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Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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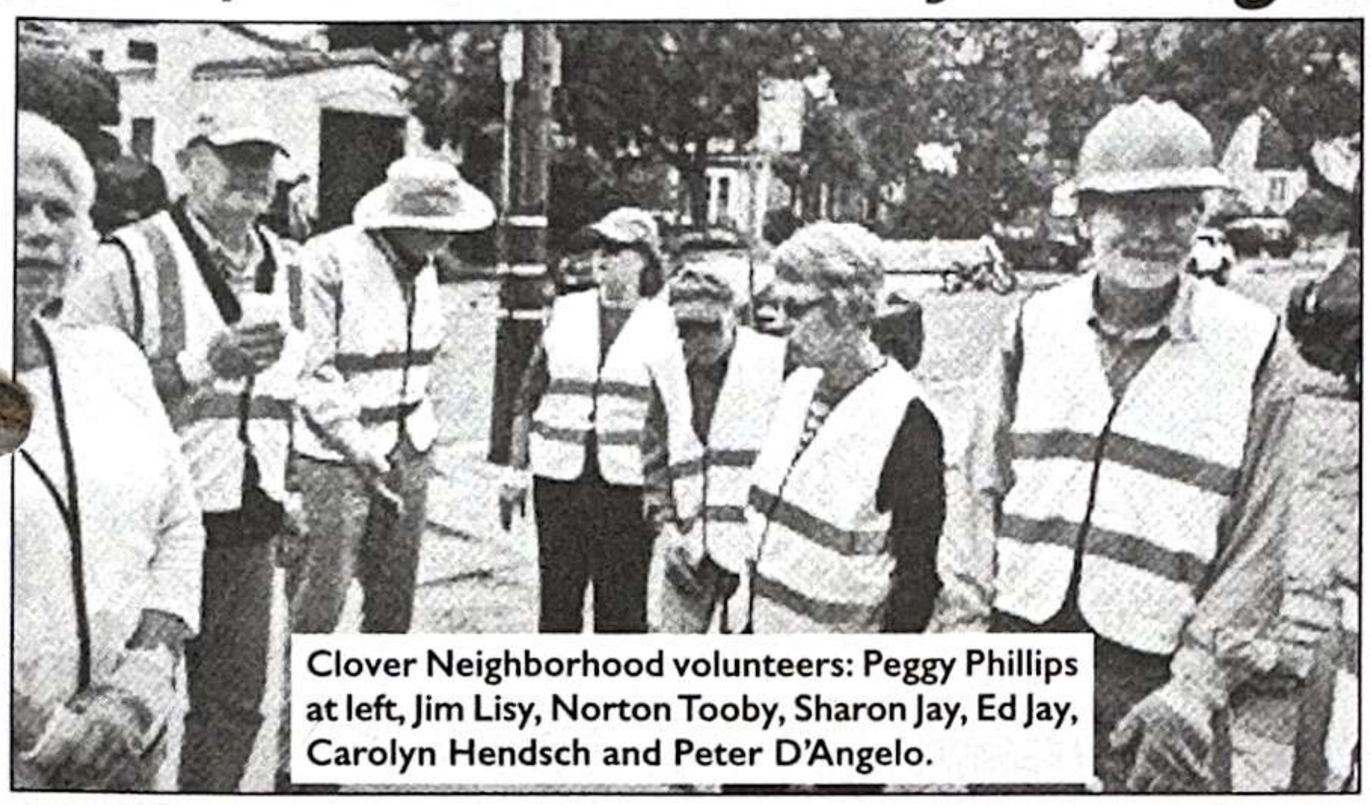
CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

RCPC Set for April Board Elections

The Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) holds its annual election meeting at the April 20 town hall, when Rockridge residents will vote to fill six of the 13 voting seats on the organization's board of directors. The RCPC board is the organization's governing body. Although committees and community volunteers help out with everything from advising the board on various topics to helping to edit and distribute The Rockridge News, it is the board of directors that takes on the major work of making decisions and directing

▶ RCPC Election, page 3

Neighbors' Cleanup Initiative Starts Local, Finds RCPC and City Backing



Clover Neighborhood volunteers: Peggy Phillips at left, Jim Lisy, Norton Tooby, Sharon Jay, Ed Jay, Carolyn Hendsch and Peter D'Angelo.

Props to the cleanup crew, looking sharp in their vests. /Joe Garofoli

by Christine Garofoli

Walking down Miles Avenue to BART, it's hard not to notice the plastic bags, bottles and wrappers littering the sidewalk and street.

It's not only an eyesore in our otherwise beautiful neighborhood, it's especially frustrating to know that garbage tossed into the street flows

▶ Cleanup Initiative, page 12

NCPC Invites You to Meet Oakland's Chief of Police

The North Hills area NCPC (Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council 13Y), through its chair Carolyn Burgess and with the assistance of Councilmember Annie Campbell-Washington, has arranged a community meet-and-greet with Oakland's new police chief, Anne Kirkpatrick. Rockridge residents are invited to attend. The meeting starts at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at Montera Middle School, 5555 Ascot Drive in Montclair.

The OakTalk blog had the following to say about Chief Kirkpatrick: "Kirkpatrick is the former chief of Ellensburg, Federal Way and Spokane, Washington, having served as chief for five years or more in each (the average tenure for a chief in a major American city is less than three years). She most recently worked for the Chicago Police Department, where she was hired in June to oversee police reform efforts. She will also be OPD's first female chief, although she downplayed that, observing that the qualities of character needed to make a good chief (e.g., integrity, character, decisiveness, etc.) are all gender neutral."

■ Directions: Hwy 13 to Park Boulevard exit; turn left over the freeway, then right on Mountain Boulevard to 5555 Ascot Drive. There is some parking in front of Montera Middle School and more in the adjacent parking lot of Joaquin Miller elementary school.

