THE Rockridge News

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Homeless in Rockridge: RCPC November Town Hall Panel

— November 17, 7-9 p.m.; College Avenue Presbyterian Church | 5951 College Avenue —



Caltrans workers clean out a homeless person's campsite next to the CA 24 Claremont Avenue exit. PHOTOS/D. KINKEAD

Join your friends and neighbors for an RCPC Town Hall panel discussion and examination of homelessness in North Oakland. Co-sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council, the College Avenue Presbyterian Church (CAPC), the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), and the office of Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, the meeting will be held in the church sanctuary, 5951 College.

The panel includes: Aisha Brown from Supervisor Carson's office; representatives from Bay Area Community Services (BACS); and Susan Shelton from Oakland's Human Services Department. They will discuss a pilot program for providing community services at homeless encampments.

We will also have Officer Anthony Hutzol, our local Community Resource Officer from the Oakland Police Department, who will talk about how he

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Oakland-Berkeley Firestorm Memorial Ceremony Recalls Loss, Celebrates Recovery

Mayor Libby Schaff, Rockridge District Association (RDA) chair Susan Bernosky, BART General Manager Grace Crunican, BART boardmembers, Oakland and Berkeley firefighters, and members of the BART police department joined in a ceremony complete with color guards and songs to memorialize those who died and those who lost their homes and belongings in the Firestorm. A reading of each victim's name was punctuated by a bell's toll for each person.

Firestorm Memorial, page 7

Halloween Parade Not a Wash: Goblins at Play

Shortly before the Halloween parade sponsored by the Rockridge District Association and the Rockridge Community Planning Council was to begin, pouring rain gave way, permitting crowds of kids and their families to saunter up and down College Avenue, trick-or-treating all the way.

Later, clouds were threatening and the ground outside was damp, so CAPC graciously welcomed goblins, ghosts and swordfighters inside for storytelling by Michael Litzky, songs and accordion by Salane Schultz, and pumpkin bowling and crafts. See photos, page 9.



Juan L. Sánchez, "Music Without Borders," entertained library celebrants with an interactive musical experience.

Branch Library Fans Celebrate 20 Years of Books +

A steady stream of Rockridge residents and interested visitors listened to live music, drank punch, ate cake and learned the history of the Rockridge Branch Library's

Library Anniversary, page 13



Rockridge in the Snow? Yes. Page 11

Nov. Town Hall

from page 1

works with calls for service involving the homeless in the Rockridge area.

CAPC Pastor Monte McClain will introduce the panel and present short video interviews of some of the people with whom the church is working. See Op-Ed below for further discussion about the panel's topic and the challenges to be met.

Op-Ed

Homelessness in Oakland – What Do We Have to Do With It?

by Stuart Flashman, Chair, RCPC

As most people in Rockridge know, Oakland is in the midst of a housing crisis – too little housing at too high prices. If you recently moved to Oakland, you might think it's always been this way. It hasn't. Housing prices have escalated remarkably, even shockingly. Why?

The obvious answer is supply and demand – too little supply and too much demand. Home prices and rents have mushroomed with the arrival of a surge of households fleeing even more unaffordable housing in San Francisco. Meanwhile, as people scramble to bid for houses and apartments, those with less adequate financial resources are dropping out of the bottom of the housing market and into homelessness.

As far back as I can remember, there have always been some homeless people around, but their numbers, too, are skyrocketing.

What Is to Be Done to Meet the Challenges?

Our Mayor's answer is that we need to build more housing. Of course we do. We can't just turn off population increase as we would a faucet. However, the rush of people attracted by the growth in high-tech jobs has far exceeded housing growth throughout the Bay Area. Further, the "trickle-down" economy doesn't seem to trickle down as far as the homeless. Yes, we can build more housing and we are doing so here in Rockridge and elsewhere in Oakland. We can also add more second units on existing lots. None of that, however, will help those who can't afford the lowest "affordable" rents in this area. Nor is it any solution to hand people a bus ticket and ask them to go elsewhere.

In addition to figuring out what's needed to return housing affordability to the Bay Area, we need to address the social needs of the homeless. Often, mental illness and/or social instability are part of the constellation of factors leading to homelessness, and those are issues our society often fails to deal with well.

RCPC November Town Hall Examines Homelessness

This month, RCPC teams up with the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson's office and the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) to sponsor a Town Hall panel discussion on homelessness in Oakland and Rockridge. It's an appropriate topic as we approach the holiday season – a season of giving and sharing.

Ignoring the problem of homelessness won't make it go away; nor will it be solved by just dropping a coin in a tin cup. Yet steps are being taken right here and right now that could help address the issue.

Our panel will discuss what's being done locally, as well as how you can become involved. Come to the meeting at 5951 College Avenue and become part of the discussion, and perhaps part of the solution.

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Library program details/hours: Calendar, page 15

THE Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded March 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly (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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Newsletter Advertising/Deadline
Publication date of the December issue is:
☛ **December 2, 2016**
☛ **December deadline is November 17.**
Advertising rates are $26/column inch. Six month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or 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 October Land Use Committee was canceled. The next Land Use Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 30, 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.

City Update on Oakland Caldecott Settlement Agreement Projects

Two projects on Broadway, both funded via the city's Caldecott Settlement Agreement, are currently under construction or will be soon.

Improvements to Broadway between Keith and Brookside Avenues are underway. The project, which includes Oakland's first cycle-track (a two-way, separate bikeway) and pedestrian crossing enhancements, is on schedule. Weather permitting, the detour will be lifted by the end of November. The whole project (including the portion not requiring a detour) is expected to be complete in March 2017.

Construction of a "road diet" on Broadway between Keith Avenue and Broadway Terrace is planned to begin by mid-November 2016. The goal of this work is to make the roadway safer for all roadway users: pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

The project will resurface the roadway; reduce the number of traffic lanes from four to three (one in each direction with a two-way center turn lane); add bicycle lanes on both sides of the street; install a pedestrian-activated traffic signal at Lawton Avenue; install high-visibility crosswalks; and construct bulb-outs and pedestrian refuge medians at key intersections to reduce the distance people crossing Broadway on foot must travel in the roadway.

Road diet construction will begin with the bulb-outs, which will be minimally disruptive to traffic. Any required periodic lane closures will begin after the detour for the Broadway/Keith to Brookside project is lifted. Unlike the ultimate project, which will include bicycle lanes and a two-way center turn lane, these closures may require through traffic to wait behind turning vehicles.

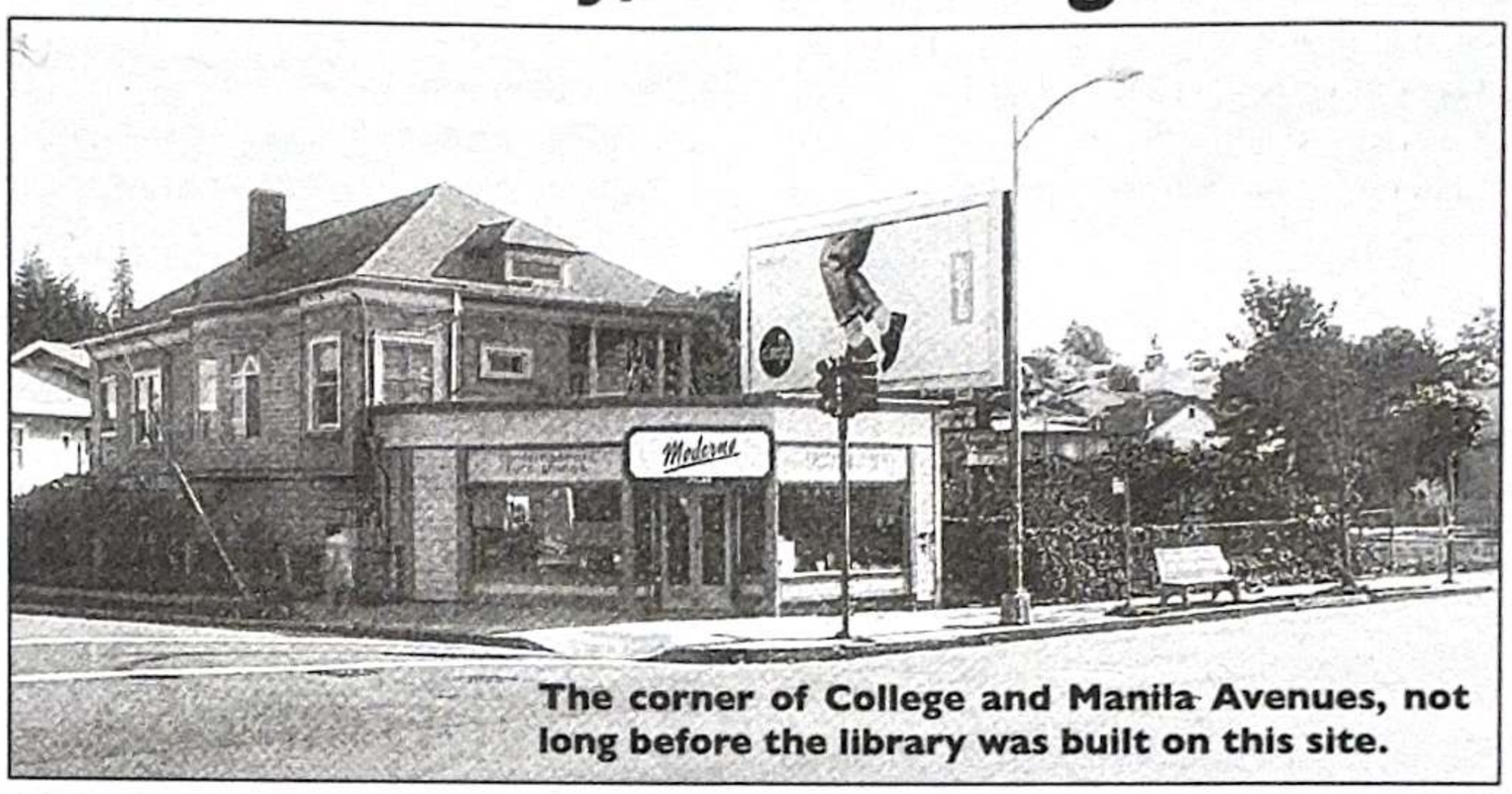
For more details, contact Caldecott projects consultant Victoria Eisen at victoria@eisenletunic.com or 510/525-0220.

