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www.rockridge.org

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CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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RCPC Set for Thursday, April 20 Town Hall & Board Election

Town Hall: Toward a Rockridge Housing Policy

What should Rockridge's role be in helping to meet the need for new housing in Oakland? The Land Use Committee has studied this question for several months and will present background information and preliminary recommendations for a Rockridge Housing Policy at the Town Hall. A panel will provide reactions and comments, and audience questions and ideas will be welcomed. The current report on the committee's discussions follows:

■ Land Use Committee Continues Work on Rockridge Housing Policy

The Land Use Committee's third meeting discussing housing in Rockridge focused on the question of how affordable housing fits into the picture. There was general agreement that having more affordable housing would be good for promoting economic diversity in Rockridge. Almost all the new housing being built in or just

▸ Land Use Committee, page 2

RCPC Election

The **April RCPC Town Hall** doubles as RCPC's annual meeting at which RCPC members – those living within RCPC's boundaries (www.rockridge.org/boundaries) and 18 years or older are eligible to vote to elect members of the RCPC board of directors. At least 25 residents must cast a ballot at the meeting to establish a quorum. If the quorum is met, **residents unable to attend the April 20 Town Hall may vote Saturday, April 22**, in the lobby of the Rockridge Branch Library, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Election procedures: Five candidates (three incumbents and two new candidates) are running for six available seats. (Statements, page 3.) Each candidate will give

▸ Town Hall/Election, page 12

Eyes on Rockridge

New Chief Seeks 'Complete Turnaround' of OPD

by Judith Doner Berne

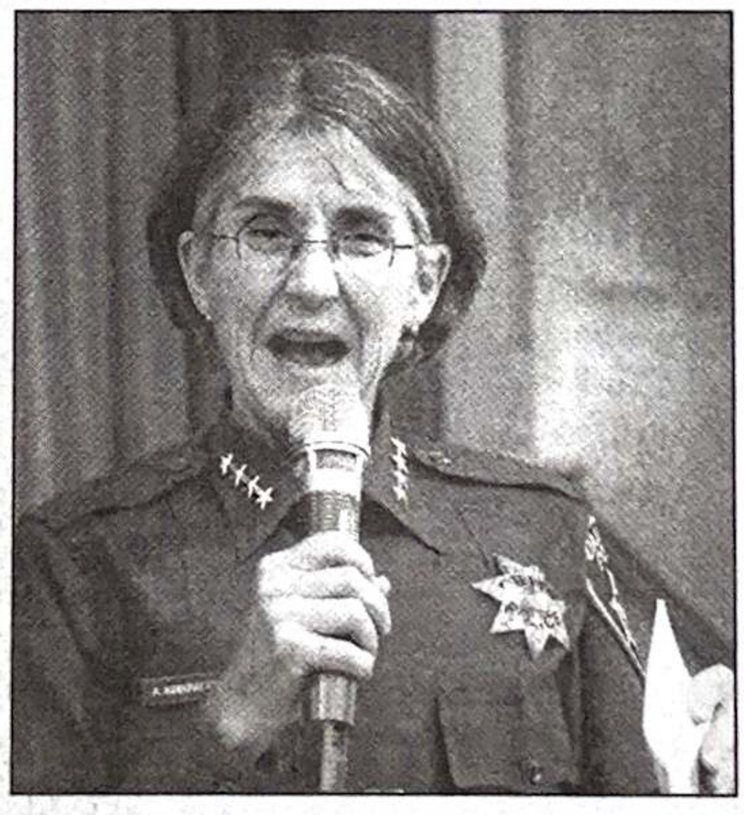
'I want to get out to your neighborhoods," new Oakland Police Chief Anne Kirkpatrick told Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf.

And so the first of a series of neighborhood town halls began at Montclair's Montera Middle School, where an estimated 150 North Oakland residents met and questioned the Oakland Police Department's (OPD) first woman chief for an hour or so.

The Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) was a co-sponsor of the March 23rd forum, which also featured Vice Mayor Annie Campbell Washington, Councilman Dan Kalb and new Director of Public Safety Venus Johnson as well as police Captains Darrin Allison and Randy Wingate.

Introduced by Schaaf, the 57-year-old, Tennessee-bred, somewhat diminutive-appearing but clearly take-command chief announced a large goal: to make the OPD "the Super Bowl champs of law enforcement agencies."

Schaaf praised Kirkpatrick's "passion for nurturing leadershio," adding, "I want her to be the last outside chief we hhire."



/Don Kinkead

OPD Chief Anne Kirkpatrick

Kirkpatrick commented, "I really gave chase to this city and this police department"; and, taking up the mayor's theme, "This should be your last outsider."

Although the mayor cited Oakland's decreasing crime rate over the last four years – all violent crime, down 20 percent; homicides and shootings, down 40 percent; home burglaries, down 60 percent; a 70 percent reduction in officers' use of force – Kirkpatrick noted that the per capita crime rate in Oakland is actually greater than in Chicago, her last posting.

'I really gave chase to this city and this police department.'
OPD Chief Anne Kirkpatrick

"I want to get us out of the top 10 [most crime-ridden cities]," Kirkpatrick vowed. "We're going to do a complete turnaround."

Then, charmingly asserting her Southern accent, she opened the floor to "y'all." Following is a sampling of the questions and her replies:

■ **On the new civilian police commission:** "I'm accustomed to working with a police commission. I welcome the opportunity."

▸ OPD's New Chief, page 13

In Memoriam | Kevin Faughnan

April 20, 1945 — March 22, 2017

On March 22, while fishing near Mammoth Lakes – a favorite pastime – RCPC Vice-Chair Kevin Faughnan suffered a fatal heart attack. In his four years on the board, Kevin took on increasing responsibilities. He served as the liaison to the Rockridge District Association (RDA), improving communication and contact between the merchants and RCPC, and, later, as vice-chair, he developed enhanced features for the biennial RCPC Kitchen Tour, attracting still more attendees and increasing revenue to RCPC. Over the years, he helped with the monthly packing of newsletters for delivery and delivered two Rockridge News routes of his own. Long after the shock of Kevin's untimely death wears off, the board will miss him, his humor, his drive, and his adopted motto: "Make it fun, get it done."

Among the tributes to Kevin is this letter by his friend Brendan Havenar-Daughton, former RCPC Chair and fellow boardmember with Kevin:

Dear Friends:

Like many others, the news of Kevin's passing shocked me. Tonight, I took a moment to reflect on the time we spent together. Kevin was a champion for our community. He cared deeply about the work that often goes unnoticed, and he was driven by a commitment to action. He was unimpressed by endless talk, and, thus, it was often his voice that moved us to action.

Kevin will be missed by those he touched throughout Oakland.

My heart goes out to Kevin's family during this difficult time.

We love you, Kevin.

Your Friend, Brendan



Kevin Andrew Faughnan
April 20, 1945 — March 22, 2017

Condolences may be sent to Kevin's wife, Agnes Faughnan, c/o RCPC, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611

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

The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded March 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly (except in August) and is sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), a nonprofit public benefit organization founded to: preserve and enhance the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood; promote the health, safety and quality of life of its residents; furnish a forum for community involvement; and provide leadership and representation of neighborhood interests.

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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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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:
- **May 6, 2017.**
- **May deadline is April 20, 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, April 26, 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge Branch Library upstairs meeting room. Please check the rockridge.org website for updates on future meetings and agendas.

Cont'd From Page 1

outside the borders of Rockridge is market-rate. (In the Nautilus Project on Telegraph, 11 percent of the units will be set aside for very-low-income units.)

It was pointed out that the state's density bonus program can add extra floors along College Avenue. The maximum 35 percent density bonus would increase the height limit on College from 35 feet to 47 feet, which means going from three stories to four. To get the maximum density bonus, a project would need to be 11 percent very low income, 20 percent low-income, or 40 percent-moderate income units. The city could, however, provide for density bonuses beyond those mandated by the state.

It was also noted that while much of Rockridge's residential area is zoned RM-1 (single-family, moderate density), some areas are zoned RM-2 (duplexes allowed),

Land Use, page 14

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RCPC Election 2017: Statements of Candidates

Alden Conner

Hillegass Avenue

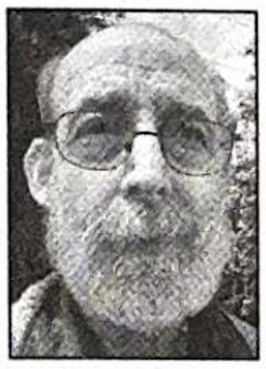


I moved to Rockridge in 2009 to pursue a graduate degree at UC Berkeley, and after graduating with my Ph.D. in Molecular and Cell Biology in 2015 I have been lucky enough to be able to stay in the neighborhood while working in biotech. I originally learned of the RCPC through The Rockridge News, and I particularly appreciated its advocacy on behalf of the community in the planning of the College Avenue Safeway just a couple blocks from my home.