No March Rockridge NCPC Meeting; Next Meeting: April 13

Lockdown On Valentine's Day

Berkeley Police Go to Work in Rockridge

by Chuck Afflerbach

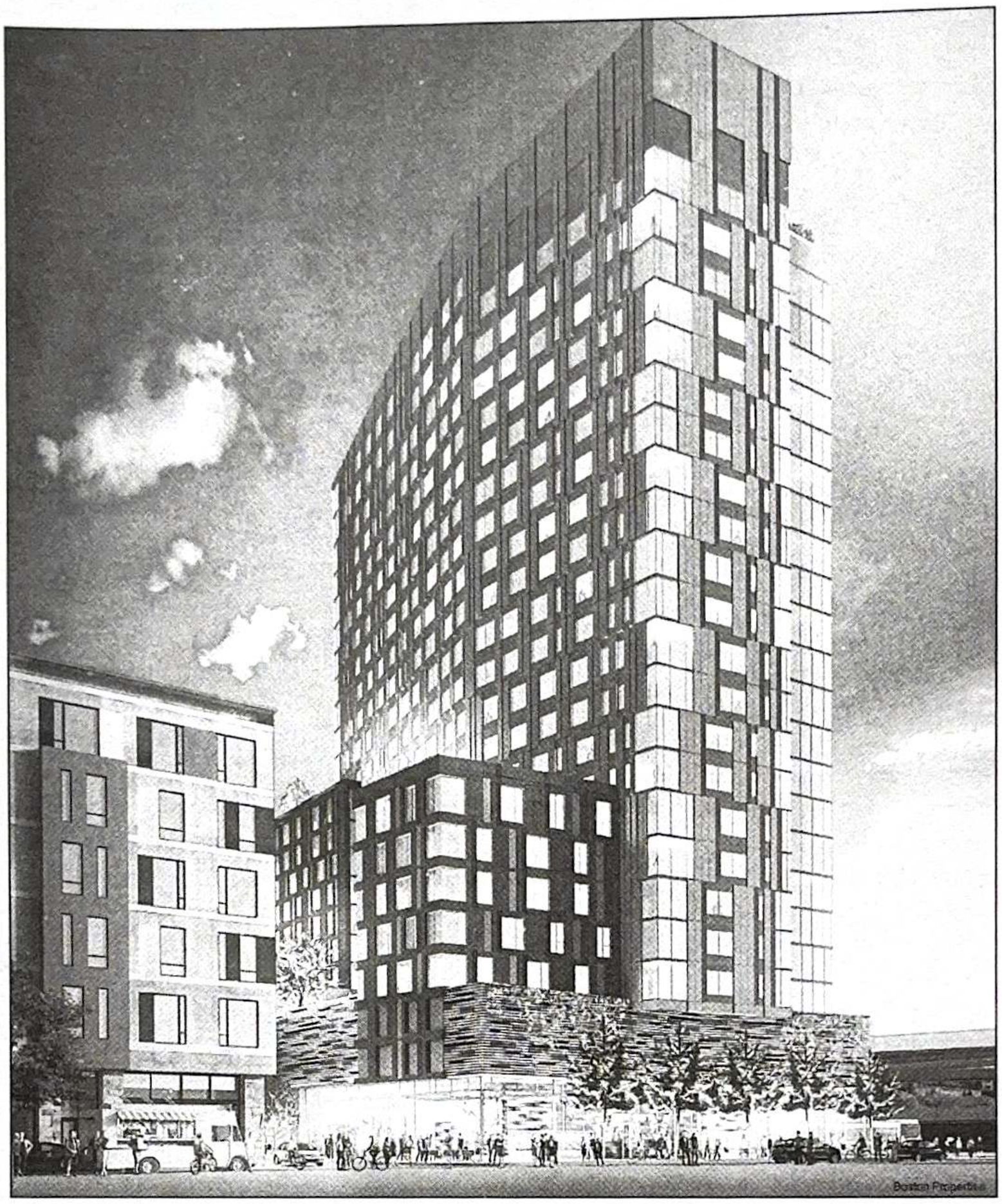
It was Valentine's Day, but other than that it was a typical Tuesday evening on Oak Grove Avenue. All the girls were chattering over their homework, the wife was cooking dinner in the kitchen, outside the commuters were rushing home from BART, and the sound of sirens filled the air.

When the second police car raced down our street with lights flashing, I decided I should step outside to investigate. Down at the corner, three houses away, the street was choked with cop cars and ablaze with red lights. I spotted a black BMW sedan up on the sidewalk against a tree. Then an officer approached and said, "He's got a gun. Go back inside and lock your doors."

What I didn't know until the next day was that the incident began in Berkeley's Elmwood neighborhood about a mile or two away. An armed robbery attempt on that city's Piedmont Avenue led to a car chase through 6 o'clock traffic that somehow ended up on Forest Street below College Avenue. There the car jumped the curb, and, traveling on the sidewalk, took out a picket fence, sideswiped two cars parked in a driveway, and crushed flower beds and sprinklers. At the corner of Oak Grove it turned right, spun around and hit a tree. That's when two armed suspects jumped out and fled.

▶ Lockdown, page 11

Could the 'Tallest Tower' be Built at the MacArthur BART Station?



Luxury Apartment Tower Feared Set for City Approval

The City Council will consider a 260-foot, 24 story, 402-unit apartment tower – making it the second tallest building in Oakland and a possible precedent for others – for the MacArthur BART station at their **meetings March 7 and March 21**. Dist. 1 Councilperson Dan Kalb (dkalb@oaklandnet.com) has implied support for the project, but with more "community benefits." The proposal by McGrath Properties and Boston Properties is a dramatic change from the earlier plans for a 4-6 story residential

MacArthur Tower Project, page 16

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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.

Rockridge News Production

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

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Contact the board: chair@rockridge.org
For information: info@rockridge.org

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Contacting The Rockridge News

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

Contact us at one of the following:

Editor: editor@rockridge.org;
www.rockridge.org;
The Rockridge News,
4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611

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

Newsletter Advertising/Deadline
Publication date of the April issue is:
☛ April 8, 2017.
☛ April deadline is March 23, 2017.
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 will be Wednesday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge Branch Library. (See below.) Please check the rockridge.org website for updates on future meetings and agendas.

Committee Notes:

■ Land Use Committee Continues Work on Rockridge Housing Policy

In its second meeting discussing the development of housing policies for Rockridge, the Land Use Committee addressed some potentially contentious issues, including affordability, the application of density bonuses, on-street and off-street parking, and a second look at whether upzoning to higher densities should be considered.

There was unanimous agreement that if more new housing were to be placed in Rockridge, it should have a significant affordability component. With the influx of new Oakland residents and the attractiveness of Rockridge as a residential area, housing prices – ownership and rental – have skyrocketed. As people noted, Rockridge was traditionally a solid middle- and working-class area, with schoolteachers, nurses, accountants, and construction workers living here. The area has transitioned into one that is heavily professional/managerial and has lost diversity in the process. New housing should attempt to protect, if not enlarge, what diversity still remains.

The vast majority of units in the large new residential projects recently approved along Rockridge's borders have been market-rate. Interestingly, while under Oakland's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), set by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the amount of new housing that the state requires Oakland to plan for includes a large market-rate component, almost all of it has already been met. It's the more affordable categories that lag.

There was concern among committee members that if the current trend continues, all except the very well-to-do will be priced out of Rockridge. Also, in the competition for the limited number of sites for new housing projects, affordable projects will be outcompeted by market-rate projects unless affordable projects are given a stronger advantage.

That scenario brought up, again, the question of upzoning – particularly for the CN-1 commercial area along College Avenue. However, it was pointed out that we have no good data either for the current number of residential units on College Avenue or elsewhere in Rockridge, or how many additional units could be added within the current zoning envelope. The committee will try to obtain that information from the city.

The committee recognized that parking for residents is an important issue. If car ownership drops, that issue may fade away, but for now most Rockridge residents are

▶ Land Use, page 14

RCPC Election

from page 1

how RCPC runs.

Six seats up for election in April are presently filled by incumbent board members, three of whom will seek re-election. Of the seven other voting seats on the board, six are elected seats not up for election until next year. Two of those seats are vacant, and the board is also seeking candidates to appoint to fill the remaining term(s) of those vacancies. Also open is one non-elected voting position, known as the "merchant seat," which the board fills annually by appointing a member of the Rockridge business community.

One letter of interest in election to board service was received by the March 1 deadline. Rockridge residents will vote on the continued incumbency of whichever current board members stand for re-election and on the single applicant. Their photos and statements will be published in the April issue of The Rockridge News.

If you missed the deadline for the April ballot and are interested in a shorter term, you may seek appointment to a vacant seat. To be considered for appointment, email chair@rockridge.org, or write to RCPC Chair, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611.

Potential candidates must be at least 18 years old and reside within RCPC boundaries. Appointment does not require being a registered voter or U.S. citizen.

See RCPC's boundary map at: rockridge.org/boundaries.