Rockridge Builds a Library, 20 Years Ago

by Annette Floystrup

SECOND INSTALLMENT

Editor's Note: At the end of the first installment, library activists within the community had proposed forming a Mello-Roos assessment district to raise funds for a new branch library. Within a month, $10,000 in donations were received; Measure L appeared on the ballot in November 1990; 81.6 percent of voters within the assessment district approved the special parcel tax of $25 per year per living unit for 30 years.

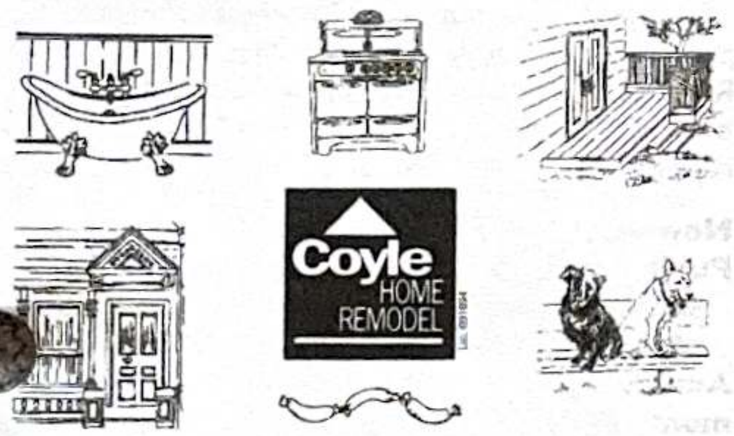


The corner of College and Manila Avenues, not long before the library was built on this site.

With one source of funding secured, and the commitment of the neighborhood established, volunteers began to seek additional funding from the state Library Committee. Our State Senator, Nicholas C. Petris, worked to secure additional funding for our project and helped in every way he could. When the time came to allocate state funds, his legislative aide, Paul Bradford (Brad) Onorato, contacted every legislator on the selection committee with the Rockridge story.

In 1991, the Proposition 85 funding committee was awarding grants of bond funds

Building a Library, page 13



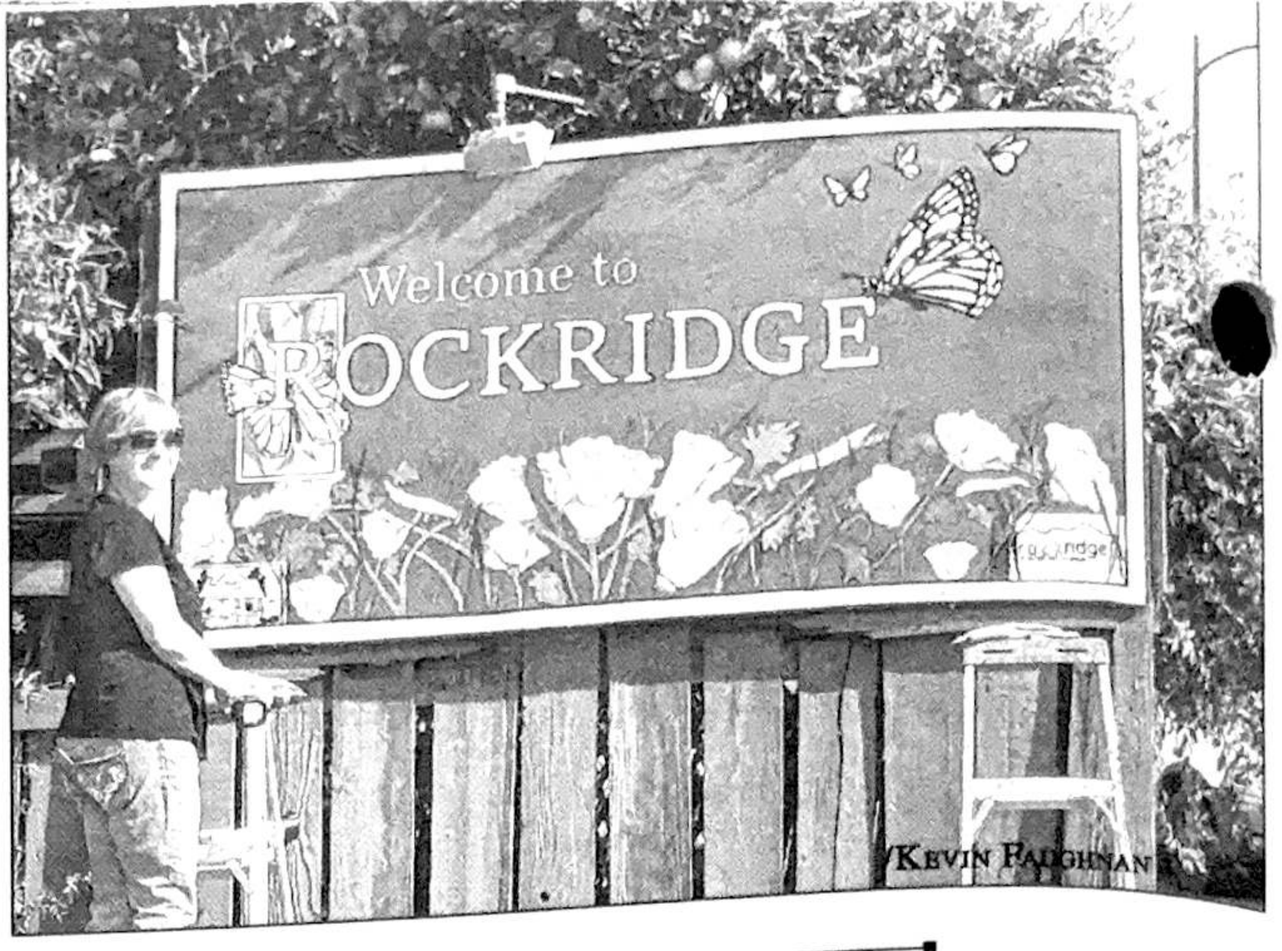
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Facelift for a Faded Welcome



The "Welcome to Rockridge" sign on the fence just past Wendy's at College and Broadway has found new life. The original greeting sign, much weathered over time and obscured by orange tree foliage, had lost its pizzazz. To refresh the welcome, the Rockridge District Association (RDA) and the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) worked with local artist Caroline Stearn. Now clean and crisp, the sign features California poppies, a butterfly and the RDA and RCPC logos. Stearn's work was underwritten by a joint RCPC and RDA grant.

Another important Rockridge entrance – Claremont Avenue by Frog Park – is being studied for similar improvement.

NCPC Election at December 8 Meeting

by Karen Ivy, secretary, NCPC

The December Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council) NCPC meeting will feature Mark Pilotin of the Oakland Public Ethics Commission speaking about the commission and what it does.

The Greater Rockridge NCPC will also hold an election at the December 8 meeting. Eric Neville has volunteered to accept the vacant treasurer's position, but our bylaws require that he be elected at a public meeting with at least 15 people attending.