I would like to join the board of RCPC so that I can represent the interests of Rockridge residents in shaping the future of our neighborhood. I think the RCPC board has done a great job of addressing issues that will be affecting our community for years to come, and I am eager to contribute to their efforts in areas such as transportation and housing.

Stuart Flashman

Ocean View



Incumbent

I'm an attorney and resident in Rockridge (25 years). I first joined the RCPC board in 2007. I have served as board chair, at different times, for a total of five years. Over that time, Rockridge has faced challenges. Now, just as in 1974 when RCPC first formed, we face major threats.

Back then, completion of BART and Highway 24 led Oakland leaders to propose making Rockridge a high-density residential "feeder" for Downtown. This proposal would have displaced residents and demolished homes. Instead, the neighborhood organized – successfully – around RCPC's proposal of a moderate-density residential area anchored by local retail on College Avenue. RCPC's solution proved successful, while the leaders' model has been discarded.

We can't close our eyes to crises, but I don't accept "simple" solutions that would radically change Rockridge. Thoughtful residents, business owners, and RCPC board members can again come up with better solutions. I want to continue working for that.

Andrew Masalin

63rd Street



I'd like to be considered as a board member for RCPC because I care deeply about the long-term health of the community. As a Rockridge homeowner and father of an 18-month-old, I'm dedicated to seeing this community thrive. My goal is to continue to help keep Rockridge thriving both economically and socially. I want to ensure that College Avenue remains vibrant and local. I want to make sure that all our residential areas remain diverse and able to keep communities safe.

Jesse Ortega

Claremont Avenue

Incumbent



I have been an RCPC boardmember for one year. I am eager to be re-elected so I can continue to learn how to serve our community. I believe that our neighborhood has a spirit that will thrive in our advancing and changing city. I want to continue representing our neighborhood when we face community challenges and give our residents a voice when community decisions must be made. I ask for your vote to allow me to continue to serve you. Thank you.

Ronnie Spitzer

Taft Avenue

Incumbent



I'm dedicated to representing the community's interests in the areas of land use and transportation.

Rockridge is a successful walkable community that can be even better. Preserving and enhancing the community by upholding all provisions of existing Rockridge planning codes is one element of our continued success. Making its streets and air quality safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and school children through better transportation planning is also important.

During my past RCPC board term, I interfaced with the city, the community, and Caltrans on numerous Rockridge development projects and transportation improvements. My activities include: RCPC Treasurer & Transportation Co-Chair; Fourth Bore Coalition representative and Vice Chair: Halloween Parade organizer: and Kitchen Tour publicity Chair.

Update: Rockridge Security Patrols

In the May issue of The Rockridge News, **Safer Rockridge** will review the past three years of private security patrols in Rockridge and give an update on where the service stands now.



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Celebrate Earth Day With FROG and DMV Neighbors

by Leonora Sea, chair, DMV Neighbors

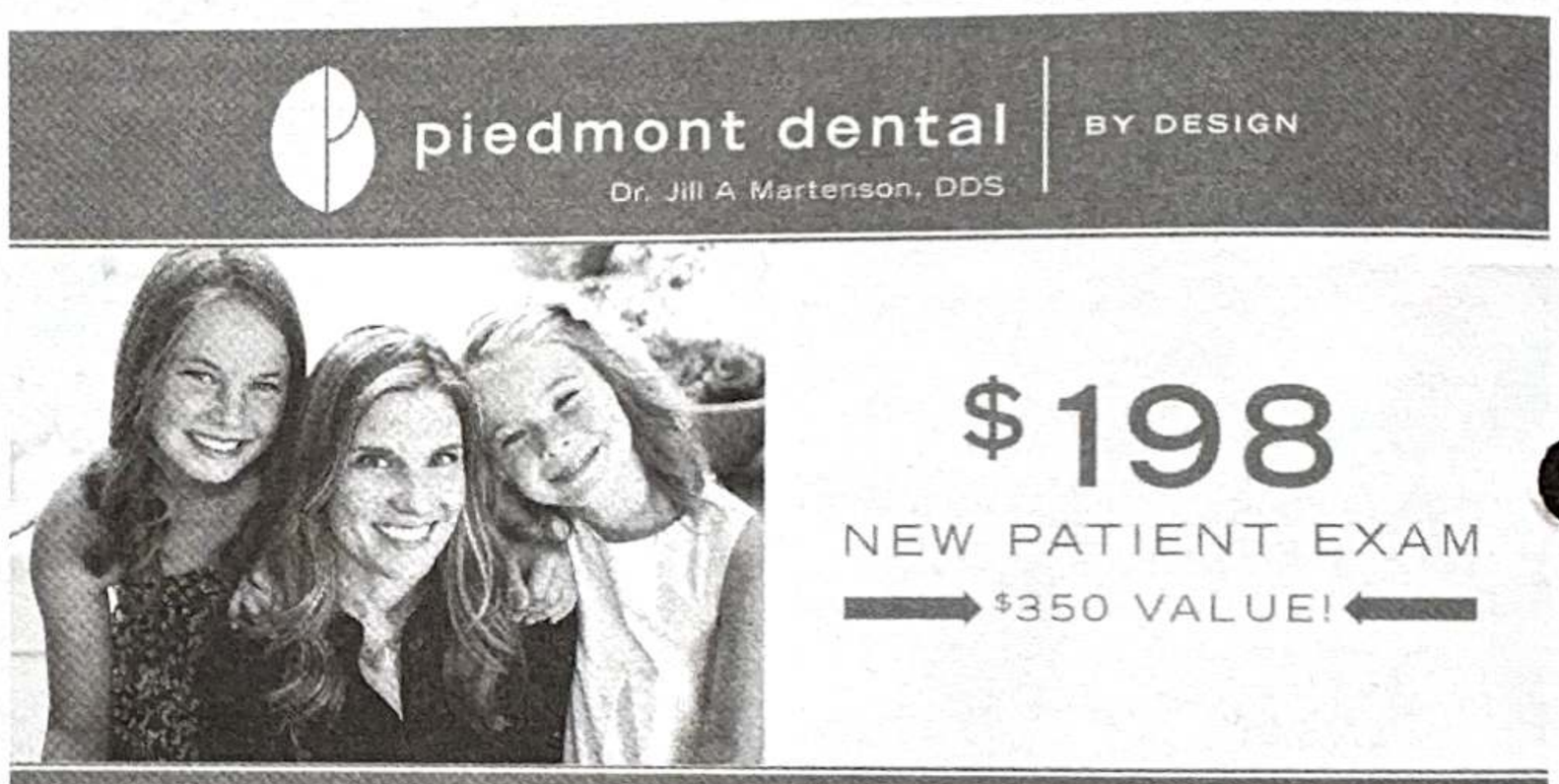
This winter in Northern California is on track to be the wettest in 122 years of record keeping, according to the National Weather Service. Looking around in Frog Park and along Temescal Creek, it's not hard to believe. Everything is lush, green, and beautiful, and many of the shrubs and trees are looking healthier than they have in a long time. It's a pleasure to see.

Another pleasure in the park is coming soon: **Earth Day, Saturday, April 22**. The many storms over the winter season have left behind a riot of weeds, much downed tree bark and many fallen branches, some erosion of the creek bed (made worse by foot and bicycle traffic), and generally plenty to do to tidy up before summer. Earth Day is our annual celebration of community care for the park and greenbelt.

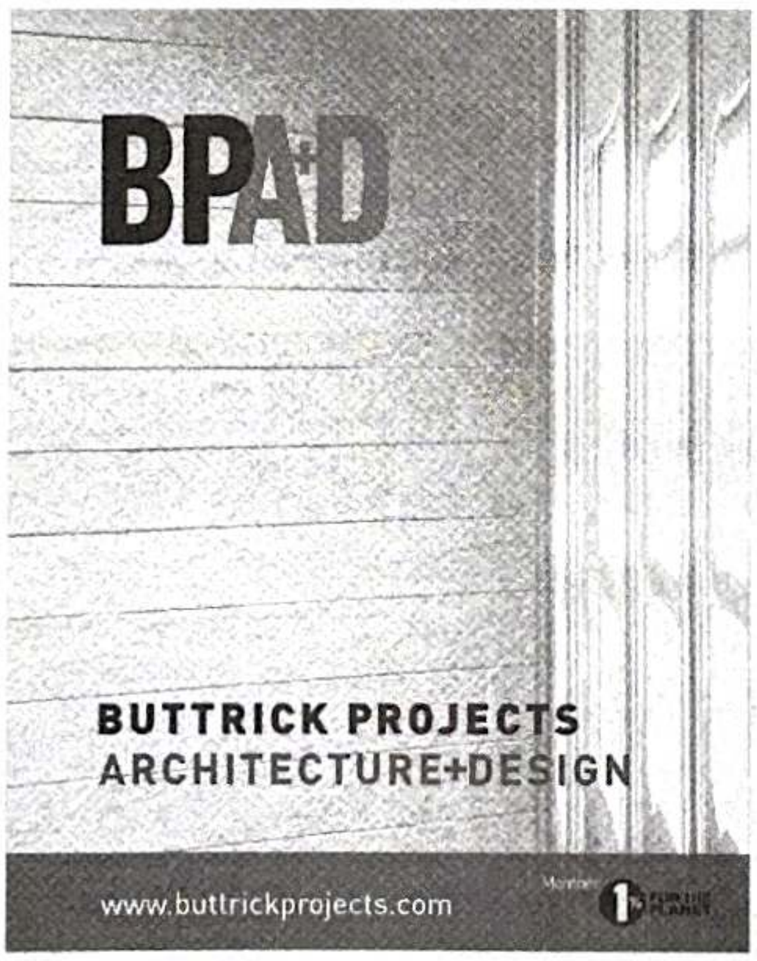
The DMV Neighbors Association and the FROG Committee are jointly sponsoring the 2017 Earth Day cleanup, 9 a.m. to noon. Sign in at the table at Cavour and Redondo to work on the creek, greenbelt, and "Little Frog" (the tot park at Redondo and Clarke). Sign in at the table near the big play structure at "Big Frog" (Hardy Circle) to work on the pond, play areas, butterfly garden, and path. Come rake redwood duff out of the pond, sweep the greenbelt path, trim ivy, turn over the fibar (the soft material under the play structures at Big and Little Frog), prune overgrown shrubs and trees, weed the creek bed, cut back willow roots, pick up trash, and install the erosion mitigation barrier logs along a section of the creek south of Clifton.