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In Memorium | Ray Perman

Ray Perman, Rockridge businessman, early RCPC stalwart, and, later, activist volunteer for the cities of Oakland and Piedmont, died at a time and in the manner he chose on February 4, 2017. Diagnosed with a serious illness six years ago, his doctors predicted he had two years to live. He was pleased to prove the prediction to be inaccurate. Determined to be as alive as possible for the time he had, Ray also determined to die on his own terms. When the End of Life Option legislation was proposed, Ray campaigned for it. After its passage, he took his story to the public, telling of his situation and speaking in support of the program in several local radio broadcasts. A retired commercial pilot, an accomplished draftsman, a percussionist in a band, a student of city planning and transportation policies, an Eagle Scout counselor, a lover of all things European, a bilingual businessman, Ray lived his passions to the fullest and enhanced the lives of those whose time he shared on this earth. Those attending his memorial in the Piedmont Community Church filled the large building to capacity as his friends and family spoke of their love for him, the loss they will endure, and the memories they will carry forward.

See the February 2017 issue of The Rockridge News for more about Ray's life in Rockridge.

What Light? What Tunnel?

by Kevin Faughnan, RCPC board member

At the February Town Hall presentation, BART board president Rebecca Saltzman, who represents District 3 which includes the Rockridge BART station and the rest of Rockridge, offered the following update on the System Renewal Plan that the recently approved Measure RR will pay for over the next 20 years. Of the $3.5 billion in authorized bond funding, approximately 90 percent will go to system infrastructure which includes replacing tracks, power infrastructure (wires) and power control, mechanical upgrades, earthquake retrofits for tunnels and improving station access points such as escalators, elevators, and stairways.

Tracks

Of BART's 107 miles of track, 90 miles will be replaced. The interlockings, parts of the track allowing trains to switch from one route to another – and that take a beating because of this movement – will be replaced or rebuilt.

Electrical Power

The electrical cables that deliver the power to the rails are worn out. Think of the knob and tube wiring in older homes, and how it would function if left outside subject to the elements for 40 years. There are 90 miles of that older cabling, too. Adding the refurbishing of 62 substations that provide the power to the rails and back-up emergency power needed for station lighting and operation amounts to another massive expense.

Train Control

The current train system is 50 years old; BART doesn't have new cars in service yet to add capacity. When it does, train speed will still be slowed by an antiquated control system needing longer distances between trains. New, more accurate electronic controls will permit trains to run closer together.

New Cars

The average age of today's BART cars is 30 years, giving the Bay Area the oldest fleet in the U.S. Boston and New York trains average 20 years. BART will pay for this fleet of new trains through its annual operating budget, not Measure RR. Capital expenditures under the bond measure are limited to the acquisition or improvement of fixed assets. The cars are not fixed assets. Bombardier of Canada is the supplier, but cars are assembled in Plattsburg, New York, with American content at over 66 percent of the $2 million per car price tag. BART has 775 cars on order to be delivered by 2021 and projects that 600 will be in service by then. Nevertheless, total cars in service won't begin to increase until sometime in 2018 when the delivery rate of new cars exceeds the retirement rate of old cars.

The new cars will be quieter, with new wheels and doors that are better sealed; cooler, as more air is delivered to taller compartment ceilings; and quicker to load and unload through an extra set of doors.

Patience Required

Implementation is going to be a slow process. In the meantime, BART is trying to reduce crowding and stress by removing seats to allow more passenger standing room.

This plan is ambitious and will have its share of problems. Voters and property owners have agreed to pay more for these essential improvements and they are placing their trust in BART. Now it is BART's turn to demonstrate that trust was well placed. Stay in contact with our District 3 representative at Rebecca.Saltzman@bart.gov.

Next month, we'll review what AC Transit is planning for its buses and routes.

Wanted: Kitchens, Volunteers for Kitchen Tour

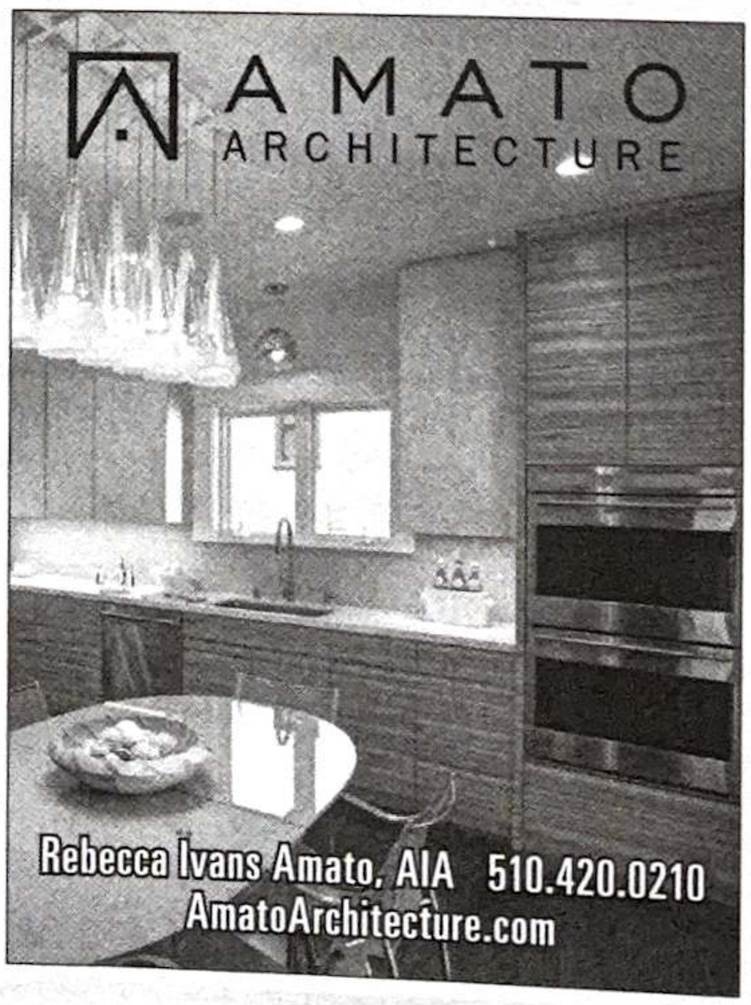
Is yours a sparkling new kitchen? Updated classic? Is it brimming with new ideas and technology? Or does it feature a mint-condition Wedgewood stove along with the latest in refrigerators? The kitchen is the defining space of the home, whether it's a studio for a culinary artist or the nerve center for a busy family, or both.

It's not too late to apply for your kitchen to be on the Rockridge Community Planning Council's Rockridge Kitchen Tour, to be held September 24. The tour showcases the wonderful diversity of kitchen design in the neighborhood, sparks ideas for people planning their own remodel, and gives tour guests a chance to meet the architects, designers, and builders responsible for the kitchens. If you have or can recommend a new or classic kitchen, RCPC invites you to submit it now for consideration for the 2017 Rockridge Kitchen Tour. For more information, contact kitchentour@rockridge.org.

RCPC can also use volunteers with the Kitchen Tour committee leading up to the event and on the day of the Tour. For more information, contact kitchentour@rockridge.org.