Our meetings don't always have 15 attendees, so we want to amend the bylaws. (Find the NCPC bylaws online at http://tinyurl.com/h8hux2y.) Section IX now reads:

At least four members must be present to conduct business at a Steering Committee meeting and at least fifteen members must be present to conduct business at a community meeting. (Amended by voice vote 2/10/2011)

Also, the steering committee has only four members. We'd like to reduce the quorum to three members. The Neighborhood Services Division agrees that "there is no need to have a quorum for NCPC meetings because attendance at any given meeting cannot be predicted," so we will remove the wording on the minimum number of attendees to conduct business at a community meeting. Business conducted at a community meeting will still require two-thirds of those present and voting, as stated in sections X and XI.

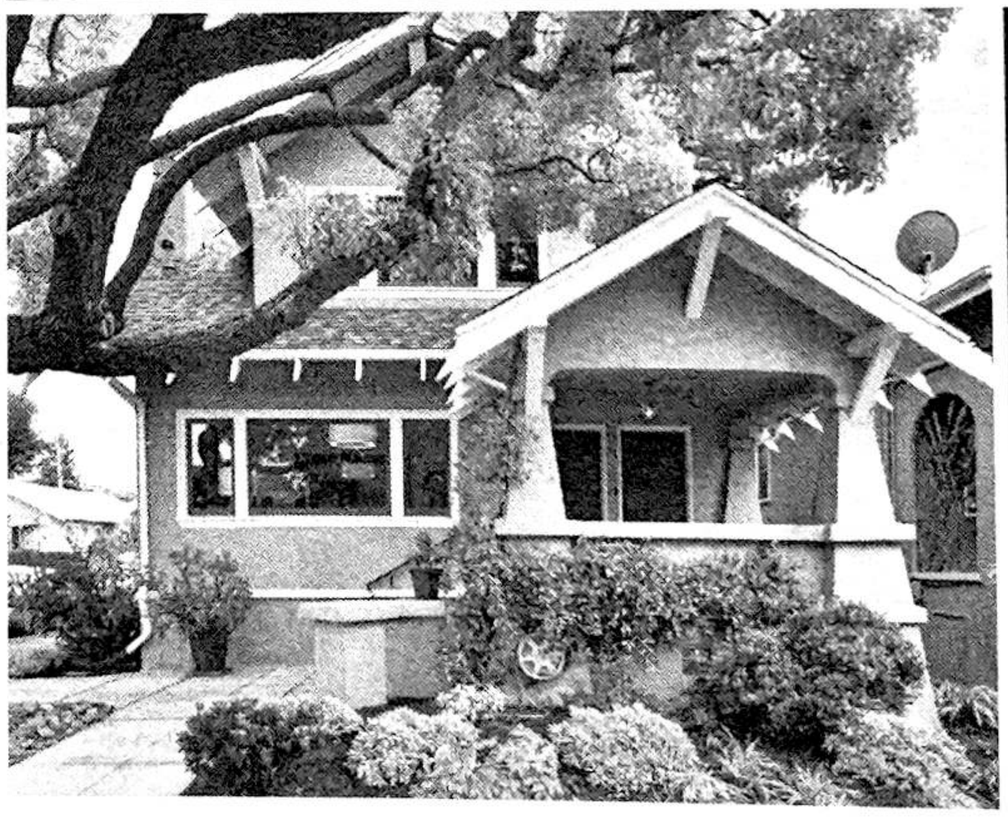
The amended section IX would reflect that change.

We hope to see many of you at the December meeting to help us elect our new treasurer and update our bylaws to represent our current situation.


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Community Thanksgiving Day Meal at College Avenue Presbyterian Church

by Rev. Monte McClain

Now more than ever, we need to experience the community-creating power of empathy.

As this election season draws to a close, we ready for the move into the holidays. For many it's a respite, a change of daily rhythms and routines, an opportunity to connect with distant family or rarely seen friends.

Our culture also pulls us to recognize the *other* in our society. Some call it welcoming the stranger, others express it as a chance to give back from our fortune or abundance. You don't have to go far to do acts of kindness and social action. You can make a difference in the life of another, and in your own, here in North Oakland.

For over 30 years, the College Avenue Presbyterian Church community has hosted an annual Thanksgiving Day Community Meal. Initially begun to build a deeper sense of community in our neighborhood, the meal continues – year in and year out – working towards that consistent and morphing goal.

It began when the Rockridge community was emerging from neighborhood transformation caused by the building of Highway 24 and the BART station. It provided a space for our larger community – business and residential, homed and homeless – to connect and collaborate around a common goal. Today we hear talk of gentrification, of residents not being part of their neighborhood or knowing who their neighbor is. The annual Thanksgiving Meal is a unique opportunity to connect with neighbors new and old, homed and homeless, young and older, and to respond to our hungers for food, relationship, and a safe place on a holiday.

This Thanksgiving, the church will host its Community Meal on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at 5951 College Avenue. The meal is a joint project with diverse members of our Rockridge community: congregational members, local merchants and local residents. It is an opportunity to gather as a community and respond to the needs of those struggling with hunger, solitude and joblessness. The meal generally serves between 200-300 people with more than 50 volunteers working to make this event possible.

The meal is open and free for everyone. Donations of money and food are gratefully accepted. It's because of such donations that the meal takes place. You can also give of your time. Help is needed beginning Monday, November 21 through Wednesday the 23rd to prepare, set up and decorate the church gym. Significant help is needed the day of the event to set up, cook, serve and also clean up.

Visit the Thanksgiving section on the church website at www.capcoakland.org/thanksgiving-meal to sign up for a volunteer slot or to make a donation; or contact the church office at capc1@sbcglobal.net or 510/658-3665.

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The market remains strong in Rockridge. Long term interest rates remain relatively low. Short term rates to banks effecting prime rate and consumer products such as equity lines of credit and credit cards may go up in December pending strength of inflation inducing economic indicators. The election, depending on how market perceives the victor, may also cause some changes in the stock and bond markets, which could effect rates. Inventory is slowing as is typical this time of year. This can mean less competition when listing a home. There could be enough demand to mitigate any potential holiday slow down.
Happy Thanksgiving!

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Eyes on Rockridge

'She could teach a tree to read'

by Judith Doner Berne

Sharon Zinke just assumed that her fellow special education teachers were sending their students on to middle school with adequate reading skills.

But when she found out that wasn't the case, the long-time Rockridge resident began promoting the method she had developed for struggling readers over a 40-year teaching career in the Hayward and Berkeley public schools.

It's a decoding solution called "Rime Magic." In brief, instead of reading a word from its beginning, Zinke focuses on the middle of the word, adding to it from either end. For example, **ep** might become **step** and then **stepped** or **stepping**.

"I've worked with struggling readers all my life," the now-retired teacher says. This system "takes a few minutes of class time a day – for special ed kids, somewhat longer. But once the kids get it, it gives them a solid foundation."

Scholastic Inc. published her book, "The Decoding Solution: Rime Magic and Fast Success for Struggling Readers," in 2013. But Zinke was left to create an accompanying set of rime cards, with the help of her husband, Michael Zinke, co-principal of RadiantBrands in Berkeley. She peddled them herself to teachers.

This January, Scholastic will combine an expanded version of her book plus its own "bigger and better kit" into a teacher's guide titled: RIME MAGIC: Phonics-Powered Prevention and Intervention for All Students. "Now I'm going to be all over the country," she says with a definite air of both wonder and satisfaction.

"All research shows that success in school is tied to the number of books in the home," says Zinke, who holds a master's degree in reading from California State University-East Bay and a certificate in special education.

That makes her trust that the new Oakland Promise program, a cradle to career strategy designed to triple the number of Oakland public school students who earn a college degree, begins at the cradle stage with story books.

"I want Oakland (school district) to have it," Zinke says of her decoding system. "This thing really works. But they've (school officials) seen a million products going by." So, pro bono, "Any Oakland school that wants me, I go to. It's my town. I love Oakland. I've been in about nine schools in East Oakland over the years."

Her work also inspired her niece Laura Weiss, 26, to get her master's degree in reading and teach in the Oakland Schools. Weiss was a reading intervention specialist at Acorn Woodland Elementary for two years and now teaches second grade at Cox Academy.

"I saw how my aunt worked with my little sister when she was struggling to read," Weiss told me. "My sister now has a strong love of reading. I also saw the way the kids lit up in her (Zinke's) classrooms.

Weiss uses Rime Magic which she finds easy to fit into her teaching day and accessible to all her students. "It's really nice to see kids who struggle as they start to feel successful," she says. As a result of demonstrations Zinke has given at the school, "the other teachers are pretty excited about it," Weiss says.