Cleanup starts at 9 a.m. Tools and gloves will be provided, or bring your own, marked well as yours. Many tasks are kid-friendly. Parents or guardians must sign for volunteers under 18. Snacks, coffee, and drinks for volunteers will be at the tables, and water will be available. As always, remember your sunscreen. For more information contact LeonoraSea@comcast.net or info@frogpark.org.

Be sure to check out the special events happening in the park this Earth Day in addition to the cleanup. Funded by a grant from Keep Oakland Beautiful, local artist, muralist, and teacher Caroline Stern will be painting a nature mural on one outer wall of the bathroom at Hardy Circle. You can see her drawing for the work in last month's issue of the Rockridge News and on the next page. At 9:30 a.m., there will be a celebration at "Big Frog" with Fremont Bank, a new park sponsor. (See more, page 5.)




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Homes sold in March closed 5% over the asking price on average.

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Frog Park Updates and Activities

Playground 'Swings & More' Park Enhancement Project Update

The Frog committee has submitted all necessary design documents to the city to begin the approval process. We are entering several permitting review phases, and we hope to have all official approvals in fall 2017.

We will be meeting with city officials over the next two months to see if there are any ways to expedite the approvals and completion of the project.

Please see our layout and the final set of equipment we are adding to the park. The ADA-compliant swing was changed back to its original type due to space and fall zone factors.

The final set of drawings can be found on our website at frogpark.org. Our playground expansion will add:

- 2 toddler-bucket swings
- 1 belt swing
- 1 large ADA bucket seat (not a two-person-facing swing).
- 1 Apollo (triangular climbing merry-go-round)
- 3-way seesaw/teeter-totter
- 1 bench
- 1-3 boulders
- New surfacing, for the ADA accessible equipment and moves.

View the new playground layout and more project information at frogpark.org. Contact us: chair@frogpark.org.

Website Revamp

We are working on revamping our website. Thank you to Joel, owner of Adachi Consulting (www.adachiconsulting.com), for their volunteer work to help address the redesign, recent hack and to implement further security.

Planned Playground Equipment

(Below right and right.)

Below: proposed mural (front left) to be painted by Caroline Stern, and its location-to-be at right.



"Blazer"

Earth Day: See Public Art Being Created

Mark your calendar for Earth Day at Frog Park, April 22, 9 a.m. - noon. The Frog Park committee will have family-friendly clean-up activities, and artist Caroline Stern of Deco Art, will start the mural painting.

Join us and watch Stern paint a mural on the west wall of the bathroom at Frog Park. This art is funded by a Keep Oakland Beautiful grant.

To work with the artist as a volunteer, or to help create an educational art component for children and youth, contact info@frogpark.org.

Also: Fremont Bank (coming soon to Rockridge, corner of Claremont and College Avenues, near Safeway), will present a donation check to FROG on Earth Day, 9:30 a.m. We look forward to seeing you on Earth Day and to Fremont Bank's support of Frog Park and our community.

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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.

BART Tower Story Inflammatory and Factually Incorrect

Editor:

Page 2 of The Rockridge News of March 4, contains an inflammatory and factually incorrect article, and I think RCPC owes Rockridge residents better than to publish an article like that.

Robert Brokl's article about the tower at MacArthur BART covers an important topic but in a manner that could only be called one-sided if it even reflected a side based in truth and reality. His first sentence says "making it the second tallest building in Oakland..." which wouldn't have even been true 100 years ago. Oakland has nearly 20 towers that are taller; some that are taller date to the early 1900s. He then says "neighbors want appropriate scale development." If you've been to the hearings you would see there is debate in the neighborhood. I've seen more neighbors speak in favor than in opposition. A fairer article would a) be based in fact and b) be accompanied by a counterpoint either in the same article or in an article representing the position of support that many other neighbors share.

This is an important discussion and one that the Rockridge News should cover. Though the project is in neighboring Temescal, it impacts us and we should really think and talk about it. But we should discuss it fairly and honestly.

This article discredits not just the author but also the Rockridge News in my mind.

— Greg Pasquali

BART Tower Story Factually Incorrect and a Disservice to Readers

Editor:

Robert Brokl's article in the March 4 Rockridge News on the proposed residential development at the MacArthur BART station is factually incorrect. Its publication is a disservice to the residents of our neighborhood. Brokl falsely claims the tower would be the "second tallest building in Oakland." This is simply not true. In fact, according to the real estate information company Emporis, which maintains lists of high-rise buildings in cities around the world, the proposed 260-foot tower would be the 19th tallest building in Oakland. Also, Brokl's article provides few informative details on the project, such as the fact it would provide 45 new affordable housing units, and 200 more housing units overall, compared to the previously approved design Brokl references. Including information in the article directing readers to financially support legal action against the project makes it clear Brokl's article is an opinion piece, and should be identified as such.

Housing in our neighborhood, city, and region has become preposterously expensive because there isn't enough housing to meet demand. This project will provide desperately needed housing just steps from a BART station. Someday, I might want to move out of my small rent-controlled one-bedroom apartment if my partner and I decide to start a family. The more housing options we can provide here, the more likely it is that I can afford to stay in the city I love.

— William Bacon

BART Tower Could Ease Housing. More, Denser Housing Needed

Editor:

In reading the most recent issue of The Rockridge News (March 4), I was disappointed by the one-sided position of "Could the 'Tallest Tower' be built at the MacArthur BART station?" The article is unequivocal in its opposition to the residential tower project at MacArthur station, which could set a precedent to help ease some of the housing affordability issues facing Oakland. It was particularly galling to see complaints about a large housing project directly across the page from the Land Use Committee notes discussing the desire for increased housing production and efforts to curtail housing prices. The only thing that will get us out of this housing crisis is more, denser housing, even if it has to be in my backyard.

— George Leslie-Waksman

Why Was There No Earlier Announcement of the BART Tower?

Editor:

I received my newsletter on Wednesday, March 8 noting the huge apartment building planned for the MacArthur BART station. On March 9, I read that the City Council, with Dan Kalb's highly visible support, already approved the construction on March 7 of this out-of-place monstrosity. My question: why the late notice from RCPC? Or did I miss a much earlier notice regarding this proposed apartment building?

P.S.: Why is the state mandating a "share" for each city and neighborhood to fulfill its "obligation" for "affordable" housing? Housing and zoning decisions are to be designated to the lowest entity and thus are the sole responsibility of the local community, not dictated from above. Every time a question is raised about any of

Letters, page 7

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Are you aware of new short term rental restrictions the city of Oakland is considering?
Are you aware of proposed repeal of single family home exemption from rent control in the state of CA?
Are you aware that as of 1/1/17 all homes in California are required to have water conserving fixtures?

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Letters

from page 6

this, the answer always is "because the state mandates it." Really?

— Name withheld by request

Editor's Note:

It is the longstanding policy of The Rockridge News that bylined pieces (those that identify an author by name) do not necessarily reflect the positions of either The Rockridge News or RCPC, as stated in the right column of page 2 of every issue ("Articles submitted for publication" section). However, the Editor agrees that, in this instance, it would have been helpful to introduce the article with a prominent statement that it expressed a personal opinion of the author. In addition, the Editor and RCPC regret that the author's statement that the building would be the second tallest in Oakland was not corrected to "one of the tallest in North Oakland."

RCPC Chair and land use attorney responds to the writer who had not heard about the building previously.

Why didn't an article about the MacArthur BART housing structure appear earlier? The RCPC board briefly discussed this project several months earlier. The board decided that since the project was well outside of Rockridge, presented issues unlikely to occur in Rockridge, and appeared to sharply divide the local community, RCPC would not take a position on it. Consequently, publishing an outside opinion or even a report of the project was not a high priority, compared to covering Rockridge issues.