Tour proceeds fund ongoing RCPC projects such as the Community Grants program (see article on page 1 about a grant made to a resident-organized cleanup initiative); Town Halls, recently on homelessness; retail on College Avenue; and other projects of interest to Rockridge residents. RCPC also contributes to Rockridge

Think Kitchens, page 11



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Rockridge Community Planning Council
2016 Financial Statement
Fiscal Year January 1- December 31, 2016

RCPC General Fund	
Income	
Contributions	984
Rockridge News	40833
Interest Income	17
Monies Held for Others	-1399
Merchandise Sales	594
Total Income	41030
Expenses	
Rockridge News	36277
Events	1230
Contractors	5279
Insurance, Permits, Sales Tax	1769
Misc Administrative & Program Expenses	2060
RCPC Grant Program	1162
Other Grants/Awards	250
Total Expenses	48026
Net Receipts (RCPC)	-6997
Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt (FROG)	
Income	
Contributions	7952
Interest, FROG	19
Total Income	7971
Expenses	
Playground New Construction & Planning	3250
Playground Maintenance	4397
Miscellaneous Expenses	136
Total Expenses	7783
Net Receipts (FROG)	188
Scenic Streets	
Income	
Contributions	500
Total Income	
Expenses	
Misc Administrative Expenses	14
Total Expenses	486
Net Receipts (Scenic Streets)	
Locksley Gardens No activity in 2016	
BALANCE SHEET	
Assets	
RCPC Assets, Savings/Checking	81500
Scenic Streets Assets, Savings/Checking	41911
Locksley Gardens Assets, Checking	749
FROG Assets (1)	
FROG Savings/Checking	80761
FROG CD	10401
Total FROG Assets	91161
Total Assets (1)	**215322**
Equity & Liability	
Legal Fund Reserve	55000
Equity	166645
Net Income	-6323
	215322
Total Equity & Liability	**215322**

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



Steppin' Out in Oaktown: 2017 Oakland Tech Auction and Gala

Oakland Tech's "Steppin' Out in Oaktown – Show Your Oakland Pride" annual auction and gala is getting ready to kick up a storm (and do a lot of good) on Saturday, March 11, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the California Ballroom, 1736 Franklin Street, Oakland.

Bring your appetite – and your desire to support our fantastic neighborhood high school – and dig into a scrumptious dinner cooked up by Everett & Jones BBQ.

This is Tech's biggest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds support a range of activities from hands-on learning opportunities to educational trips to performing arts productions to science classroom supplies.

Tickets are $40 advance/$45 at the door. Purchase tickets and find out everything you need to know on the auction website: http://oaklandtech.schoolauction.net/auction2017.

Frog Park Updates and Activities

Playground 'Swings & More' Park Enhancement Project Progress

FROG is ready to file our design with the city and to obtain permits and move this project forward. We have a new landscape architect, AWA, who revised plans to address the city's requirements (ADA and Tree Department) and neighbor concerns.

To address concerns and requirements, we shrank the playground footprint, which resulted in:

- Eliminating spinning-poles (Spica).
- Reducing the Apollo size from large to medium of (triangular climbing merry-go-round), allowing us to keep the play value for expanded ages.
- Reducing the number of new regular swings
- adding a bench and boulders.

Thank you community members, businesses and foundations for your generous donations. The necessary design changes increase overall costs. New contributions will be applied to our general fund to pay for these costs. To support FROG and the project, please go to www.frogpark.org/donate.


Wall Art for Frog Park West-Facing Wall

Visit frogpark.org for more information on the project. Contact us: chair@frogpark.org. In mid-march, find final layout and equipment at FROG'S site. For questions, comments or contact: info@frogpark.org.

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Hardy Dog Park Improvements Continue in 2017

by Linda Zunas

The Hardy Dog Park committee now holds regular cleanups at 9 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month, rain or shine.

We had eight energetic volunteers who braved the rain and wind on February 4 as we did more flood control work, washed the chairs, cleaned up poop and trash, and had some fun. With all the rains in February, the gate areas stayed high and dry, which will hold us until renovations can commence. **Please join us for our next clean up on April 1 at 9 a.m.**

Renovation plans are in the design phase, as the old plans did not pass Caltrans' permitting review. We will have community input meetings once we complete preliminary drawings. We are also kicking off a big final fundraising push. Look for information on how to buy a personalized brick to be permanently installed at the new park.

Please consider donating to our renovation project by following this link, and specifying Hardy Dog Park in your donation: https://www.scenicstreets.org/donate

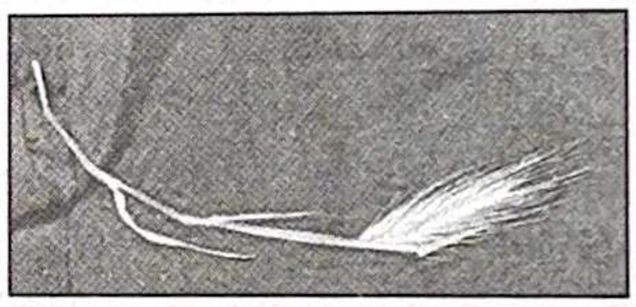
Get on our mailing list for updates, or send any questions to: HardyDogPark@yahoo.com.



Among volunteers working on the Hardy Dog Park on a rainy February 4 were Barney Smits and his daughter Madeleine, right; Ted, in back, left, in ball cap; Richard to his left; and Stephanie, hatless, in front of Ted. The name of the volunteer at far left was unavailable at press time. PHOTO/LINDA ZUNAS

To Animal Lovers:

Foxtail Season after the rains will be particularly challenging this year: this means big problems for animals. You can help by watching for foxtails (pictured below) when out walking. Yank them out by the roots and put them in a plastic bag and then into the trash (not green bin). Questions?: Sari Kulberg 510/653-6432.



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Chabot's Spring Auction Has Arrived

The Spring Auction, ***Let's Flamingle***, one of Chabot Elementary's primary fundraisers, is coming this March. The Auction is a school-wide effort to help Chabot raise $160,000 of the $400,000 needed annually to support vital programs that are not paid for by the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD).

Chabot's fundraising pays for its students to have access to art, library, music, science, spanish, and media/technology classes, as well as intervention programs that focus on closing the achievement gap. As state and local budgets continue to restrict funding for Chabot's nearly 600 K-5 students, reaching their fundraising goal of over $400,000 yearly is critical to supporting the continuity of these programs and maintaining an excellent and vibrant neighborhood school.

The online auction will run from March 15 through March 22 and will feature over 400 items, including jewelry, gift certificates from local merchants and restaurants, tickets to sporting events, and lots of great activities for the family. Everyone is welcome to participate and bid on the many great items available: The more bidders, the better.

Chabot is especially grateful to our sponsors, who demonstrated their commitment with generous financial donations: Adventure Time (Title Sponsor); MPR Financial; Rosie Papazian, Berkeley Hills Realty; 1st United Credit Union; Ruth Goldstone, Marvin Gardens Realty; Fremont Bank; Maxi Lilley, Red Oak Realty; Amato Architecture; Hope Broderick, Grubb Realty; Zoe Cohen LAC; Piedmont Dental; Jeff Robarts, Grubb Realty; Kids Overcoming LLC; and Sweat Strength & Cycling.

Anyone in the community can support this neighborhood school by bidding in the online auction, making a monetary or business donation, or volunteering at the March 25 event. Visit the Chabot auction website at http://www.chabotelementary.org/pta/auction or email us at auction@chabotelementary.org.

The Gala will be held the evening of Saturday, March 25, at the Greek Orthodox Church, 4700 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland. This year's Gala will include a photo booth, generously donated by Tomfoolery, and dancing with DJ services provided by Chabot parents.





