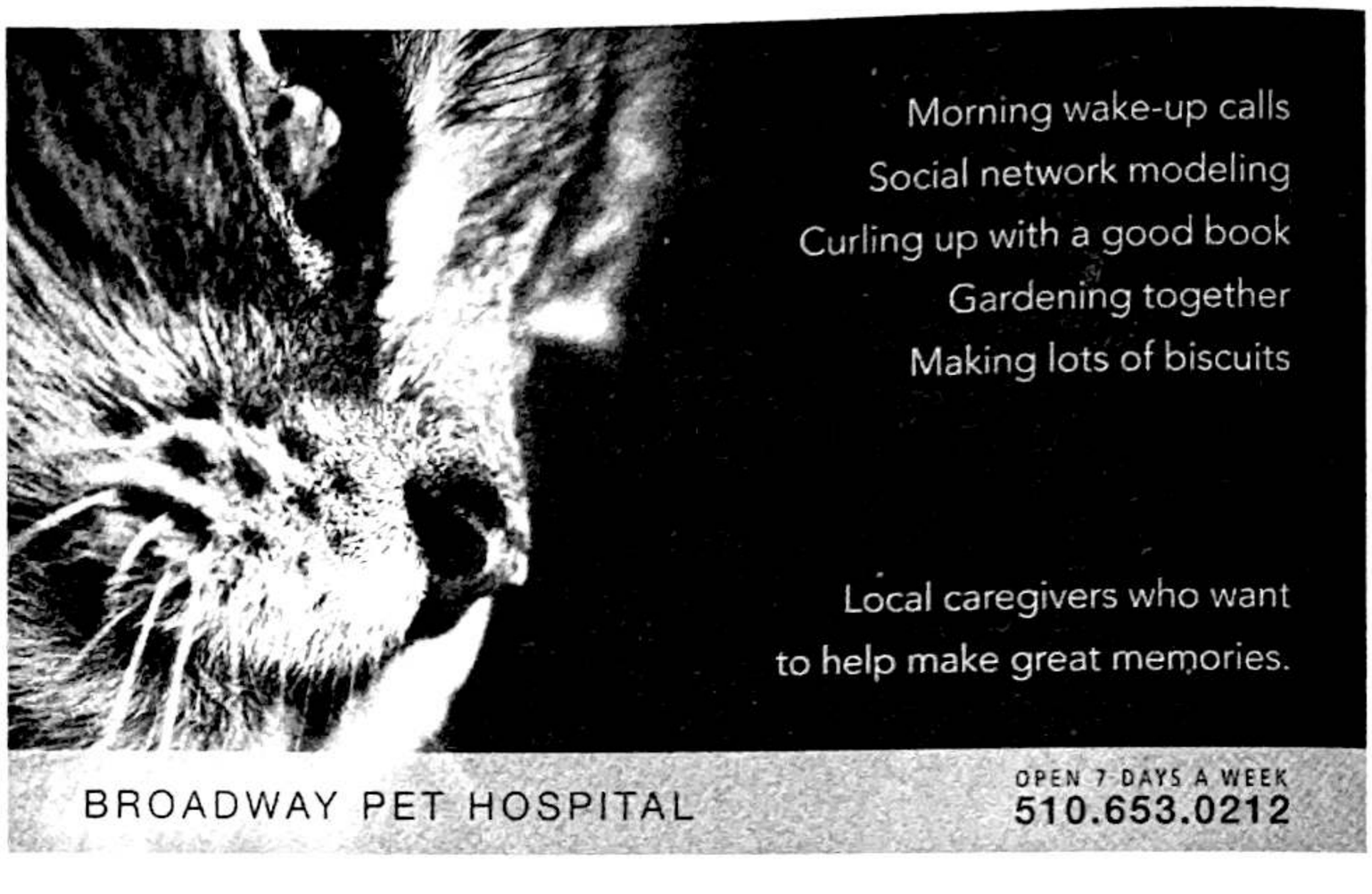
legalization of recreational marijuana use, two plastic bag measures, one proposition to abolish the death penalty in California and another to speed up executions, and plenty more.