The writer also asks why the state is mandating that "each city and neighborhood fulfill its 'obligation' for 'affordable' housing?" To clarify, starting about ten years ago, in response to a growing statewide housing shortage, the Legislature mandated that each regional council of governments (in the Bay Area, the Association of Bay Area Governments, ABAG, identify expected future population growth and allocate to each city or county a "Regional Housing Needs Allocation" as its "fair share" of meeting that need. (See Government Code Section 65584 and following.) That allocation must be addressed in the city or county's General Plan Housing Element. There is no requirement on how to distribute that housing within a city, but most cities try to do it equitably and in an environmentally sustainable manner. From that standpoint, placing high-density housing next to a BART station makes some sense. However, the state did not mandate that Oakland approve this project at this site. That was the City Council's call.

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

The Library Friends Need You

by Sarah Washburn

The Friends of the Rockridge Library seek a new board member to join us as we support our library together. Read on to find out if this person might be you...

Our all-volunteer board collaborates with library management and staff to fund programs and resources not covered under Oakland's budget. We fundraise, spearhead awareness campaigns, and, most recently, we helped the library celebrate the Rockridge branch's 20th anniversary last fall.

We're a creative and active bunch, eager to hear your ideas on how you might lend your time and skills to support the library we all love. Most of all, we have fun supporting our library.

The board meets 5 to 6 times a year on Tuesday nights. Please get in touch with us to discuss your interest: info@rockridgefriends.org.

The Friends of the Rockridge Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Learn more about us at www.RockridgeFriends.org.

NCPC Sets Bimonthly Meeting

The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) will hold its regular bimonthly meeting on **Thursday, April 13. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in the upstairs conference room of the Rockridge Library at Manila and College avenues.** Come hear Officer Anthony Hutzol, Rockridge's Community Resource Officer (CRO), report on crime and public safety issues over the last two months, and share any neighborhood concerns you have that may need police attention.

Officer Hutzol recently announced he is restarting his "Coffee with a Cop" sessions: Telling the community that "I would like to let everyone know that I will be starting up CWAC again in Rockridge," Hutzol hosted his first session of this year in March at Philz Coffee in the College Avenue Safeway plaza. "Since Philz has proven to be a good place in the past – plenty of coffee and plenty of space," Hutzol will likely schedule future meetings there, which he usually announces via NextDoor Rockridge. (https://rockridgeca.nextdoor.com/news_feed/.)

Feel free to join Officer Hutzol if you have any questions. "I will stay as long as folks are there and want to chat," he said before the March meeting.

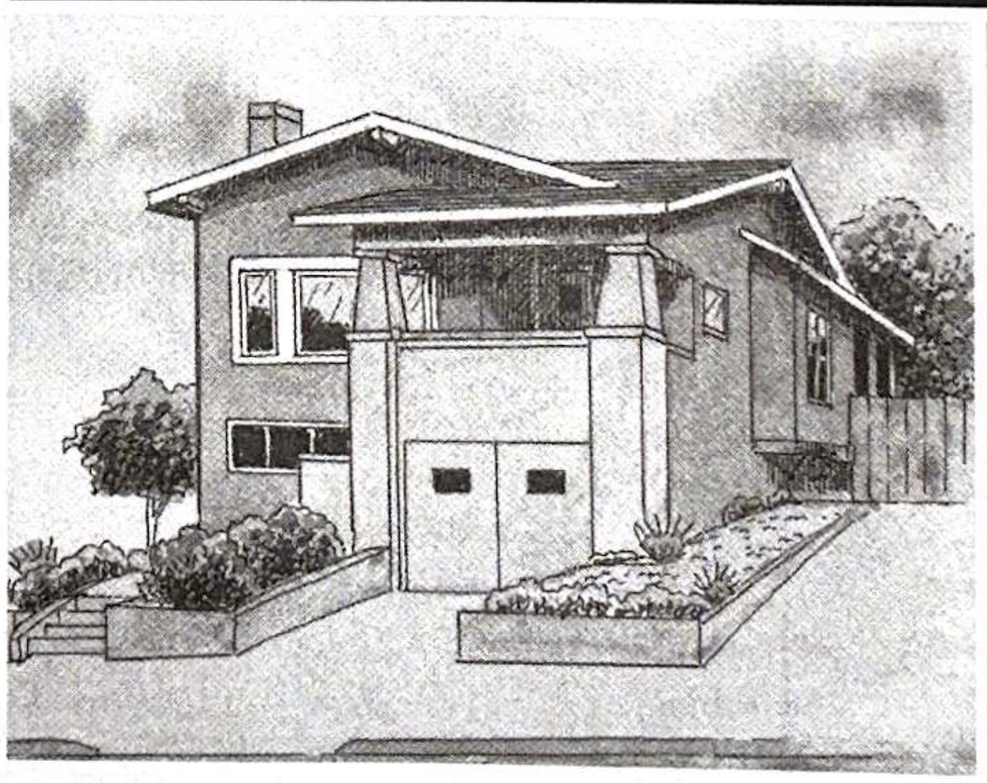
Email the NCPC at CHAIR@ROCKRIDGENCPC.COM if you have items you'd like to add to the NCPC meeting agenda.

— ***Karen Ivy***
Secretary, Greater Rockridge NCPC
secretary@rockridgencpc.com

Mark your calendar and/or cell phone: The Rockridge NCPC and the Rockridge Community Planning Council hold a joint meeting in June. Watch for details in the June issue of The Rockridge News.

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New Book Tells Rockridge Soccer Club Founder's Story

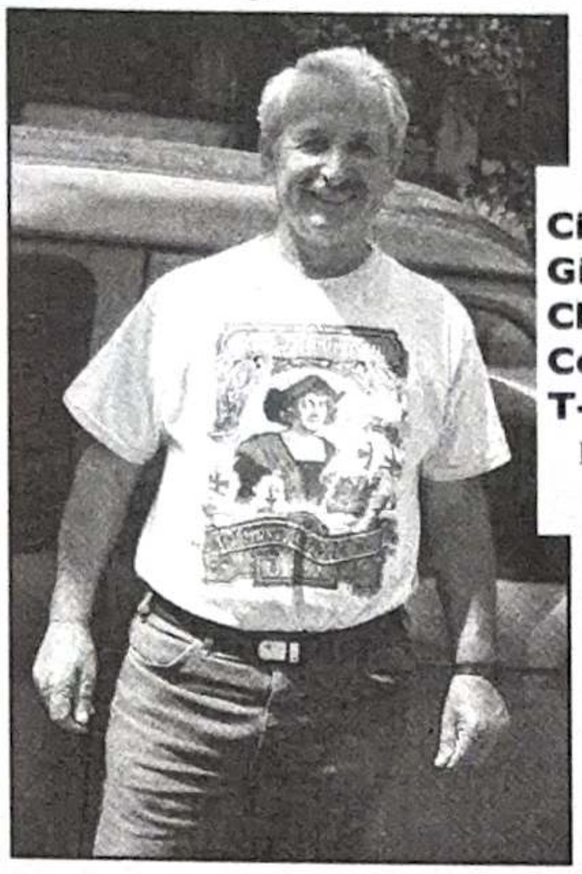
Four Dollars and a Dream Tells True Story of War, Immigration, Achievement

by Jeff Gilliland, Author

If you've lived in Rockridge for more than a few years, you've probably heard his name. Shouted on the street, from the backs of garbage trucks, outside St. Augustine's Church or his personal "church," the Oaks Card Club: "Hey, Gino!" "That Gino Chegia?" "What a guy!" But did you know that Gino Chegia, long-time Rockridge resident and the founder of the Rockridge Soccer Club, is actually named Cino?

"When I came to America, nobody could pronounce my name," says the 81 year-old Italian immigrant. "They all started calling me Gino, so I just went with it!" He laughs his unforgettable laugh: a rolling guffaw, that shakes his shoulders and flushes his jovial cheeks bright red. "What a country, eh?"

In his 60-plus years in America, the soccer enthusiast formerly known as Gino has found a lot to love about this country, and about Rockridge in particular. Born in 1935 in the Tuscan fishing village of Porto Ercole, as a boy Cino watched American forces fight to liberate Italy from the Nazis, and "began to dream of a faraway land [he] had never seen." He got his first taste of America at age 15, working as a deck boy on a merchant ship that docked in New York City. Three years later, he found himself in Alameda, and fell in love with Oakland's Temescal neighborhood, where Italian rang out from every open window and produce stall. On May 5, 1954, Cino jumped ship: an 18-year-old illegal immigrant, sustained by the generosity of Oakland's Italian-American community.