Zinke is also familiar with Oakland Schools as a parent. After the Zinkes' son, Daniel, attended a private elementary school in Berkeley, "he announced to us that he wanted to go to public school," Zinke told me. He went on to Claremont Middle School, graduating from Oakland Technical High School and U.C. Santa Cruz and is now operations manager and buyer for an online wine club. "He said just the other day that he was so happy he went to Tech."

"What I tell parents around here (Rockridge) is: 'Don't worry. If you read to your children, they don't need anything else.'" Her mantra: "Read it TO them, WITH them and then it's read BY them."

"She could teach a tree to read," says her neighbor, Nora Wolfson, who has known Zinke for nearly 40 years. "I've followed her

Decoding Words, Creating Readers, page 7

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Decoding Words, Creating Readers

from page 6

entire career in literacy. I've seen her videos and I've heard countless stories over the years with the individual kids she's tutored, her classroom students and her work with different school districts.

"I have some understanding of what works for people," says Wolfson, an organizational development consultant. "I understand what she is doing. And I understand that it works."

Zinke is no stranger to innovation and to fighting for young students. In the late '90s, she was part of the "politics of reading" movement to replace basal texts such as the Dick and Jane series with real books. It pitted phonics first advocates against those who believe, as Zinke does, that "phonics should be taught in the context of reading."

In an extensive cover story and photos that ran over seven pages in the East Bay Express, she detailed her philosophy and her successful trips to Sacramento to ensure that a state-wide reading task force wasn't going to require teachers to spend most of their time teaching phonics.

"Doing the political stuff made me look at what I think is really important about teaching reading," Zinke said at that time. "Is it about curriculum or is it about kids?"

Yes, her system is directed at phonics. "But I call it 'not stupid phonics,'"she says. "Because it's done in engaging, fast sessions exposing them to all phonic elements rather than one phonic element at a time." It doesn't happen in a vacuum, Zinke reminds, because "students are reading books at their independent and instructional levels every day...."

Jaime Vines, who teaches first grade at Oxford Elementary School in Berkeley, could hardly contain herself as she described to me how well Zinke's decoding system has worked for her students.

"Oh my goodness, it is absolutely incredible. It's the fastest way to teach decoding and it's also fun. The kids love it. You should see how their confidence skyrockets. It's a cool tool for teachers to add. And it creates this positive culture in your classroom."

Vines had Zinke as a teacher when she was earning her accreditation at U.C. Berkeley Extension, so "I learned the foundation from her. I use the program and my school uses the program."

But Zinke won't be satisfied until it's everywhere. In her mind, "It can change the dropout rate, the crime rate, the prison rate – because the kids who drop out of school are the ones who can't read."



Reading specialist Sharon Zinke uses her decoding method to help a Berkeley 18-year-old who was reading at first-grade level.
/Courtesy Sharon Zinke

And now that Scholastic is taking over, "it will go big time," she predicts. "That just couldn't happen with me selling one kit at a time to teachers."

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

Firestorm Memorial

from page 1

In her opening remarks to a largely standing room only crowd, Mayor Schaff emphasized the importance of preparedness for future disasters, such as earthquakes. Oaklanders are resilient, she agreed, but broader disaster preparation is important.

Susan Bernosky spoke of her experience with past traumatic loss and its hidden effects on people, and emphasized the healing benefets of talking aloud about such losses.

Recovery follows loss, and the successful post-fire regeneration of Oakland's devastated neighborhoods was noted by speakers as a triumph of residents' – and Oakland's – spirit.

Ed. note: this report was prepared with information provided by Susan Bernosky.





Oakland Day 2016 at Chabot Elementary

by Krista Reinhard

Chabot Elementary is proud to announce its first Oakland Day. Oakland Day will bring together Chabot students, teachers and parents to learn about and celebrate the rich ethnic and cultural diversity of Oakland.

Oakland has been recognized as one of the nation's most diverse cities in terms of language, culture, business and more. Chabot teachers, School Site Council (SSC) and PTA seek to shine the spotlight on this exciting and important dimension of life and learning in Oakland.

On Friday afternoon, November 18, from 12-2:50 p.m., students will leave their classrooms and join artists, musicians, and other Oakland notables to share and learn more about Oakland's exciting past, present and future. All students will receive a Diversity Passport to document the different interactive workshops they engage in and find "20 Fascinating Facts About Oakland You Never Knew."

Learn more about Oakland Day at: http://www.chabotelementary.org/oakland-day

Attention: If you are an Oakland artist, musician, author, or historian and would like to get involved, contact us at info@chabotelementary.org.

Ride for a Reason Readies to Roll for Schools in 2017; There *Is* Time to Train

Kick-off Registration Party Friday Night, December 2

by Jen Ryden

Looking for a new project for spring? Get fit and raise money for neighborhood schools at the same time by joining the 9th annual Ride for a Reason on Saturday, April 29, 2017.

The kick-off registration party will be held Friday night, December 2, 6 to 8 p.m., at Tip Top Bike Shop (http://tiptopbikeshop.com/), 4800 Telegraph Avenue. This is during the monthly buzz of the first Friday Art Murmur. The event will have music, snacks, and early bird pricing for the ride.

Ride for a Reason is an annual bike ride from Oakland to Sacramento to draw attention to the ongoing K-12 education funding crisis, and to raise funds for school enrichment programs.

Last year, 260 riders pedaled to Sacramento and raised $106,000 that was shared by six local public schools. Riders are Oakland parents, community members, teachers and students who rally together for this beautiful bike ride.

This year, riders will have three distances to choose from: 45, 60, and 109 miles.

For more information on Ride for a Reason or to register online, check out the event's websites at r4rschools.com and http://r4rschools.org/.



Ride for a Reason (R4R) riders take a break along the highway during a recent ride to Sacramento. Riders are accompanied by support vehicles that can repair cycles and soothe blisters./Pamela Palma, http://www.pamelapalma.com

Help Restore Racine Point Park

Racine Point Park, across from 58th Street and Telegraph was created for the community years ago by John Wagers, who planted the acorn that is now the big oak tree in the park. The park now needs attention and first steps are under way: John and landscape gardener Mika Matsui have purchased plants and shrubs and seek volunteers to help plant them this month. No need for expertise; just a love for gardens and a willingness to help.

Call John Wagers at 653-1871 to set up convenient times for a work party and to discuss tools.

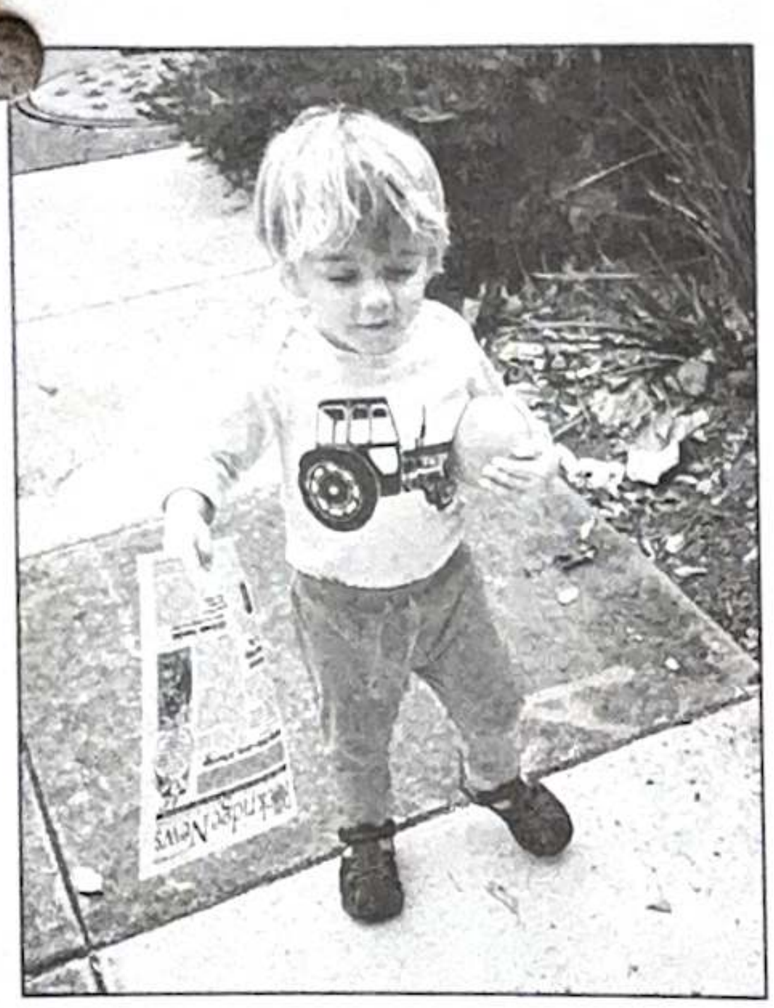
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How Does the Rockridge News Get to *Your* Porch?