This Town Hall is to be held in the upstairs meeting room of the Rockridge branch library. You may want to confirm by looking for RCPC's e-News bulletin, or by checking the RCPC website rockridge.org.

Two hours will not be enough for detailed analysis of each of the two dozen propositions. However, within that time limit, LWVO volunteers can provide a useful summary of each measure, its pro and con arguments, and the major organizations that support and oppose it. In addition, they can answer substantive questions (without engaging in partisan debate) and can offer pointers on sources for further information. If you are particularly interested in one or more specific measures, send a brief message to the Editor of the Rockridge News at editor@rockridge.org.

Thank you, LWVO, for the September 15 candidates' forum for the District 1 and at-large City Council seats at the September Town Hall. **Voters:** Videos of the forum are available to view on the LWVO website. Go to lwvoakland.org; at the opening page, go to the second red heading ("LWVO Co-sponsors Election Candidate Forums") and click on the red link, "here!" at the bottom of that section. Each of the two portions of the program was recorded in a separate video. The videos are also available to view on YouTube.





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Rockridge Builds a Library

from page 1

Gibson Haskell, a double-wide portable schoolroom was placed on the grounds of Claremont Middle School at the corner of College Avenue and Birch Court. In this temporary space, the already small library (1,731 square feet) became even smaller at just 1,400 square feet, with only 1,000 square feet accessible to the public.

Then the Library Committee's real work began – the task of finding a suitable location for a permanent branch library.

RCPC's planning effort included many members of the residential and merchant community. The Library Committee, headed up by Nancy Dutcher, an RCPC board member, helped establish an all-new group, the Neighbors for a Rockridge Library. In an atmosphere of semi-emergency, a plan evolved to make a permanent home for the library on College Avenue.

At the corner of Manila and College, the Windmuller house and adjacent storefront came on the market, and was purchased by the city. The neighboring vacant lot, once occupied by the Longo Art Stone and Pottery Works, a manufacturer of ornamental concrete fixtures such as bird baths, statues and fountains, also came on the market. In its effort to buy the property, the city was at first outbid by a developer, but ultimately succeeded in acquiring the property through eminent domain. (Many houses in the neighborhood still have concrete ornaments in their backyards from Longo Art Stone.)

With the site in hand, funding was needed for construction of the new branch library, together with furnishings, expansion of the book collection, and other enhancements. To make this dream come true, the whole community had to become part of the process. Rockridge residents were intensively polled and surveyed through the Rockridge News to determine priorities for the new facility.

Although RCPC had incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1985, the lobbying and fundraising needs of the library project called for a separate institutional structure. The Neighbors for a Rockridge Library became the official fundraising and advocacy group, with RCPC serving as fiscal agent. In cooperation with CAMA (College Avenue Merchants Association), the Neighbors proposed formation of a Mello-Roos special assessment district, which would levy an annual assessment on each residential parcel within designated boundaries in Rockridge to raise funds for the branch library.