Cino/ Gino in his Christopher Columbus T-Shirt. Photo/ Jeff Gilliland

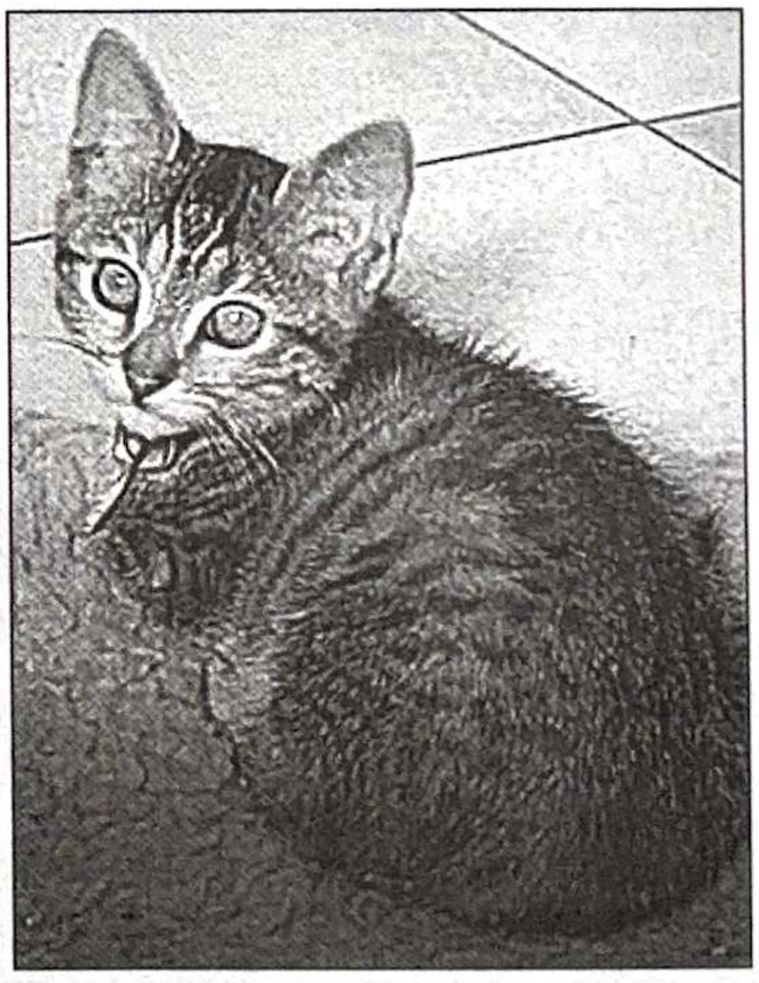
After getting married, earning his citizenship and becoming a partner in the Italian-owned Oakland Scavenger Company, Cino moved to Rockridge in 1971 to raise his four sons. "My boys really wanted to play soccer," he remembers, "but the closest team was in Montclair!" So he took it upon himself to start a local youth team: he rented fields, ordered uniforms, negotiated a sponsorship deal with Rockridge Realty and soon found himself at the head of a thriving club. Within years, the Rockridge Soccer Club grew to be one of Oakland's premier youth soccer franchises, spawning the Bay Oaks traveling team (which Cino co-founded) and eventually forming the heart of the East Bay United Soccer Club. A beloved coach, referee, team parent and grandparent, Cino stands as one of the most important figures in local youth sports.

Nowadays, Cino still lives in Rockridge and spends his days going to "church," cooking at the Fratellanza Club and driving his candy apple-red roadster around the same hills he walked for years as a garbageman. His most recent pet project is his own biography, "Four Dollars and a Dream: The Life and Times of Cino Chegia." Written by his great-nephew, "Four Dollars and a Dream" follows Cino from a World War II refugee camp to his home on Harwood Avenue, through citizenship and civil rights battles, personal tragedy and family triumph. Alternately sad and inspiring, the story is buoyed by its hero's upbeat personality, ribald humor and the infectious laugh that lets the whole world know that Gino—er, Cino—has arrived.

"Four Dollars and a Dream: The Life and Times of Cino Chegia" will be available at Diesel Books and Pegasus Books on College Avenue. Each will carry 3 books to start, then order more as they are sold. The book is also available in paperback and for Kindle on Amazon.com. For more information, or to purchase a copy there, visit tinyurl.com/fourdollars.

Cuddle Kittens and Cats; Help Them Meet People, Get Adopted

We are looking for volunteers to cuddle, clean up, and socialize kittens and cats at the **Hopalong adoption center** located in the Rockridge Center's Pet Food Express store at 51st and Broadway. Two hours, once a week. Email Volunteer Manager Dani Clark at dani@hopalong.org for more information or go directly to sign up for orientation at www.eventbrite.com/e/hopalong-cat-care-orientation-at-pet-food-express-rockridge-tickets-28263261175



— Submitted by Rockridge resident and volunteer cat cuddler Betsy York.

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Were You Flamingled, or Simply Bemused?

by Chuck Afflerbach

Among the spring flowers popping up all over Rockridge last month came a colorful addition; flocks of bright flamingos roamed from yard to yard, surprising passersby on the street as well as residents inside their homes.

These pink plastic peregrinations were part of a fundraising drive by the Chabot Elementary School PTA. Donors could sponsor a flock of about twenty birds to be surreptitiously placed on a friend's or neighbor's lawn for 24 hours. The following morning, the fake fowls would migrate to the next unsuspecting recipient.

The flamingo flocking went on – rain or shine – for three weeks. One hundred flamingos in five flocks were distributed daily. More than a dozen volunteer flockers, including some students from Chabot, enjoyed sneaking into yards to perch the plastic pieces on porches and lawns, in flowerpots and trees. There were surprises along the way: one flock found itself face-to-face with a coop of real live chickens; another arrived at a lawn already occupied by a permanent placement of resident flamingos.



Dylan, Charlie and Jack wrangle a few flamingos during the build-up to Chabot's 2017 Gala.

PHOTO/LISA KLEIN

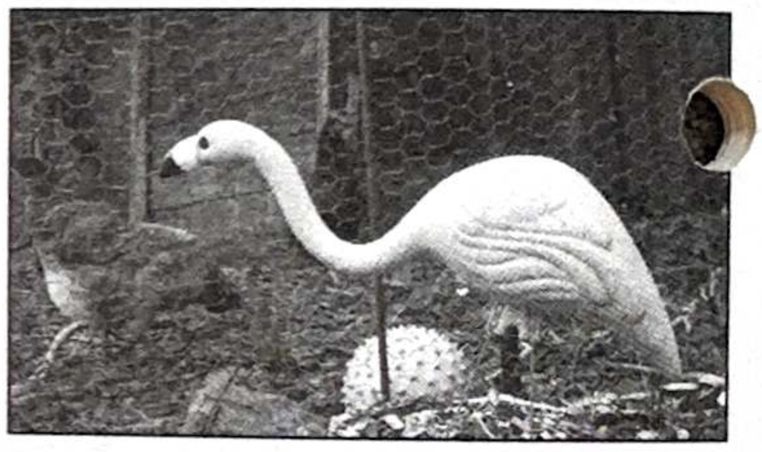
In all, 92 homes were visited by the flocks, raising $1,720 for the school. However, the campaign served an even bigger purpose: publicity. Every flock brought with it a sign advertising the upcoming Spring Gala at Chabot. This annual auction is always the PTA's biggest fundraiser, and the theme for the party on March 25 was "Let's Flamingle."

At the end of the flocking project, co-organizers Lisa Klein and Tracy Boyd discovered that their fickle faux-feathered friends had come home to roost. Lisa said,

"After flocking so many houses, it was a delight to wake up on the last day to see our own houses flocked by the auction committee."

But the flamingos' work was not yet done. Twenty of the birds were "adopted" by bidders at the auction. These pink pets made an extra contribution to the many enrichment programs funded by the PTA at Chabot Elementary.

Flock on!



PHOTO/CHUCK AFFLERBACH

Auction Gala Team Thanks Community

And the winner is... Chabot! Thank you to everyone who supported the online auction, silent auction, live auction, and raffles. The crowd "flamingling" at the Gala on Saturday night clearly enjoyed themselves and showed their Bobcat pride. For the first time ever we ended the night with a fantastic dance party. A special thank you to Tamara Spokane who rocked it on the turntables as a spectacular DJ.

There is much information to share, but we wanted to start out with a huge Thank You to all for your contributions of time, donations, and bidding enthusiasm.

Though we are still tallying the numbers, it is clear that we exceeded our financial goal. We are so pleased that the community continues to show its ardent support for the many programs funded and coordinated by the Chabot PTA.

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Pi and Pie Rule at Claremont's Annual Math/Science Night

Principal Puts Himself On the Line for Math's Sake

Everyone at Claremont Middle school's Science and Math Night was into the fact that the annual family event fell on the most famous of math dates, March 14 (3/14): Pi Day.