Twenty-one-month old Alejandro helps his mother, Ann Lage, with her deliveries of The Rockridge News. You are invited to join the delivery team.

New Block Captains Needed

Many thanks to Erica Dennings who has been delivering The Rockridge News to her Ocean View route for over 12 years, and to Cindy Trueblood of Rockridge Place. Both are stepping down and the newsletter needs replacements for their routes.

If you are looking for a quick and easy way to contribute to the Rockridge community, here's your chance: Become a Block Captain and deliver the newsletter once a month to your neighbors. If you live nearby and want to volunteer for one of these routes described below, please let us know.

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

Route 10E	From 5658 Ocean View even numbers to McMillan, and odd numbers from McMillan to 5667 Ocean View
Route 06D	Both sides of Rockridge Boulevard South from 6101 to 6184.



PHOTOS/D. KINKEAD

RCPC and RDA thank College Avenue Presbyterian Church Pastor Monte McClain and members of his staff and church community for their generosity and support helping to host a Halloween party on a cloudy October day. Albert Hussian handled sound equipment and seating, while Rockridge mother and daughter team, Linda Davis and Maya Patil, handed out treats for the tricksters.

City of Oakland supports 2nd unit developments.
Thinking of a 2nd unit? Contact FMSProjects to see how to best achieve this in 2016!

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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.

Claremont Hotel Development a Hazard to Rockridge

Editor:

I read in the October Rockridge News about the plans to develop part of the Claremont Hotel property. I strongly oppose this huge project; it is way too large and I value the view of this historic hotel high on the hill.

It will not only affect the view of the hotel but will also worsen our local traffic. I remember that during the 1991 firestorm, there was a huge problem with automobile traffic and fire engines getting through on our small urban roads, especially the firetrucks. I had to evacuate my house on the corner of Roanoke and Manor Crest during that fire.

I want the developers to reconsider project plans and make it fit in with our area neighborhood.

— A. J. Van Aardenne

Claremont Hotel Housing Would Help Housing Affordability

Editor:

I think it's perfectly fine, if not actually beneficial, to build new housing at the Claremont Hotel. As any look at the real estate ads in the Rockridge News tells us, we're clearly in a housing affordability crisis, and building more homes is the best way to address it at the lowest cost to the public. I don't think hills communities should be spared from having to do their part to make housing available to more families, and putting a few dozen homes on a parking lot seems fine by me. Personally, I am far more interested in making Oakland a place more families can enjoy than I am in preserving an "historic" parking lot. The Oakland and Berkeley hills are plenty charming—I doubt 40 or so condos for empty nesters are really going to change all that. What those homes may do, though, is stop those same empty nesters from looking for housing down the hill and putting pressure on many of our neighbors by bidding up rents. Sure, as a homeowner, I have everything to gain from keeping housing supply low around here, but I think at this point there's still plenty of room for other people in our neck of the woods.

— Justin Horner

I will be writing directly to Councilmember Kalb About RPP

Editor:

The Rockridge News declined to publish my response to Councilmember Dan Kalb's critique of my September Op-Ed piece on Residential Permit Parking fees. I have been asked to correspond directly with Councilmember Kalb instead, and I have done so.

However, I don't want to create the public impression that I have no answer to his critique of my article. Based on the information I presently have, I stand behind the conclusion of my article: that the City makes enough revenue from citation fees to show a profit even if it gives away RPP permits for free. I hope that, in the future, I will have an opportunity to explain this in more detail in The Rockridge News.

— Jon Gabel, former RCPC Board Member

Response to Op-Ed regarding Residential Parking Permits in September Rockridge News

Editor:

I read with great interest Jon Gabel's well-researched article about the Residential Permit Parking (RPP) program in the September Rockridge News. It is refreshing to see at last the true costs and revenue from this program. The numbers also reveal some disconcerting mismanagement.

There is a striking disjuncture between increasing costs and decreasing enforcement, citywide and with the RPP. Mr. Gabel's analysis refutes Councilmember Kalb's

Letters, page 11

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10/14/2016	3	2	6020 HARWOOD AVE	$949,000	$949,000	13	$1,045,000
10/18/2016	2	1	5938 CHABOT RD	$1,150,000	$999,975	44	$900,000

This year there were 3 homes sold in October and closed 1% below the asking price on average. Last year there were 4 homes sold in October and closed 21% above the asking price on average.

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Letters

From page 10

statement about the cost of the program. Mr. Gabel's analysis also raises new questions about the fiscal management of the program that Mr. Kalb could perhaps explain.

Citywide Parking Citations

1. How is it that the total parking enforcement cost went up 300 percent during the three-year period, 2012 - 2015?

2. And with that increase, why did the total number of citations drop 13 percent?

Residential Parking Permit Citations

1. How is it that RPP permit sales increased 220 percent during the same three-year period, while citation revenue went down 12 percent?

It seems that the revenue brought in by the increased sale of permit fees does not correspond well with Councilmember Kalb's assertion that the lack of additional staff is the reason there is little enforcement. Where is the money going? It is apparently not going to enforcement. Mr. Gabel's experience that RPP patrols have increased is not borne out on my street. On the 5400 block of Boyd Avenue, I have not seen one parking control officer working from July 4 - September 4. (I work at home and often walk my block.) Due to Boyd's proximity to the BART station and College Avenue, there is usually no street parking available from Monday through Friday. BART and other long-term parkers have learned that they can leave their cars with impunity on this block.

Mr. Gabel's analysis has made it clear that the RPP system is poorly run. Councilmember Kalb should huddle with the city staff and give a satisfactory explanation why fees and revenue go up while enforcement goes down.

— M. Reardon

Avoid Wood Fires for Health – Yours and Your Neighbor's

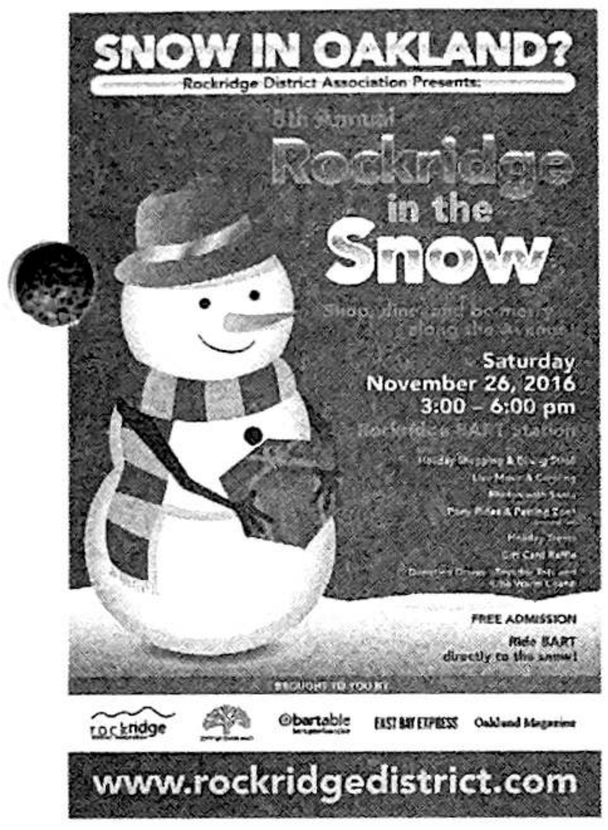
Editor:

I am writing to ask the community: Please don't burn wood. Beginning and end stages of a wood fire, especially, produce a lot of smoke. This is not contained. From the chimney (or fire pit) it spreads out a good distance, affecting anyone within that area, outside or even inside their home (if windows are open).

Wood smoke, while pleasantly fragrant and comforting, contains particulate matter that adversely affects respiratory and cardiac conditions. The particles are small enough to enter and remain in lung tissue, even to travel through the blood stream.

Wood fires are wonderful, but they are not for today's world. Let's try to spare the air of our planet and preserve our health. Let's cut down on one pollutant, if we can.

— M J Makar



Merchants and BART: Snow for Rockridge

The Rockridge District Association (RDA) and BART invite you to shop, dine, and be merry at the 8th Annual Rockridge in the Snow event on Saturday, November 26, 3-6 p.m.

The festive, free event transforms the Rockridge BART station into a winter wonderland with tons of snow and family fun.

New this year: A district-wide shopping and dining stroll along College Avenue. It's a great way to kick off your holiday shopping and dining while supporting the more than 100 street-level businesses that call Rockridge home.