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02/21/2017	2	1	250 Whitmore St	$499,000	$499,000	7	$555,000
02/24/2017	2	2	5834 Ayala Ave	$1,150,000	$1,150,000	7	$1,150,000

Homes sold this February closed 3.4% over the asking price on average.
There is currently a 30 day supply of inventory in Rockridge.
The Average price per square foot is $716.

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Eyes on Rockridge

Discovering New Eateries and Their Owners Along College Avenue's Restaurant Row

by Judith Doner Berne

My husband and I love frequenting Rockridge's College Avenue restaurants – and we work diligently to make sure we try them all.

So it was just a year ago that we walked into Belotti Ristaurante e Bottega the very week it opened, and got a taste of what was to come. In a spot next to Hudson Bay Café that has held several previous restaurants, Michele Belotti launched what has been reviewed as "the best pasta restaurant in the East Bay" by the East Bay Express.

I know, you've tried to get into Belotti's for dinner at a reasonable hour – we recently booked a month out. But between its small confines and the large number of people vying to sample its fresh pasta dishes and delicious salads, it is actually busy for lunch all the way through mid-afternoon and you happily agree to a 5 p.m. booking for dinner.

"I'm very surprised at the sophistication of the customers," the chef-owner says; many of them are very familiar with the cuisine from Northern Italy, where he grew up. "I didn't expect that." I asked, given the restaurant's popularity, whether he was considering expanding into one of the bigger spaces vacated by the sudden closings of Toast and the Pasta Pomodoro chain.

But no, "I'm very happy. I want to keep the small restaurant. It's very easy to interrupt the balance," the 30-year-old Michele says. But what he might do, he told me, is open a storefront at another location to sell his fresh pasta for home consumption.

On to The Golden Squirrel, a pub/restaurant co-owned by Andrew Snow, 35, and Chris Foott, 40, which seems to have made a relatively seamless transition into the remodeled space formerly occupied by Barclay's Restaurant and Pub since it opened in December. (Chris also is an owner of Make Westing Bar on Telegraph in Uptown.)

And although there was a line for bigger parties, we were able to capture a table for two immediately. My burger and my husband's mushroom shepherd's pie were both satisfying, and the service was better than I had remembered at Barclay's. We noticed a lot of families on this rainy Thursday night, and Andrew confirmed that even more come on weekends. "On Saturdays, all 10 of our high chairs are often in use."

We loved that the tap beer menu lists how far away from The Golden Squirrel each brewery is, with 18 beer choices from within a 60 mile radius and just three that are further afield. Closest is "There is No There There" from Novel Brewery, 2.2 miles away.

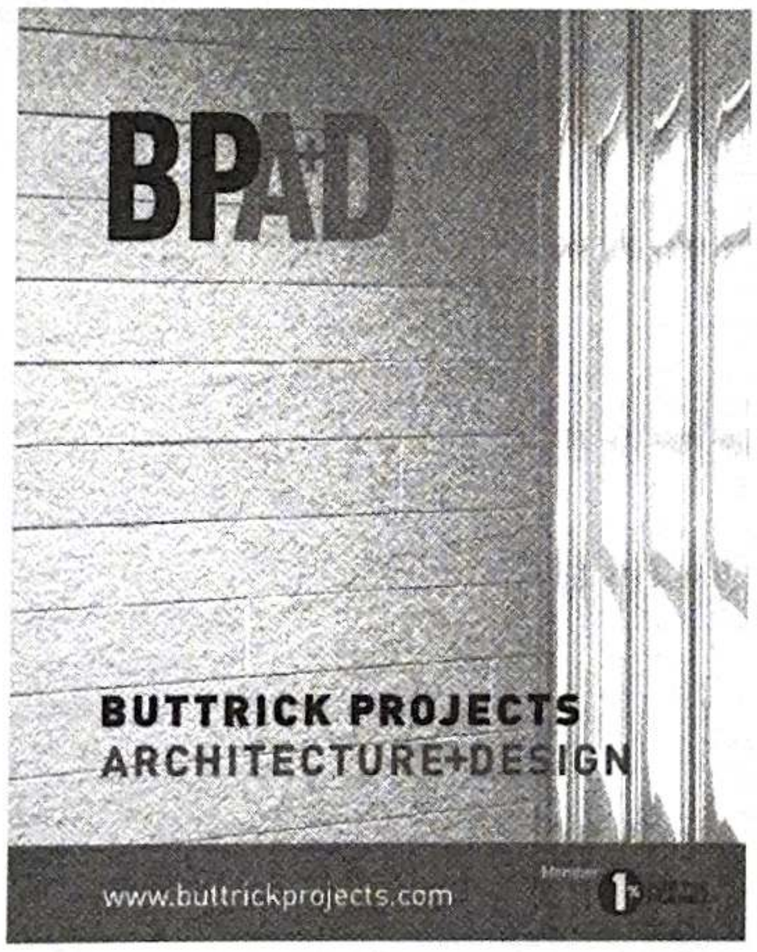
"People always want to know where their fish comes from," Andrew says. "But there's great local beer." The two Rockridge natives want to both promote local breweries and help the environment by not transporting from afar.

So, the burning question is where did they come up with the restaurant's name, which some find a bit unusual. Andrew told me, but then asked me not to share it because: "We want people to come in and ask." But trust me, there is no squirrel or anything squirrelly on the menu, and the name actually represents quite the opposite.

Duchess Oakland, another California-style pub also opened in December, is

New Restaurants on College, page 9







New Restaurants on College

from page 8

owned by Chris Strieter, 28, and his business partner, Caroline Conner, 29. She lives around the corner from their two-floor bar and restaurant that occupies the former Pizza Rustica space. They have overseen a complete exterior and interior remodeling and are particularly proud of the handcrafted chairs and tables and the walnut wood wall. A selection of books and games for patrons' use are on shelves near the front door.

We ate there with our daughter and grandson on a Sunday night in January. The hamburger was good, fish and chips very good, and the salad (I can't remember which one) was excellent. Chris says the salmon, the risotto and the fried chicken sandwich have been popular items on a new lunch/dinner menu. For breakfast, Rock Tarts, described as home-made pop tarts, are featured.

"Our original idea was to open a wine shop," Chris told me, which makes sense since he is a winemaker – his pinot noir is on the menu. And it makes further sense when you know Caroline's back story.

Belotti Restaurant, 5403 College Avenue, page 8.

The Golden Squirrel, right, 5940 College Avenue.

Duchess Oakland, 5422 College Avenue, right, below.



While she was getting her B.A. in archaeology and anthropology from Oxford University, she won "Top Taster" in the Varsity Blind Wine Tasting Match between Oxford and Cambridge in 2009. She went on to study food and wine, graduating from Le Cordon Bleu, London, later earning the Wine and Spirits Education Trust Diploma.

Duchess serves all day: breakfast, brunch (on weekends), lunch and dinner. "I feel lucky to open a restaurant in Rockridge," Chris says. "Caroline likes to say that she is the heart of it and I am the brains." He studied mathematical economics and physics at Harvey Mudd College, where he is on its board of governors, and earned his Master's in Finance at Claremont McKenna College. According to her published bio, Caroline is pastry chef and "Duchess."