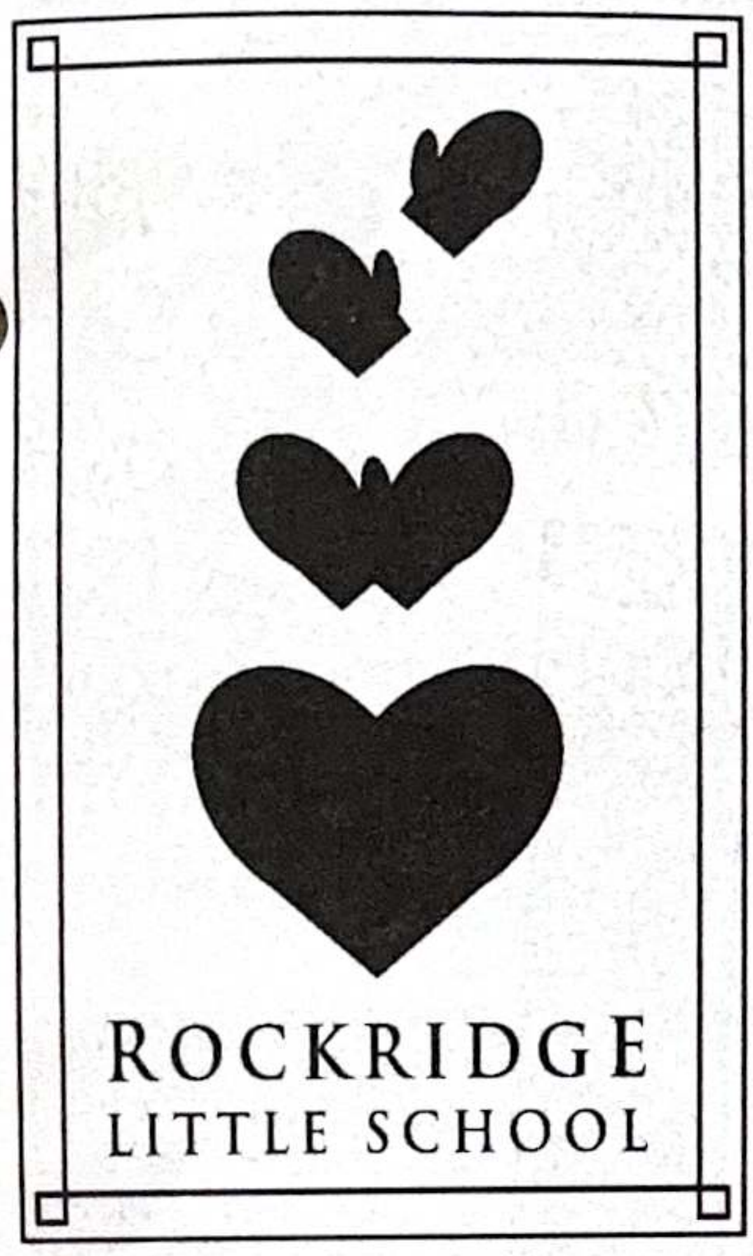
None of the many volunteers had ever run a political campaign before. Volunteers hand-addressed 6,000 letters to residents of the greater Rockridge area, asking if they would consider an increase in their property taxes to fund the local library. Within a month, $10,000 in donations came in, $8,000 of which was used for the election campaign. Signs were printed and thousands of phone calls made to educate the public on the benefits of the library. Measure L appeared on the ballot in November 1990; 81.6 percent of voters within the assessment district approved a special parcel tax of $25 per year for 30 years. The legal threshold to pass the measure two-thirds "yes" votes. Thanks to the tireless efforts of committed citizens, the threshold was far surpassed. *End, first installment.*

Claremont Avenue Block Captain Routes Available

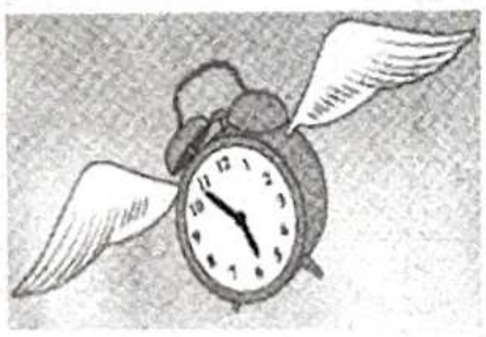
You can help The Rockridge News with delivery. Do you live on or near Claremont Avenue? Can you spare about 20 minutes a month to deliver the newsletter to the houses along these routes?:

- **Block Captain/Route 21G**: Odd numbers along the 6000 block of Claremont Avenue;
- **Block Captain/Route 16D**: Both sides of 5200 Claremont and 5400 block of Claremont Avenue, west side only, Clifton to Cavour.