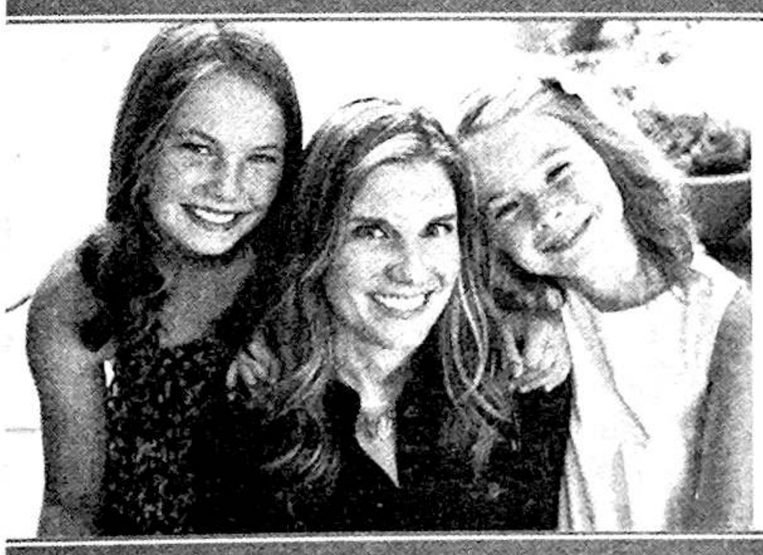
2016 Highlights include:

- Holiday Shopping & Dining Stroll
- Live music and caroling along College Avenue
- Santa and Elves
- Pony rides & petting zoo (nominal fee)
- Holiday treats and warm beverages
- Donation drives – Toys for Tots and One Warm Coat®

Note: the city provides free holiday parking in metered spaces and city-owned garages on Saturdays between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. 'Tis the season to shop, dine and support Rockridge.

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Abundantly Clear: Frog Park + Greenbelt Anchor Community

by Leonora Sea, RCPC boardmember and DMV Neighbors Association chair

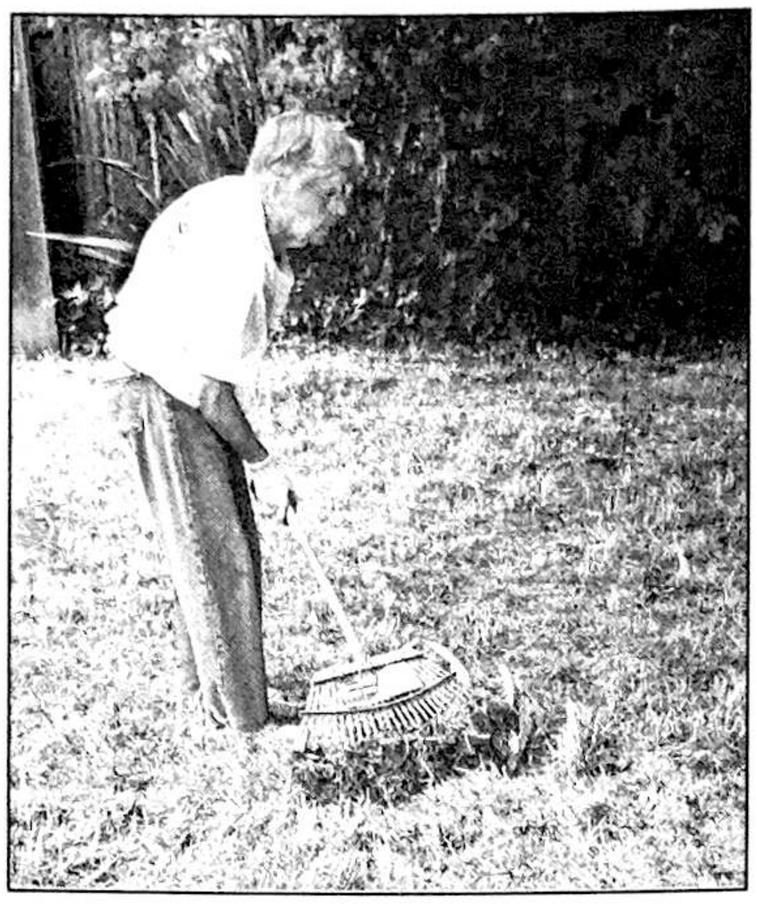
How to describe the spirit of Creek to Bay Day 2016 in the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt and Big Frog Park? One word: Abundance!

An abundant turnout of volunteers with abundant enthusiasm weeded, raked, pruned, picked up abundant (unfortunately) trash, consumed abundant donated snacks, juice, and coffee, and appeared to be having an abundance of fun.

In the weeks before Creek to Bay Day, families and other groups contacted me, as site coordinator, to ask if we needed help and if under-7's could join in. The answer is, "Of course, and welcome!" With supervision by parents and group leaders, even our youngest volunteers can make a real contribution to the cleanup; this year they certainly did that.

Every year, the children are encouraged to find "weirdest trash of the day." This year it was a wheel for either a very small bicycle or a cart. Runner-up was a golf ball. The grownups were a little puzzled by the ball; there aren't many places to swing a club along Redondo Way. The boy who found it had the best answer: "It's a toy for a really little dog."

Volunteers at Big Frog at Hardy Circle did a terrific job beautifying the park and preparing it for the work day of the College Preparatory School students, an annual event.



Several high-schoolers at Creek to Bay Day told me they've been coming to the park since they were toddlers. These neighborhood young people have always had the wonderful structures to play on, and are excited to give back to the park they've enjoyed all their lives.

Many older neighbors have come to Creek to Bay Day in the park and along the greenbelt since the cleanups began. This year was poignant as we remembered Denyse Stearns, longtime resident of Miles Avenue and volunteer, who died August 23. Denyse always had her particular spot that she tirelessly weeded and pruned; we will miss her joyful spirit.

So: come take a walk along the greenbelt, sit at one of the lily pad tables at Big Frog, experience our abundantly enjoyable park, and if you see someone out with a rake or pruning shears, thank them for keeping up our local gem. Next time you get coffee at Peet's in Temescal or shop at Trader Joe's, remember them for their abundant donations to feed and caffeinate volunteers.

See you in the park.

The Library as Community

by M C Haug, RCPC boardmember and Kales Avenue resident

We are fortunate to be able to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Rockridge Library, an excellent literary and media resource in the heart of the neighborhood.

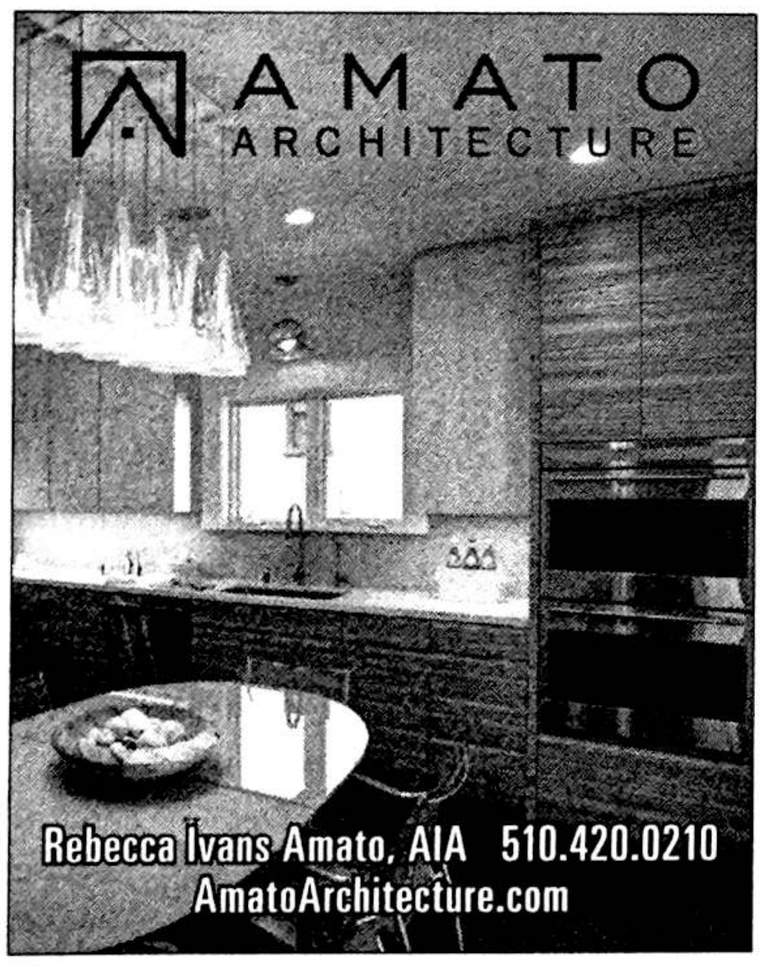
In addition to its traditional services, I was struck recently by another benefit the library offers the community: sociability.