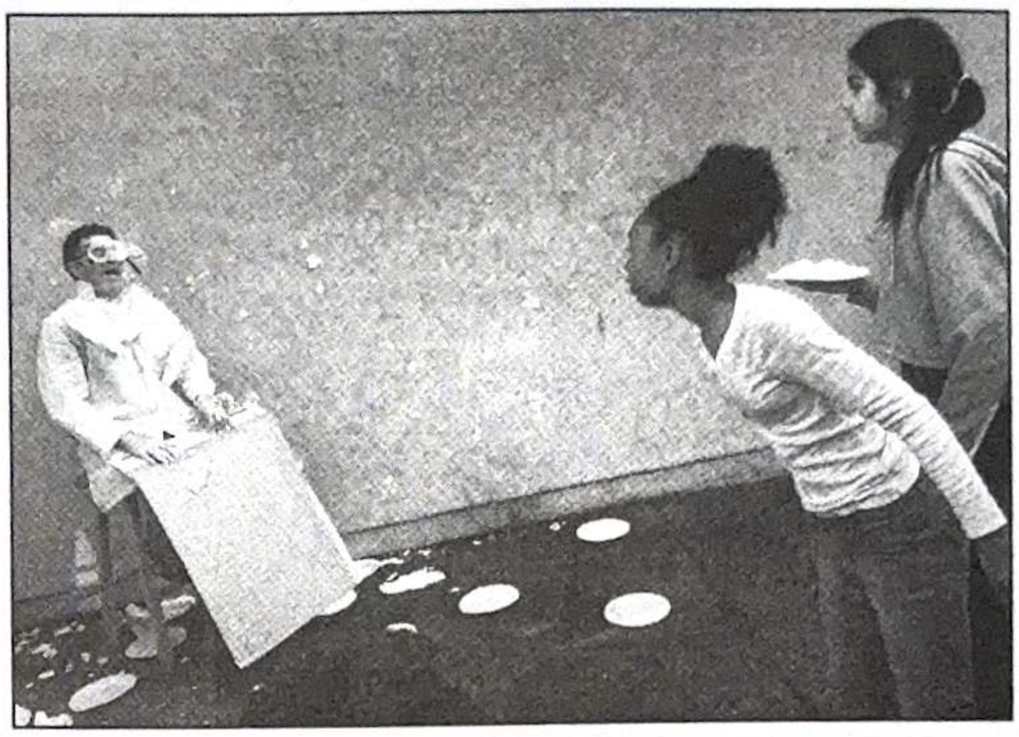
Pizza pie, dessert pie and pie in the face were all part of the scene, as an estimated 300 students and parents (based on the number of slices served) engaged in science and math activities throughout the school's classrooms and outdoor areas.

Students dressed in lab coats demonstrated how to get DNA out of strawberries in the sixth grade science room.



Rockridge residents Ed Berne (standing at left) and Joe Lindsay (not pictured) posed math questions for parents and students during Claremont Middle School's annual Math and Science Night. The two Claremont grandfathers also run a weekly after school Math Club for interested sixth graders.

PHOTO/CLAREMONT SCHOOL



Students solving the diameter and circumference of an ordinary paper plate were cleared to throw that plate, newly covered with whipped cream, at Claremont principal Jonathan Mayer.

In one courtyard, students tried to create packaging for a raw egg designed to protect it when dropped by a teacher from the Claremont roof. Splats were common.

And the school library was the place to form molecules, lining up mini-marshmallows on wooden skewers.

Solving the diameter and circumference of an ordinary paper plate was a problem with a just reward. If you were correct, you were cleared to throw that plate, newly covered with whipped cream, at Claremont principal Jonathan Mayer.

But the (pie)*ce dé resistance* came at the end of the evening. Twenty students competed in the Digits of Pi competition in front of a crowd of parents, teachers and students.

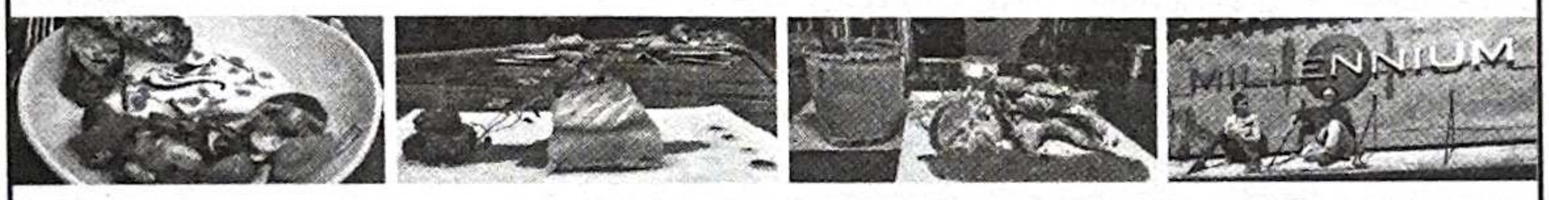
Three of the five winners were sixth graders. Sophie Klein (6th grade) took first place with 147 digits, Marley Sonke (6th grade) came in second with 121 digits and Max Andelman (6th grade) and Josie Goodson (7th grade) tied for third, each with 100 digits. Caitlin Lee (7th grade) came in fourth, reciting 86 digits.

Pi was not pie in the sky for them. Each won prize money, with Sophie the winner of, yes, you guessed it, $314.

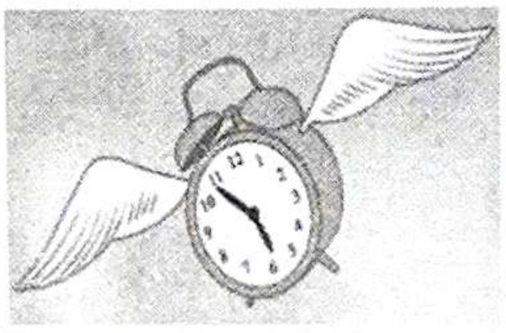
— Judith Doner Berne

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A Pink Ribbon On a BART Parking Lot Redwood Worries a Watchful Neighbor

by Justin Horner

You may have noticed a pink ribbon wrapped around one of trees at the stand of redwoods at the Rockridge BART station parking lot at Shafter and Forest.

About five years ago, a few trees were removed on BART property along Keith across from Market Hall, and when I saw that ribbon I thought more tree removals were to come. I contacted BART to ask about plans for the trees.

After a helpful conversation with BART Division Manager Mary Grace Houlihan, I learned about BART's plans for tree removal and reforesting at the Rockridge BART station. BART has identified some hazardous trees, and it has a plan to manage them. The principal points of the plan are:

- Identified hazardous trees are planned to be removed in fall 2017;
- Prior to the removal of these trees, a reforesting plan will be finalized;
- Public input into this reforesting plan will occur in the summer; and
- The specific tree with the pink ribbon at Shafter and Forest will be removed before the end of April. It is dead and needs to be removed promptly.

I was encouraged to learn that there will be a reforesting plan, developed with public input, and in place before any additional trees are removed. This is a clear improvement over previous removals (including the ones along Keith) which have occurred without notice and without a reforesting plan.

I hope this process leads to opportunities for the neighborhood and the city to work with BART to leverage resources to improve landscaping throughout the station area. A goal of actually having a net increase in trees with the reforesting plan would be great to achieve.

If you are interested in being kept abreast of this issue, please email justinhorner01@gmail.com.

Town Hall/ Election

from page 1

a short presentation and answer questions at the meeting. Ballots will be available in the lobby. Bring your ID: Voter addresses will be verified by driver's license or DMV ID card or other item, such as a utility bill showing an address within RCPC boundaries.

The Rockridge News

Claremont Avenue Route Available

We of The Rockridge News staff pledge to deliver The Rockridge News to everyone in our community and, thanks to our generous residents, we have been able to keep our pledge for over 30 years. But some routes are harder to fill than others; such is the case for a Claremont Avenue route.

If you live in the area and want to help us fulfill our pledge and ensure that those, such as yourself, who look to the newsletter for a local viewpoint, receive the newsletter regularly, please let us know via email or phone as given below:

Route 16D	Both sides 5200 Claremont, including apartment at 5248, and 5400 block of Claremont Avenue, west side only, from Clifton to Cavour.

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

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OPD's New Chief

from page 1

■ **On changing peoples' perception of the police department:** "We've wounded a lot of people. We own it. Part of my being here is to change that perception. Many police officers are also wounded. I want to champion our officers and heal their wounds as well. I hope to have a new beginning with you." (That response drew applause.)



Mayor Schaaf discusses change in the Oakland Police Department. /D. Kinkead

■ **On more of a police presence in the Oakland Hills:** "The issue is how do we deploy our resources. We are at a stage as a team looking at this." At the same time, she said, "It's common logic that areas of high crime demand high resources."

■ **On the question of more diverse officers, especially Latinos:** "We want to mirror our community. We want to be diverse in every kind of way: diverse thinking, diverse beliefs, diverse mindsets." That revolves around "a recruiting strategy that is different from the past." Traditionally, police departments have hired people with military backgrounds, she said. "Why not the Peace Corps?"

■ **On freeing the department from 14 years of federal oversight:** "We need to move toward transformation but not over-focus" on meeting federal requirements.

■ **On how young people can help:** "Come join us. Your core has to be a heart of service. When I look at new hires, I think: Do I want you to be dealing with my mother or my father? I'm looking for people who like people and who have integrity and courage. We're going to have only the best of the best."