The newsletter is distributed the first weekend of each month except August. Call 510/547-3855 or email Susan at smontauk@gmail.com to volunteer.


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Indian Classical Dance for kids & adults in Rockridge

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Celebrating Jack London

from page 1

Branch, 1427 88th Avenue, on October 18, 5-6:45 p.m.

- A Teen Read-aloud of White Fang takes place at the Main Library, 125-14th Street Saturday, November 5, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

London, born January 12, 1876, packed a full existence into his short life; he died at age 40, on November 22, 1916. According to his biographers, London had worked as an oyster pirate, served time in prison, ridden the rails as a tramp, joined a seal-hunting schooner bound for Japan, and searched for gold in the Klondike rush in the Yukon Territory of Canada by the age of 22. His magazine stories and books chronicled his many adventures. His prolific output earned him a million dollars before he was 30. In a way, he did strike it rich after all.

Born in San Francisco, London was raised in Oakland, primarily by his beloved foster mother, Jennie Prentiss, who had been born into slavery. He remained close to her throughout his life. As a boy, he frequented the Oakland Public Library and was encouraged in his quest for knowledge by Oakland's librarian (and later California poet laureate) Ina Coolbrith. He also frequented the docks along the waterfront, learning the basics of seafaring while rubbing shoulders with adventurers and hard-living mates. By age 16, he was working 12- to 18-hour days in noisy, dangerous conditions at the Hickmott Cannery near First and Filbert Streets, no doubt shaping his radical views on workers' rights. To escape the drudgery, he borrowed $300 from his foster mother to buy the sloop Razzle-Dazzle, and never looked back.

Learn more about the life and legacy of Jack London at lecture hosted by the Oakland Heritage Alliance on October 20 at the Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Avenue; details are at www.oaklandheritage.org. The speaker is Lou Leal, a docent for the Jack London State Park. The Oakland Tours Program is sponsoring a free tour, Jack London's Waterfront, on Saturday, October 29 (details at www.oaklandnet.com/walkingtours.)

Find more information and links about London at www.oaklandwiki.org. The web site for various programs and activities is http://jacklondon.ouroakland.net. There is also a Facebook page: Jack London's Legacy.

Email inquiries: jacklondonlegacy@gmail.com, or voice mail via 510/497-1876.

Email 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

District 1 Councilman Dan Kalb

Drop-In Community Office Hours at Temescal Farmers Market, 5300 Claremont Ave, DMV parking lot, 3rd Sunday each month,10:30am-12:30pm. More office hours info mmharris@oakland.net or www.dankalb.net/contactdan.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

- **All invited to 20 Year Anniversary Extravaganza: Sat, Oct, 22.** (see story p.1)
- **Ready, Set, Connect! One-on-one computer tutoring for all ages.** Help with basic computer skills, set up: e-book/audio book downloads. Sign up, or drop-in; Saturdays, 10:30 am-12:30 pm

FOR CHILDREN

- **Family Story Time:** Stories/songs/rhymes (for all ages); Saturdays, 10:30am.
- **Toddler Story Time:** Songs, active rhymes and stories (ages 9 months to 2 years), Thursdays, 10:30am, **upstairs**.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** Read-alouds, songs, and rhymes (to age 5); Thursdays, 10:30am.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **NorCal Bats - Real Information About this Halloween Icon:** "Northern California Bats" rescues, rehabilitates, and releases bats. Hear bat stories, learn how bats help the environment, meet live bats. Best for ages 6 to adult. Tues, 10/11, 7pm.
- **Shadow Theater, Ghastly Stories, & Skull Cookies:** Story time, then decorate and eat cookies. Best for ages 5 to 10 years (all ages welcome). Tues, 10/25, 7-8pm.
- **Not-So-Spooky Halloween Pumpkin Stories & Craft:** Come in costume, best to age 5; stay afterwards to decorate a trick-or-treat bag. Sat, 10/29, 10:30am.
- **20-Year Anniversary Celebration:** Sat, 10/22, Events scheduled from 11am to 3pm. Help build a miniature fantasy library in the children's area, library treasure hunt, live performance and music, have birthday cake.
- **Young Writers NaNoWriMo: Write a novel in 30 days.** National event for all writers age 9 to 13. Register under the Rockridge Library Young Writers at the ywp.nanowrimo.org website. Meet every Tues evening in Nov (starting 11/1) from 6:30-7:45pm. We help you write your novel.
- **'Tween Scene:** Monthly, 'tween-directed group for ages 9 to 13. Bring ideas of what you & your friends would most like to do each month. **Snacks served.** Every 2nd & 4th Tues evening, 6:30-7:45pm, in the Children's Area.