I had taken a guest to the branch to assist her in checking out a few books, and it turned out to be a celebration of Kales Avenue neighbors' library usage as well.

At the front desk, we were pleasantly greeted by the staff, and Jean, a retired librarian volunteer, came to our aid. As we stood to the side of the main desk, Diane, a neighbor from the far end of Kales came up to check out a book. Shortly after, Ellen, who lives near Kales and College, walked past on her way to the reading room. As we left, Jim, from the middle of the Kales block, sauntered up.

I'm sure any other Rockridge resident might experience such a reunion of neighbors.

How lucky we are.





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Building a Library

from page 3

throughout the state to support the construction of new libraries. Successful projects would receive two-thirds of needed construction dollars, but remaining costs had to be covered by local funds. Since many more districts were interested than could be accommodated, Neighbors for a Rockridge Library urged people who had donated time and money to the Measure L campaign to write letters to members of the committee. During this early process, Rockridge's proposal was not highly ranked.

Not long after the 1991 Oakland Hills Firestorm, residents led by the indomitable Nancy Dutcher bused to Sacramento for a little "Christmas library shopping." Donning Rockridge Library badges sporting colorful flames, they personally lobbied the state Library Committee for funding. Of 48 libraries applying for the bond funds, 12 were approved. Rockridge was one, and received an award of $2.4 million early in 1992.

Over the next four years, community involvement determined the footprint of the new facility, the architecture, the color scheme, furnishings, books and equipment. At the request of the community, a large community meeting space and a dedicated children's wing were included. The expertise of Rockridge residents was involved in every step of the process. Urban and city planners, architects, designers, avid readers, marketing specialists and many gifted artists and individuals gave freely of their skills and talents. In the process, friendships were formed and Rockridge's reputation as an "urban village" was solidified.

Merchants also helped raise money by donating food and material for fundraising events. Alison Reid and John Evans of Diesel Books worked tirelessly to source free and low-cost books for the library. Great Harvest Bread Co., J. Wiggins Fine Foods, the Rockridge Cafe and Market Hall all assisted with the project. Granite tiles now covering the library entry and the covered walkway by the parking lot were purchased and engraved with family names, names of parents and grandparents, faithful pets and pithy sayings. Local artist Gerta Farber painted a wonderful watercolor of the library that was turned into limited edition prints and postcards. Every conceivable effort was made to raise money for important equipment, and $140,000 was raised to buy books. Construction began at the groundbreaking on February 11, 1995. The doors officially opened on August 3, 1996, and crowds of Rockridge neighbors turned out for the grand opening and dedication ceremony.

When the doors did finally open, there were long stretches of empty shelves. During its nomad years, the Rockridge branch had been bypassed in funding for new books. Now RCPC pressed the City hard to free up book acquisition funds. The Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) formed to succeed the former Library Committee and the Neighbors organization; it soon became a subsidiary of RCPC. FORL contributed $50,000 for children's books. The general collection expanded as well, and the shelves began to fill up. In 2011, the library's collection underwent another major expansion when RCPC sponsored the Rockridge DVD Project, which added 2,800 DVDs, doubling the existing holdings.

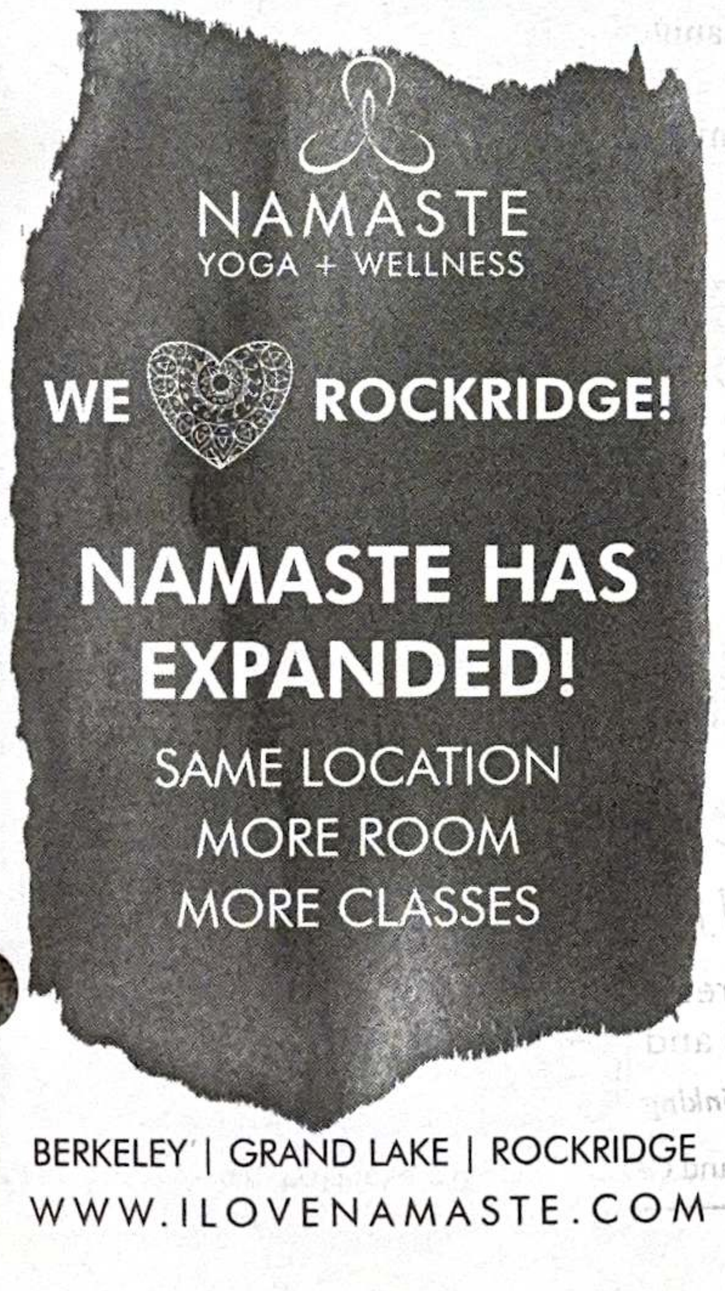
The diligence and perseverance of all those involved cannot be overstated; over 100 volunteers put in thousands of hours for close to 11 years before the doors opened in September 1996. The willingness of the community to come together and offer their time, energy and money, plus the leadership of RCPC and a handful of dedicated individuals, created a cherished resource that will serve our community long into the future.

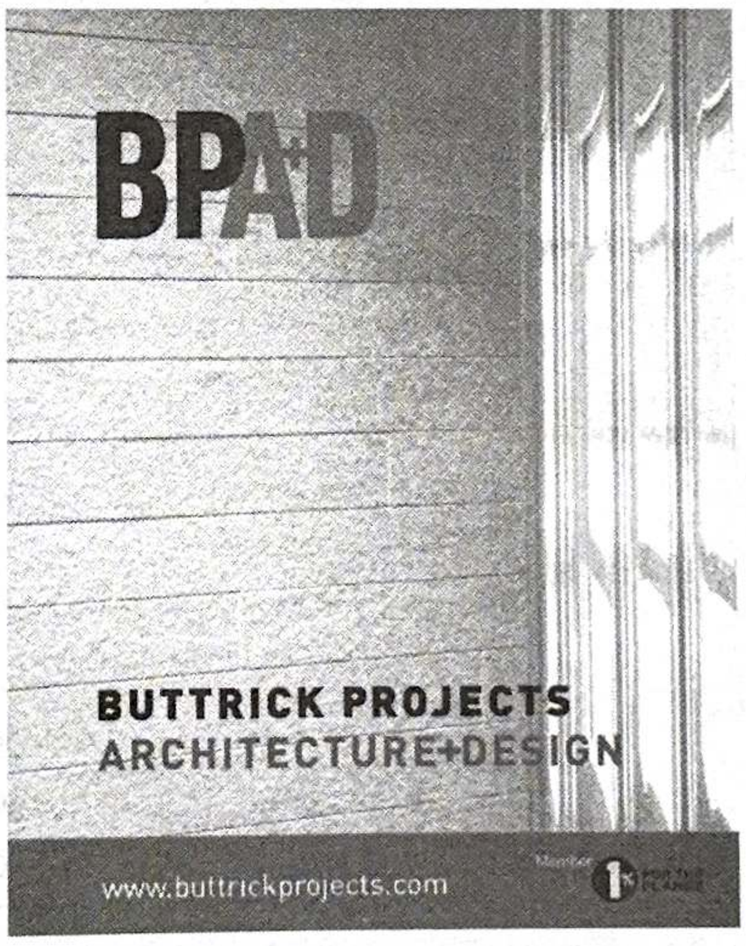
Special thanks to John Gussman, and to Jennifer Vetter and Bernie Baltaxe whose 10th Anniversary articles were freely sampled for this article.