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



Photos/Don Kinkead

In Other Rockridge Restaurant News

- **Christopher's**, the long-time burger spot near the College/Broadway intersection, closed at the beginning of the year. **Wingman**, featuring Korean fried chicken, is reportedly taking that spot.
- For those wondering when **Enoteca Molinari** will actually unveil its long-time-in-the-works expansion, owner Joe Madison says he is aiming for late spring. "It will double our space," he says.
- **The Claremont Diner**, which closed after many years, then re-opened only briefly under the auspices of the owner of the College Avenue Burrito Shop, looks as if it will have yet another life. Ding Sheng United, Inc., has applied for a beer and wine license in anticipation of opening **Ding Japanese Restaurant**, according to a posted notice.
- The owners of **Bourbon & Beef**, near the Rockridge BART, opened a sister restaurant B&B Kitchen and Wine Bar on Shattuck Avenue near the downtown Berkeley BART station last spring.
- Congratulations to **Wood Tavern** and **Millennium**, winners of the 2017 Michelin Bib Gourmand Award. This award honors "excellent food at reasonable prices." Wood Tavern has been a constant on that list since not long after it opened in 2007. Millennium, the gourmet vegan restaurant, is about to celebrate the second anniversary of its move from San Francisco to Rockridge.
- And speaking of Wood Tavern, owners Rich and Rebekah Wood opened their third restaurant (Southie's is the second) in early February. Their new French-forward California bistro, **Wolf**, pays homage to the iconic Bay Wolf restaurant, which occupied the same space on Piedmont Avenue for 40 years. The Woods took it over when the Bay Wolf owners, with whom they are friends, announced their retirement in 2015. "It seems like I've taken over my father's restaurant," Rich told me. And, "It feels like we have a third child." – Judith Doner Berne

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of Oakland

All of the plants on the ramps and the street trees are enjoying the abundant rain. Be on the lookout for a clean up day in the upcoming months.

Scenic Streets is a group of neighbors dedicated to improving the beauty and safety of roadsides in North Oakland. Since 2013, our volunteers have made lasting enhancements to prominent public lands.

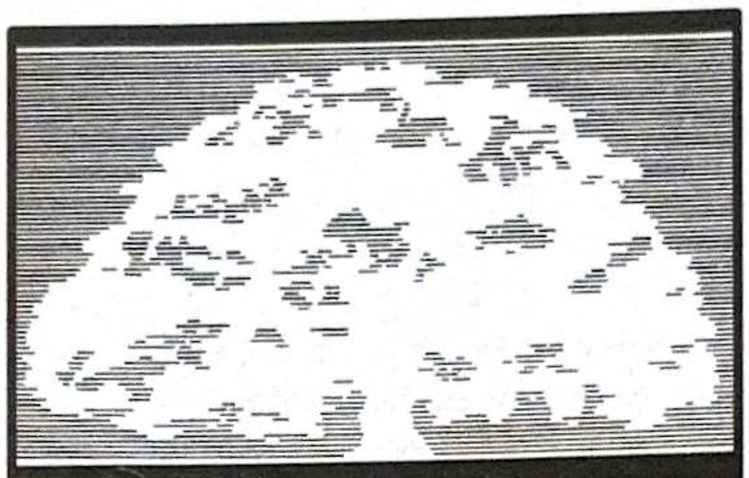
Visit us at: www.scenicstreets.org

Give Our Council Member a Break On His Route

North Oakland City Council Member Dan Kalb has been delivering The Rockridge News to his block of Manila for over seven years. As his wife put it: "He has a lot more on his plate now than when he first volunteered." He does indeed. We thank Dan for being so neighborly all these years. A special way to thank him would be to volunteer to take his route:

Route 13F	Delivers newsletters along both sides of 5100 Manila starting with house where Cavour enters Manila to 51st Street then up to Coronado and down to Lawton.

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.



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Lockdown

from page 1

Possibly into our back yards.

The man said to lock the doors, but he never mentioned windows. It was a nice night out, so we watched the scene unfold from a darkened upstairs bedroom. One officer with a rifle stood in the shadows behind a large ash tree. Another crouched behind his squad car. Nothing moved for a long time.

I left the kids crouched beneath the window sill and went to call the neighbors. The neighbor next door was as much in the dark as we were but was safe inside. The neighbor across the street had slept through it all, so she was grateful for the wake-up call. A friend down on Forest Street had just arrived from work and had no trouble getting into his house. He told the cops there were plenty of hiding places in the woods behind his home but they weren't interested. The police cordon covered half of Oak Grove but not his street.

Inside the police lines, everything about the evening felt surreal. There was no news on the radio, no info on the internet. It was ominously quiet; even the helicopter didn't arrive overhead for at least an hour. I finally sent an announcement to our block-wide email list. One neighbor up the street had a police scanner and reported that the search was going through back yards one at a time. But there was no word at all from the Oakland or Berkeley police. No Nixle notices went out. I called the non-emergency number and got a dispatcher on the line. She merely repeated what I already knew: search in progress, stay inside.

More than two hours after it all began, we saw half a dozen officers with a German shepherd move into view. They knocked on the door across the street, talked to our neighbor, then disappeared up his driveway with the dog and flashlights. Several minutes later they re-emerged and headed on down the block. That was it. Our neighbor's two kids missed the whole thing; it was past their bedtime.

At nine p.m. we noticed cars driving down our street again. Civilian cars. No one had sounded the "all clear," but the street was open at last. Now the two girls who had come over for dinner could go back home. What a story they would have to share! But what story, indeed? In the end, there really wasn't much to see, not much to say. Time to move along.

All in all, a very odd Valentine's night. Especially odd was the fact that all we saw were Berkeley police, none from Oakland. At one point during the siege, my neighbor with a well-known nose for news ventured outside to talk to the cops. He asked why they were all from Berkeley. The officer explained, "When you catch a fish, you have to clean it." They started the chase; it was theirs to finish.

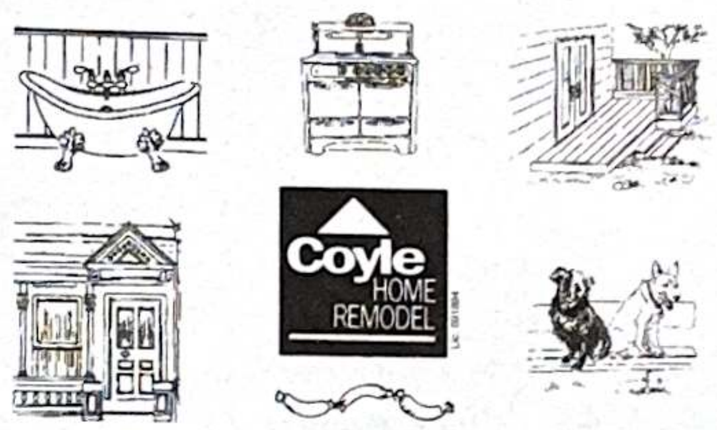
So they did their job and kept us safe, and we did our job and stayed out of the way. Unfortunately for us all, the fish did his job and got away.

Think Kitchens

from page 4

Out and About and the annual College Avenue Halloween Parade. RCPC works diligently to be involved with issues affecting Rockridge, and the Kitchen Tour helps make it possible.

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Rockridge Upcycle Market Comparison 2004-05 vs 2015-16 Similarities, Differences, What next?
1/04-12/05: >370 "homes" sold in 94618 @ ave $ 975K*. 30yr fix rates ~ 5.45-6.25%. Unemployment 6.2-4.1%
1/15-12/16: <270 "homes" sold in 94618 @ ave $1.448M*. 30yr fix rates ~ 3.75-4.25%. Unemployment 4.8-3.4%.
Similarities: Demand far exceeded supply during both periods. Double digit appreciation.
Differences: >100 fewer sales, a 25%+ drop in available homes. Loan rates ~30% lower, more employment, more sophisticated buyers.
What next? A combo of deeper reduction in supply & increased demand over prior upcycle with no current indicators of an imminent downturn, but likely low single digit appreciation in 2017. Signs to watch for softening: slightly lower rental, condo & $2m+price range demand in SF, further rate increases. Minor increases can spur demand, significant increases could cool demand. National & global issues are the wild card. We know now is still a good time to sell before softening. Buying is competitive, but rates remain historically low even if not all time lowest. Locking in a low rate is more key over long term than trying to time a possible down cycle, especially in Rockridge.
* Averages only. Each home has unique features & can perform differently.