■ **On why few police officers live in Oakland:** "I'm not critical. It's expensive to live here. But I have ideas for Oakland people to police themselves," suggesting that she would seek out Oakland residents for police jobs.

■ **On preserving the rights of immigrants in a sanctuary city:** "I've never worked in a city that wasn't a sanctuary city. We do not and will not enforce immigration law. That is civil law; we do not practice civil law. What troubles me is the fear that people have. I'm here to say that enforcing immigration laws is not what we do."

■ **On curbing protest movements that may define Oakland for outsiders, but have often resulted in vandalism and violence:** "I love that Oakland is known for protests. I love that fact. But I will not tolerate tearing up property or hurting anyone."

Mayor Schaaf dittoed Kirkpatrick: "I'm not going to discourage people from demonstrating," she told the audience. "I don't want to change that. But I have no tolerance for vandalism. We want to facilitate peaceful protest. Our officers are flown around the country [to advise other departments]. Policing demonstrations is a touchy and sensitive art. But mostly I want to make sure we have fewer reasons to protest."

Rockridge residents I talked to following the session were favorably impressed.

"I thought the chief was very poised and confident," said Karen Ivy, secretary of the Rockridge NCPC. "I was reassured by her reaction to the new civilian police commission. She said that she's worked with those before and thinks they are no big deal.

"She understands that Oakland has money issues and needs more officers," Ivy added. (They are budgeted for 792 officers but have only 760 currently.) "I was interested in her comment that Chicago has more crime than Oakland because Chicago is bigger; but that on a per capita basis, Oakland is more violent than Chicago. I hadn't heard that before."

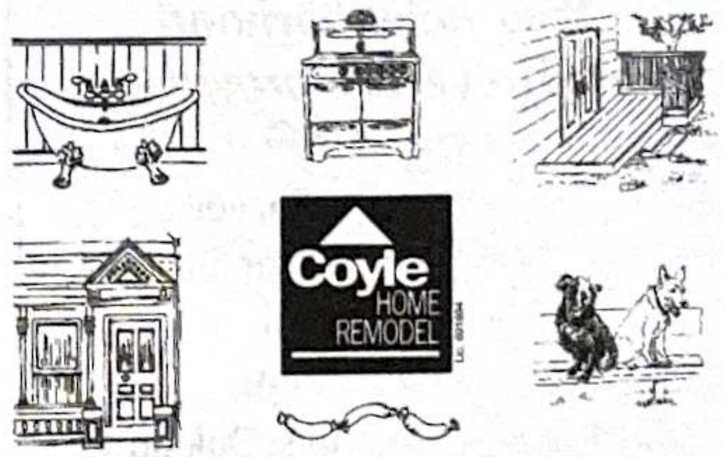
"Seeing a woman as chief made me proud and interested. There is obvious strength there. She also has a cute sense of humor and I like the way she responded to my question on diversity."

"I definitely like her style," said Chuck Afflerbach, who is married to Juarez. "I wish we had more police officers who thought the way she does. I was particularly impressed with her saying that they should look to the Peace Corps instead of the military. Her appearance is so different from what you would think of as a police officer. It might change people's thinking about what a police officer might be."

To comment on this column or to make suggestions for future columns, please email judyberne@att.net.







Land Use

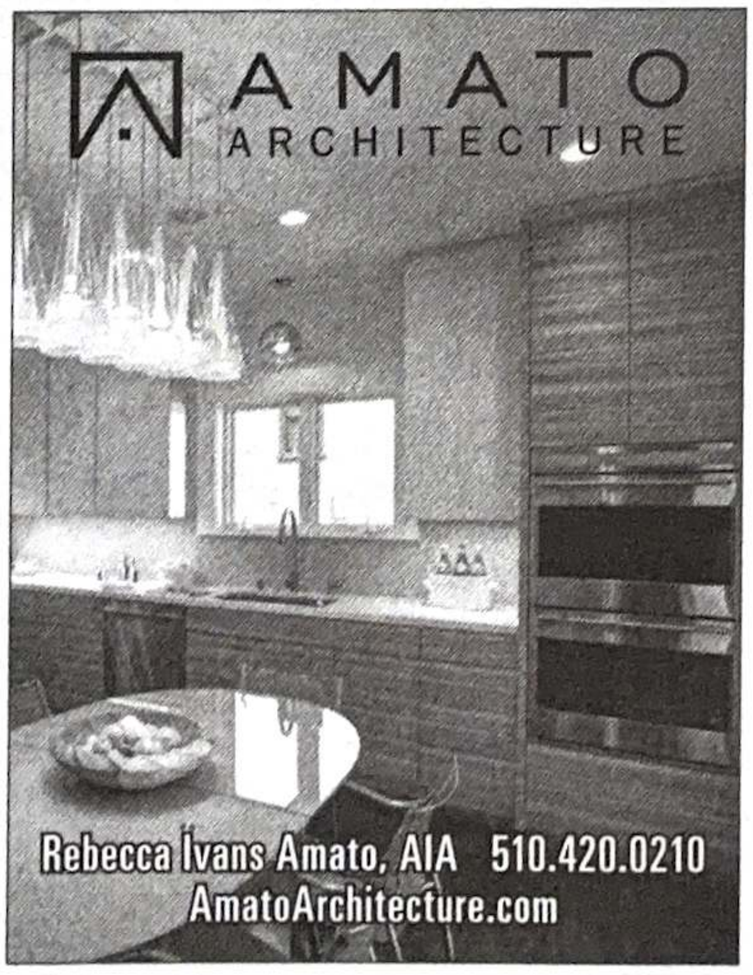
from page 2

and a shift from RM-1 to RM-2 would allow subdivision of some existing houses into duplexes.

Some members expressed concern that going up too high (e.g., five or six stories) might result in a canyon-like effect along College Avenue. There was also concern about the extra traffic that large projects would generate, as well as the parking problems if there was not enough off-street parking provided, e.g., by subdividing houses. It was also noted that commercial developers might not be interested in the type of small project that could fit in Rockridge.

Town Hall Meeting/Housing

After the April Town Hall meeting (see article on front page), the April Land Use Committee meeting will include further discussion of housing policy, including considering comments from the Town Hall meeting and evaluating options for moving forward towards making recommendations to the RCPC Board. Scheduled meeting date is April 26, 7:30 p.m., at the Rockridge Branch Library. Check with rockridge.org website to confirm date and time as the scheduled time approaches.)



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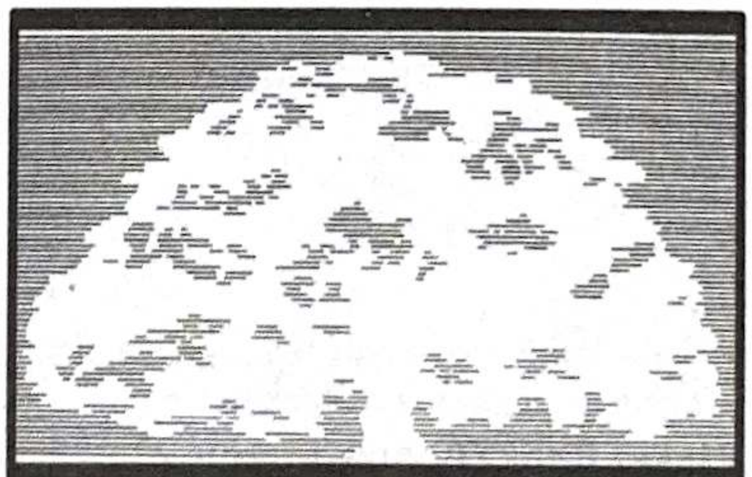
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Happy Hour!

Sponsored by Scott Murray, RPM Mortgage. Join us at The Golden Squirrel, 5940 College Avenue, Oakland, Tuesday, April 11, 5:30 p.m. Your first drink is on us! Email your RSVP to smurray@rpm-mtg.com. No presentation, no handouts, just happy hour.

Happy Hour Continued!

Feel free to bring 1 friend. Cheers! Scott Murray, Loan Advisor, 510/852.5150, NMLS#1020834 RPM Mortgage Inc., - NMLS #9472 – Licensed by the Department of Business Oversight under the Residential Mortgage Lending Act. Equal Housing Opportunity. C-000.

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Conversations for Older Adults and their Loved Ones

April 27, 1-2 pm. Rockridge Library. "How Do I talk to my Family?," and "Finding the right Next Home." RSVP 510/706-5534. www.facebook.com/rushglosliteam

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: Temescal Farmers Market, 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Teleg. at DMV lot), 3rd Sunday each month,10:30am-12:30pm. More information: mmharris@oakland.net or www.dankalb.net/contactdan.

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FOR CHILDREN

NOTE: No story time the first week in April: Story times resume on 4/13.