Editor's Note: Correction

The first installment of this article, in the October issue, unfortunately misstated the facts surrounding the library's move in August 1987 from its original location at the corner of Miles and College Avenue. The city was offered the opportunity to buy the building, but declined. The property then changed hands. The rent continued at a below-market monthly rate of $550 for 9 more months, but then rose to $2,500, a sum the city paid for some months before relocating the branch. The precipitating reason for the move was the discovery that the structural integrity of the building had been compromised by dry rot.

The Rockridge News apologizes for the misstatement of fact.





Library Anniversary

from page 1

conception and construction as Senior Librarian Paul Schiesser and his staff presided over the branch's 20th Anniversary celebration in October.

The festivities included a recounting of the years of community work that went into getting the library built, including campaigning for a special tax district, lobbying for State bond funds, and working with architects on the design.

Life-long Rockridge resident Nancy Dutcher, leader of the community effort, joined Winkie Campbell Notar, aide to then-Councilmember Marge Gibson Haskell, to share details of the effort to an audience gathered in the upstairs meeting room.

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White House Hosts Park Day School Educator at Hispanic Heritage Reception

In a notice to the Park Day School community, Head of School Jon Kidder announced the White House invitation extended to Middle School Director Lizette Ortega Dolan to attend President Barack and Michelle Obama's final Hispanic Heritage Month reception.

Kidder reported that Ortega Dolan was recognized at the reception for her achievements as a Latino educator, activist, and change-maker.

Between September 15 and October 15 each year, Hispanic heritage month celebrates the contributions of the Hispanic community, honors its heritage, and looks ahead to even more progress for Latinos across America, Kidder said.

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Playing? Start in Rockridge!

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 the Temescal Farmers Market, 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Teleg.) at DMV parking lot on the **3rd Sunday each month**,10:30am-12:30pm. For times/locations of other office hours or more information: mmharris@oakland.net or www.dankalb.net/contactdan.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

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- **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.

FOR CHILDREN

NOTE: No story times: Thurs 11/24 and Sat 11/26.

- **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

- **Young Writers NaNoWriMo: Write a novel in 30 days.** A national event for all writers age 9 to 13. Register under the Rockridge Library Young Writers at the ywp.nanowrimo.org website. We meet **every Tues evening in Nov** from 6:30-7:45pm to help you write your novel.
- **International Games Day: Active Indoor Games for Kids**: Sat,11/19, 10am – 12pm. Play non-competitive, fun, indoor jumping, rolling, crawling, dancing, throwing, catching games. All ages welcome, best for ages 2 to 7 years.
- **'Tween Scene**: A monthly, 'tween-directed group for ages 9 to 13. Bring ideas of what you & your friends would most like to do each month. Talk about your participation in National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). **Snacks served.** Every 2nd & 4th Tues evening, 6:30-7:45pm, in the Children's Area.

FOR TEENS

- **Teen Advisory Board (ages 14-18)**: Meet with other teens, plan and organize library activities, and get community service credit for school. 1st Sat. each month, 1 to 2pm.
- **Teen 'Scape**: Play video & board games; make crafts; do homework. **Enjoy meals.** Tues, Thurs, and Fridays: 3:30 -5pm and Wednesdays: 1:30 - 5pm.
- **Homework Tutors Available**: Tues and Thursdays, 4 - 5pm; Wednesdays 3:30 – 5pm.
- **International Game Day**: Sat, 11/19, 1pm. Wii U Super Smash Bro. Brawl Tournament. For all skill levels. **Refreshment provided.**
- **Yu-Gi-Oh Card Game Club**: Every Friday at 3:30 – 5 pm. Beginners welcome.
- **Mosaic Art**: Wed, 12/7, 2pm. Create amazing art with colorful paper.

FOR ADULTS

- **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 (11/19)**, 1 to 5pm; wheelchair-accessible. Sponsored by the Calif. Writers Club of Berkeley. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com. Call 597-5017 to confirm.
- **Making Sense of Medicare**: Sat, 11/12, 11am. Find out the difference between: Medicare Advantage plans; Medicare Supplements; and Traditional Medicare Prescription drug plans. **Free coffee and light refreshments.**
- **Watercolor with Wendy**: Sat, 11/19, 11:30am. Learn the bare basics of watercolor: color mixing, paper and brush use, and material choices. Then, see how you can take your watercolors on the road.
- **Virgie Tovar**: Tues,11/22, 6:30pm. Author and activist Virgie Tovar discusses body image, fat discrimination, and diet culture. Start the holidays with love - by losing the hate, not the weight.
- **Annual PEN Oakland Awards Presentation**: Sat, 12/1, 11:30am. PEN Oakland Awards honor writers of exceptional works often not acknowledged by the mainstream literary community. Judged by respected writers, the awards honor books that both reflect a multi-cultural or marginalized viewpoint and represent the highest standards of literature.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal information and referral. 1st Tues each month**, 6pm-8pm; 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.

ART EXHIBITS

Lobby Display: Holiday Feasting - Cookbooks and More.

LIBRARY HOURS
Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sun and Mon; also Fri 11/11 and Thurs-Fri 11/24 – 25.

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings and Events

FREE and open to the public.

- Fri, 11/11, 7pm. **Civil Coping Mechanisms** exhibit their new series, **#RECURRENT**. Featured writers: **Harold Abramowitz, Jordan Okumura, and Doug Rice**.
- Sun, 11/13, 3pm. a celebration for **Four Way Books**: featured guest poets **Karen Brennan** and **Elizabeth T. Gray, Jr.**
- Mon, 11/14, 7pm. **Lawrence Levy**: *To Pixar and Beyond: My Unlikely Journey with Steve Jobs to Make Entertainment History*.
- Tues, 11/15, 7pm. Local poet/translator **Alan Bernheimer**: *Lost Profiles: Memoirs of Cubism, Dada, and Surrealism*.
- Fri, 12/2, 6pm. **Pajama Party Story Time for Kids**. Come in PJs, bring teddy bear, have milk and cookies. Hear bedtime story by local author **Mac Barnett**: *How This Book Was Made*.
- Sun, 12/ 4,1pm - 3pm. **Annual Winter Cookbook Extravaganza**. Presenting their new cookbooks (**and bringing some excellent food**) will be authors: **Georgeanne Brennan**: *My Culinary Journey: Food & Fetes of Provence with Recipes*; **Heidi Gibson & Nate Pollak**: *Grilled Cheese Kitchen: Bread + Cheese + Everything in Between*; **Cal Peternell**: *A Recipe for Cooking*; and **Alanna Taylor-Tobin**: *Alternative Baker: Reinventing Dessert with Gluten-Free Grains and Flours*.

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

Jazz at the Chimes

Trio Garufa: international ensemble performing authentic Argentinian tango, with **Guillermo Garcia**, guitar; **Adrian Jost**, bandoneon; and **Sascha Jacobsen**, string bass. Sunday, Nov 20, 2 pm. Tickets at the door (cash only) beginning 12:30pm (doors open 1:30): $15 general; $10 srs. (60+) and students. Advance ticket sales: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2603516. Refreshments and reception follows to meet the performers. Info at www.triogarufa.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.

Annual $12 membership entitles seniors 55 + to discounts on activities and trips. Get details about events at the desk or 597-5085.

- **Nov. 8**, 10:30am - 12 Noon. **Healthy Living for Seniors**: includes November Harvest of the Month (Yam), and Workshop on Falls Prevention presented by Spectrum Community Services.
- **Nov. 22**, 12:30pm. **Free Shuttle to City of Oakland 25th Annual (free)Thanksgiving Dinner for the Community** (at the Marriot). RSVP by Nov. 13.
- **Nov. 29 -AARP Driver Safety Refresher Class.** Driving safely lets you keep your insurance discounts. Pre-register with check only: $15 AARP members, all others $20. Details at desk or 597-5085.

Get details about events 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.

Temescal Farmers' Market

Open Sundays, 9am to 1pm (**all year**). Locally grown fruits and vegetables; fresh ranch eggs; homemade 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.

The Conversation Project

Talking about dying isn't easy, but it's vitally important. Do your loved ones know what you want if or when you become ill or approach death? Do you know what they want? Find more information about this event online at www.capcoakland.org/the-conversation-project or about the project at theconversationproject.org. — Rev. Monte McClain, College Avenue Presbyterian Church



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