More info on children's programs: Erica Siskind, 597-5017.

FOR TEENS

- **Teen Advisory Board (ages 14-18):** Meet with other teens, plan and organize library activities, get community service credit for school. 1st Sat. each month, 1 to 2pm.
- **Teen 'Scape:** Play video & board games; make crafts; do homework. **Enjoy meals.** Tues, Thurs, and Fridays: 3:30 -4:30pm and Wednesdays: 1:30 - 4:30 pm.
- **Shrinky Dinks Book Covers:** shrink your favorite book covers into charms; make keychains and jewelery. Sat,10/15, 2pm.

FOR ADULTS

- **Help with downloading eBooks:** Tuesdays **by appointment**, 6-7:30pm. By appointment online at www.oaklandlibrary.org or in person at any library location.
- **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 (or, come empty-handed). **Third Sat.** (10/15), 1 to 5pm; **wheelchair-accessible.** Calif. Writers Club of Berkeley. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com. Call 597-5017 to confirm.
- **Designing Your Bay Friendly Garden.** Water-wise gardening workshops. Co-sponsored by East Bay MUD. **Light Refreshments.** Sat, 10/15, 11am.
- **Oakland Knows Jack: Discussion of the Book White Fang** to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Jack London's death. Sat, 10/22, 11:30am. (See story p.1)
- **Art+Words: Remembering the Oakland Hills Fire.** Multimedia lecture, share memories with artists **Raphael Shevelev, Ruth Block,** and **Darrell Hunger** and memoirist **Risa Nye.** Sat, 10/29, 11am.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal information.** 1st Tues, 6-8pm; Lottery drawing to see lawyer appt. Sign-up opens at 5pm; must be present for lottery at 5:45. Call day of program to confirm: 597-5017.

ART EXHIBITS

Gallery: Oct. **The Fire Art Project Revisited** commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Oakland Hills Fire.

Lobby Display: Rockridge library memories; stop by to add your own.

LIBRARY HOURS

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

Diesel Book/Poetry and Events

FREE and open to the public.