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Cleanup Initiative

from page 1

into local waterways and eventually ends up in the Bay.

Tired of seeing the continual trash, my neighbors and I decided to take action. Initially, we organized monthly neighborhood cleanups. Calling ourselves the Clover Neighborhood Group, we met once or twice a month to clean up Miles Avenue from the Rockridge BART station to Chabot Elementary School, including the Presley Way underpass area between Miles and Keith, a magnet for continuous litter.

With just an hour's effort, we can collect four to five large bags of trash. Since July 2016, we have collected more than 50 bags, all while having a good time chatting while we bring together community and action.

RCPC Community Grant

With the help of a community grant from RCPC in 2016, we received funds to pay for materials such as garbage bags, tools and gloves. We soon discovered Oakland's Adopt-a-Spot program. We adopted Miles Avenue from College to Patton, and got access to more materials such as litter grabbers and yellow safety vests, as well as collection services so Oakland Public Works will pick up our garbage bags the day we collect.

In this time when we're trying to figure out how we can change our world, it's been satisfying to know we can at least clean up our local corner of the world.

Want to join the Rockridge Cleanup Initiative? Here are some ideas:

■ Gather your neighbors for a community cleanup; just 30 to 60 minutes is enough to make a difference. And, a bonus: you'll get to catch up with your neighbors. We're hosting our next Miles Avenue cleanup on March 18 if you want to join us. Meet on Clover Drive at 9:30 a.m.

■ Take a small plastic bag with you to pick up litter when you go out for a walk. As long as you're walking your dog and picking up their debris, why not pick up other trash? If everyone were to pick up three pieces of litter each day, our neighborhood would be cleaner.

■ Take your kids for a local cleanup and use it as a time to teach them about the impact litter has on the Bay. Make it like a game to spot and pick up litter.

■ Check out Oakland-based Litterati (www.litterati.org) and download their easy-to-use app. Take pictures of trash and contribute to the community identifying, mapping and collecting the world's litter. Their site has inspiring case studies about changing behavior and helping organizations find more sustainable solutions.

■ Adopt a street to clean up through Oakland's Adopt-a-Spot for access to materials garbage pickup (https://tinyurl.com/oaklandadopt).

■ You can also adopt a local drain (https://tinyurl.com/oaklandadopt). A little volunteer effort goes a long way in helping Public Works maintain over 7,500 storm drains to reduce flooding and prevent pollution in our waterways.

■ If you do business with a place that is messy outside, say something to the people working there. If residents and business owners clean up, visitors are less likely to litter. Conversely, if the people in the area say "That's not my garbage, I'm not picking it up," it invites more littering.

Cleanup Initiative, page 13



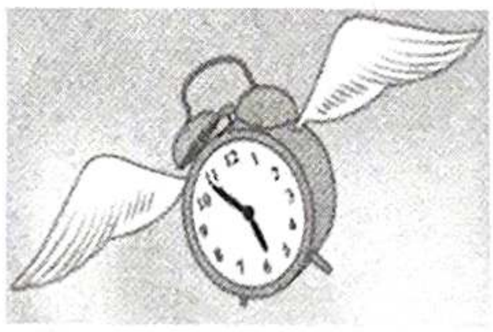
Evangeline Miller-Schai, left, Cecelia Garofoli and Meta Austin display the tools and the results of their trash-collecting on Miles Avenue near the Presley Way underpass.

/Christine Garofoli

Do you find the success of the Clover Neighborhood Group inspiring? Do you have your own idea(s) for a Rockridge project? "Find a need and fill it," a local cement company used to say. The Rockridge Community Planning Council's Community Grants for Community-Led Projects may be able to help you with funds and mentoring.

If you live in Rockridge and want to apply, here's the date to remember: April 1, 2017; applications should be received by the RCPC board by this date. Send to info@rockridge.org. A total of $2,500 is available for grants in 2017; $750 is the maximum award available. Follow the links to the handout at rockridge.org for more in-depth instructions before applying. Find the RCPC boundary map at www.rockridge.org/boundaries for qualifying residence. Further questions may be directed to info@rockridge.org.

The RCPC board of directors dedicates a portion of the proceeds from the Rockridge Kitchen Tour to offer supportive funding for resident-inspired local improvement projects.



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Cleanup Initiative

from page 12

■ For bigger dumped items and issues like graffiti, use the See Click Fix app. This is an excellent tool that Oakland uses and monitors regularly. You can easily report illegal dumping (it utilizes geo-tagging so it knows the location) and the city is quick to acknowledge the request and notify you when it is complete (https://en.seeclickfix.com/oakland/report).

■ While you may not consider throwing cigarette butts on the ground to be littering, it is. The filters are not biodegradable. When Toast was open, we were constantly cleaning up cigarette butts on Chabot Road. We finally suggested the management put an ashtray outside, which helped when employees took their breaks outside.



Letter to the Editor

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

Editor:

Thank you for the inspiring interview with Nikki Foletta published in the January 2017 Rockridge News. Some of my favorite aspects of Rockridge are its walkability and rich transit options. Our pre-WWII street and land use patterns are part of the special sauce that gives Rockridge its distinctly strong sense of community and neighborliness.

Nikki's insights into the community benefits of walking, cycling and transit were welcome to read. Walking and cycling increase opportunities for personal interaction and community health. People who arrive by foot, bike and transit to shop in commercial districts like Rockridge spend more per month than their car-using counterparts. Our use of non-polluting transport will benefit the next generation by mitigating climate change.

Thanks again for highlighting this inspiring Rockridge resident.

—Rachel Hollowgrass

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Land Use

from page 3

car-dependent and need parking spaces, as do employees and customers of College Avenue businesses. The city's new off-street parking requirements for new construction may put pressure on the limited on-street parking, as will liberalized rules for parking for secondary (in-law) units. Limiting residential parking permit availability may help, but more off-street parking – even off-site parking with shuttle service – may need to be considered.

The committee felt it would make sense to check in with other similar (i.e., CN-1) areas in Oakland, like Piedmont Avenue and the Dimond District, to see if they had similar concerns. The committee also felt that we should look at how other cities around the country have addressed the housing affordability issue. We should not try to reinvent the wheel if there are tested, workable solutions available.

Finally, it was noted that nothing is permanent. Whatever policies are put in place could be changed in five or ten years if conditions warrant it.

The March Land Use Committee meeting will continue the discussion of housing policies, with the aim of preparing a preliminary proposal to present at the April RCPC Town Hall Meeting to get wider community feedback before taking a proposal to the board of directors.

■ Note: the meeting includes the opportunity to vote in the election of RCPC board members. Details of the election process will be presented in the April issue of The Rockridge News.

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More: Community Calendar

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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. 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

FOR CHILDREN

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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **TWIG – Rockridge Tween Interests Group:** For ages 8 to 13. Creative work, friendship, and snacks. Bring ideas of what you & your friends would most like to do each month. Every 2nd & 4th Tues, 6:30-7:45pm, in the Children's Area. **In March & April we will be making Kamishiba** (3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25). More info: Erica, 597-5017.