- **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:** 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. Help plan projects of your choice. Every 2nd & 4th Tues, 6:30-7:45pm, in the Children's Area. **In April we will be making Kamishiba (4/11, 4/25) and every Tues night in May will perform stories and serve Japanese treats.** All ages welcome. More info: Erica, 597-5017.
- **National Letter Writing Event:** Write a letter to your favorite book character, superhero, world leader, friend, family member...or whomever you like. Writing supplies provided; postage stamps not included. Tues, 4/18, 3:30-8pm.
- **Dia de los ninos /dia de los libros: Alicia Retes** tells West Coast Native American stories and plays indigenous instruments to celebrate Children's Book Day. **Every child will receive a free book.** Sat, 4/29, 10:30am.

FOR TEENS

- **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.
- Learn about making comics with CCA student **Thomas Meyer**. Design your own characters and story. 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, from 2 to 4pm. **Art supplies provided.**
- **Nuts & Bolts Band:** Use nuts, bolts, and twine to make a band. 4/20, 2pm.

FOR ADULTS

- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal information and referral. 1st Tues each month;** 6pm-8pm. 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.
- **Spring Plant Swap:** Bring cuttings, starts, bulbs, full-sized plants and take home new plants. Master Gardeners will answer your questions. Sat, 4/8, 11am- 2pm.
- **U.S. Constitution Refresher: 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.
- **Writers Support/Critique Group: All writers welcome.** Bring 15 copies of up to 5 pgs. (double-spaced, MS margins) of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (also welcome to come empty-handed). **Third Sat. each month,** 1 to 5pm; wheelchair-accessible. Sponsored by the Calif. Writers Club of Berkeley. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com. Call to confirm.

NOTE: 4/13 meeting of the Women Bike Book Club will be at the Oakland Main Library. Call 597-5017 for details.

Gallery Exhibit

May: Artwork by students of Samuel Merritt College.

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

Friends of the Oakland Public Library (FOPL) 2017 Spring Book Sale: April 20 -23

Thursday 4/20 - Members' Preview - 50% off
For all other book lovers:
Friday 4/21 -- 30% off
Saturday 4/22 -- 40% off
Sunday 4/23 -- 50% off
Special sale hours: 10:30am – 5:30pm.
The Bookmark Bookstore (open every day), 721 Washington St., 444.0473.
Info: bookmark_bookstore@yahoo.com; FOPL Membership & Board: info@fopl.org.

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings

FREE and open to the public.

- Sun, 4/9, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** featuring **Martha Rhodes** and **Bruce Willard**.
- Wed, 4/12, 7pm. New release of ***Oakland Noir*** with editors and contributors.
- Thurs, 4/13, 7pm. **Marcus Thompson II:** *Golden: The Miraculous Rise of Steph Curry.*
- Tues, 4/18, 7pm. **Morgan Parker: There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyonce.** Joined in conversation by poet **Charif Shanahan.**
- Thurs, 4/20, 7pm. The latest bilingual books by **Mark Haber, Scott Esposito and Editorial Argonutica**.
- Sun, 4/23, 3pm. ***West Marin Review VII.*** Group reading with contributors.
- Wed, 4/26, 7pm. **Andres Barba:** *Such Small Hands.*
- Fri, 4/28, 6pm. **Pajama Party Story Time for Kids.** Come in PJs; bring teddy bear; have milk and cookies. **Sandra V. Feder** reads bedtime stories from *The Moon Inside.*
- Sat, 4/29, **All Day - Independent Bookstore Day,** 10am to 9pm. **Literary Happy Hour from 4-5pm**. Pouring their signature cocktails from *a Literary Cocktail Party* will be **Edan Lepucki-** Tequila Negroni; **Novella Carpenter-** Beet Kvass Shots; and **Jacqueline Luckett-** Dirty Martini.
- Sun,4/30, 3pm. **Melanie Salvatore-August:** *Fierce Kindness: Be a Positive Force for Change.*
- Thurs, 5/4 7pm. **Patricia Lockwood**: *Priestdaddy: A Memoir.*
- Sun, 5/7, 3pm. **Christopher Bernard:** new poetry collection, **Chien Lunatique.**
- Tues, 5/9, 7pm. **Publication party for Edan Lepucki:** *Woman No. 17.*

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

Square Dance in North Oakland

Music by **The Squirrelly String Band**. Calling by Jordan Ruyle. 1st Fridays each month, 8 – 10pm. All levels welcome. $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 caregivers support groups, computer classes/more.

- **Older American Month Celebration** at City Hall Plaza: **Free shuttle** from the Center. Wed, May 3, 10am – 2pm.
- **Spotlight on Senior Services: Denise Vaughnes** hosts speakers on various Sr. services. 4th Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 AM.
- **Eat Smart, Live Strong:** Free nutrition class sponsored by UC Cooperative Extension. Free cookbooks; food demos and tasting. Pre-register now. 4 sessions from 10am to noon, starting Tues, May 9.

Get event details at the desk or 597-5085. Seniors age 55+ join 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.

Temescal Farmers' Market

Open Sundays, 9am to 1pm (all year). Locally grown produce and more. Sample the goods; meet the grower. **Live music. Bring reusable bags**. 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Telegraph) at DMV parking lot.

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Spring Update!

Another year brings another booming market w/multiple offers, low inventory & houses selling way over asking. And, I mean **WAY OVER ASKING!**

Want to chat? Call me.

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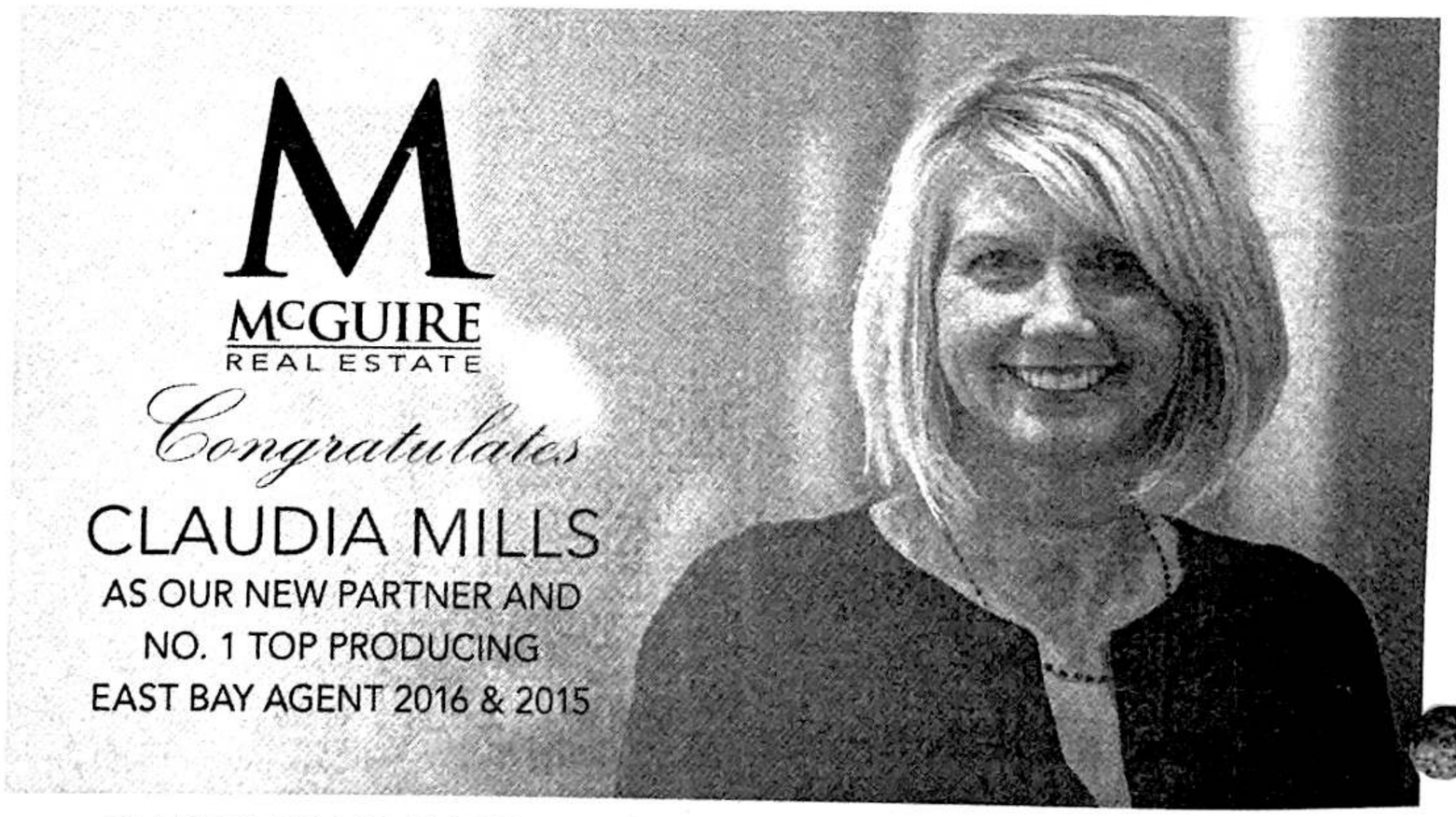
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