- Sun, 10/9, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Martha Collins:** *Admit One: An American Scrapbook*; and **Rosa Lane:** *Tiller North.*
- Wed,10/12, 7pm. **Nell Zink:** *Nicotine.* Joined in conversation by DIESEL'S co-manager **Brad Johnson.**
- Fri, 10/14, 7pm. Pulitzer Prize winner **Rae Armantrout:** *Partly: New and Selected Poems, 2001-2015.* With local poet **Stephanie Young.**
- Sat,10/15,10:30am. **Kids' Morning** with **Lisa Brown:** *The Airport Book* and at 11:30am, **Annie Barrows:** *Ivy and Bean.*
- Sun, 10/16, 3pm. **Hua Hsu:** *A Floating Chinaman: Fantasy and Failure Across the Pacific*; with hip-hop journalist **Jeff Chang.**
- Tues, 10/18, 7pm. **Yoss:** *Super Extra Grande.*
- Thurs, 10/20, 7pm. **Lidija Dimkovska:** *A Spare Life.*
- Fri, 10/21, 7pm. **FRESH AND BEST poetry reading series** with **Ari Banias:** *Anybody' Poems*; and **Margaret Ross:** *A Timeshare.*
- Sun, 10/23, 3pm. **Norman Ollestad:** *French Girl with Mother.*
- Wed, 10/26, 7pm. **Patrick Hoffman:** *Every Man a Menace.*
- Fri, 10/28, 6pm. **Pajama Story Time for Kids.** Come in PJs, bring teddy bear, have milk and cookies. Bedtime story by author/illustrator **Eda Kaban:** *Even Superheroes Have Bad Days.*
- Tues, 11/1, 7pm. **Constance Hale:** *The Natives Are Restless: A San Francisco Dance Master Takes Hula Into the Twenty-First Century;* with hula master, **Kumu Patrick Makuakane.** Dancers from Na Lei Hulu i ka Wekiu will perform in full costume.
- Wed, 11/2, 6:30pm. **Freud's Bar** (monthly talks given by local Bay Area psychoanalysts, aimed at students ages 16-25, while enjoying drinks and snacks): Topic: **On Narcissism,** presented by **Michael Donner, PhD.**
- Fri, 11/4, 7pm. **Civil Coping Mechanisms'** new series *#RECURRENT.* Featured writers: **Harold Abramowitz, Jordan Okumura,** and **Doug Rice.**

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

Friends of the Oakland Public Library (FOPL) Fall Book Sale

Oct 13 - 16 (Thurs-Sun) 10:30am - 5:30pm. Discounts up to 50%. Proceeds support reading and literacy programs, branch projects, collection development and more. 721 Washington Street, 444-0473. Details at www.fopl.org and www.thebookmarkbookstore.org.

Mark Bittman at Market Hall

Book signing of his new book, *How to Bake Everything.* Taste samples. Sunday, 10/16, 2 to 3pm. Rockridge Market Hall, 5655 College Ave. More info: 250-6005 or www.rockridgemarkethall.com.

Meet Dist One School Board Candidates

Candidates' Forum hosted by Oakland Tech High School's PTSA. Meet the two District 1 candidates: **Jody London** and **Don Macleay.** Also learn about state and local ballot initiatives. Wed., Oct 19, 7:30-9pm. Oakland Tech library, 4351 Broadway (parking along 42nd and 45th streets).

Volunteer Opportunities at Chabot Space & Science Center

RSVP and Register now for Orientation: Sat, 10/29, 10am - 2pm. Volunteers offer visitors interactive and hands-on experiences. You don't have to be a scientist or a physicist; we'll teach you. Learn to operate our historic telescopes; educate and inspire over 50,000 school children that visit each year; assist with special events. Shifts available Tues-Sun daytime and Fri and Sat evenings. Volunteers agree to **8 hours per month for at least one year.** More info, and to RSVP for orientation: http://www.chabotspace.org/adult-volunteers.htm or volunteers@chabotspace.org or 336-7304.

North Oakland Senior Center.

Annual $12 membership entitles seniors 55+ to discounts on activities and trips. JOIN NOW.

- **BART Sr. Clipper Card Field Trip.** October 27, Free for age 65+ if you don't already have a Sr. Clipper card. Learn to use the card with 92.5% saving. **Free box Lunch and a free trip on the Oakland Airport Connector.** Pre-register with ID at Reception Desk now. **Details abt all trips at the desk or 597-5085.**

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.

Where is North Oakland Village?

When Rockridge Center conversions began, **North Oakland Village (NOV)** moved to new space at the rear of the First Congregational Church, 27th Street and Harrison. There is a handy parking lot around back. **Our office provides a gathering place for meetings, working groups, and presentations, and offer an ever-evolving menu of activities, seminars, classes and events tailored to the many interests of our members.**

Visit us at the office for "Time to Talk" offered the third Friday of the month from 10:30 to 11:30. **Also,** see our popular monthly newsletters posted on the website: northoaklandvillage.org. Our phone: 510/547-8500.



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