Mad Hatter Tea Party: Sat, 3/25, 11:30am. Wear your silliest hat to have high tea; light refreshments in a fancy setting. Proper introductions and table manners. Ages 5 to 12. If you don't have a silly hat, make one when here. Please register at the Children's Reference Desk or email Erica at esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org.

FOR TEENS

- **Wearable LED Bling**: Make wearable bling with felt and LEDs 3/8, 2pm.
- **Teen Advisory Board (ages 14-18):** Help advise the library how to better serve teens; **get community service credit for school. Note changed day: 2nd** Sat. each month, 1 to 2pm.
- **Teen 'Scape Program:** Play video & board games; make crafts; enjoy meals. Tues, Thurs, and Fridays: 3:30 -5pm and Wednesdays: 1:30 – 5pm.
- **Homework Club: High School Tutors Available:** A quiet place to do homework. Tues and Thurs, 4 – 5pm; Wednesdays 3 – 4:30pm.
- **Yu-Gi-Oh Card Game Club:** Beginners welcome. Every Friday, 3:30 – 5 pm.

FOR ADULTS

- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal information and referral. 1st Tues each month** (3/07, 4/4), 6pm-8pm; Lottery system to see the lawyer. Sign-up opens at 5pm; must be present for lottery drawing at 5:45. Call day of program to confirm.
- **Women Bike Book Club:** Discuss the role the bicycle played in women's liberation: **Francis Willards memoir**, *Wheel Within a Wheel: How I Learned to Ride a Bicycle* – published in 1895 – available free at Rockridge or Main Library. (Note: 4/13 meeting at the Main Library.) Hosted in partnership with Bike East Bay. Thurs, 3/9, 6pm.
- **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 Saturday each month**, 1 to 5pm; wheelchair-accessible. Sponsored by the Calif. Writers Club of Berkeley. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com. Call to confirm.
- **Spring Plant Swap:** Bring your garden extras and take home new plants. Cuttings, starts, bulbs, and full-sized plants welcome. Master Gardeners will be here to answer your gardening questions. Sat, 4/8, 11am- 2pm.
- **U.S. Constitution Refresher:** Are you working for liberty, equality, justice, and democracy? **Retired judge John True** from the American Constitution Society will discuss the meaning and importance of the Constitution, with **Q&A and light refreshments**. All ages welcome. Tues, 4/11, 6:30pm.

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 Readings/Events

FREE and open to the public.

- Sun, 3/5, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** and **Sixteen Rivers Press** pay tribute to **Susan Herron Sibbet** for ***Great Blue.*** Participating Sixteen Rivers Press readers will be **Terry Ehret, Steve Gilmartin, Nina Lindsay, Carolyn Miller, and LeeAnn Pickrell.**
- Tues, 3/7, 7pm. Publication party for **L.A. Kauffman:** *Direct Action: Protest and the Reinvention of American Radicalism.*
- Thurs, 3/9, 7pm. Local author **Clair Brown**: *Buddhist Economics: An Enlightened Approach to the Dismal Science*
- Wed, 3/15, 7pm. **Melissa Febos:** *Abandon Me.*
- Fri, 3/17, 7pm. **Deepak Unnikrishnan:** *Temporary People.*
- Tues, 3/21, 7pm. **Jason Turbow:** ***Dynastic, Bombastic, Fantastic: Reggie, Rollie, Catfish, and Charlie Finley's Swingin A's.***
- Wed, 4/5, 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 is **Keeping on Thinking in Difficult Times presented by Mary Margaret McClure, DMH.**
- Thurs, 4/6, 7pm. Publication party for **Meredith May:** *I, Who Would Not Die*. **John Steven Morgan** will be playing piano.
- Fri, 4/7, 7pm. **Siel Ju:** Cake Time. Joined in conversation by fellow Red Hen Press poets (both finalists for California Book awards) **Brynn Saito:** *The Palace of Contemplating Departure*, and **Andrew Lam:** *Birds of Paradise Lost.*
- Sun, 4/9, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** featuring **Martha Rhodes** and **Bruce Willard**.
- Wed, 4/12, 7pm. Contributors celebrate the new release of ***Oakland Noir*** with editors **Jerry Thompson** and **Eddie Muller** and authors **Dorothy Lazard, Nick Petrulakis,** and **Katie Gilmartin**.

DIESEL, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave. More info abt the authors, books and other events: 653-9965 or events@dieselbookstore.com.

Jazz at the Chimes

Featuring saxophonist/clarinetist **Harvey Wainapel** and his quartet, **Alegritude**, presenting a panorama of modern instrumental music from Brazil. Sunday, Mar 19, 2 pm. Advance ticket sales at http://harveywainapel.brownpapertickets.com or at the door (cash only) beginning 12:30pm (doors open 1:30): $15 general; $10 srs. (60+) and students. Refreshments and reception follows to meet the performers. Info at www.harvjazz.com. The series honors the 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.

Wisteria Ways House Concert

Snowapple: three multi-instrumentalists and singers from Amsterdam perform cabaret folk with a side of Broadway and '40s popular jazz. Sat, 3/25, 8pm; house opens 7:30 (inside venue, not wheelchair accessible). Please come fragrance-free. $15-20 donation for musicians (cash only at the door). 383 61st Street. For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

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

Mon. – Fri., 9am to 4:30pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way: 597-5085. **Programs include:** Arts/crafts; health counseling; dancing and exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's support groups, computer classes/more.

- **CANE DO! Classes:** An exercise and self-defense class in one. Learn how to use your cane for more than stability! **For members:** $10 for 8-session class/**non-members** $40. Join now! Thursdays, 10 to 11am, starting in March.
- **AARP FREE TAX HELP:** Now through Apr 13. Call to schedule appt at 597-5085.
- **SPECTRUM LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. (HEAP).** HEAP applications for help with your PG&E bill are available. Ask for Information and Assistance Specialist Denise Vaughnes, Mon-Fri, 9:30am to 1:30pm.

Get event details at the desk or 597-5085. Seniors age 55+ join the center for $12 annual dues to get discount and other benefits. Receive "The North Oakland Senior Times" for full schedule of classes/events, lunch menus, and volunteer opportunities. Info: 597-5085.

MacArthur Tower Project

from page 2

building at the transit village, and approved by the Planning Commission. The EIR for the project considered a tower for the site, but rejected it as "infeasible." Neighbors want appropriate scale development for the site, and are planning legal action. See: www.facebook.com/StopMacArthurTower, to help with legal expenses: www.gofundme.com/StopMacArthurTower.

— **Robert Brokl**

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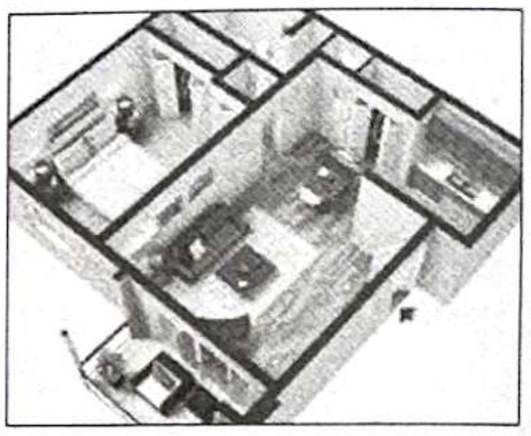
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