Rockridge News

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Remember: No issue in August See You in September

Not to Be Missed – 2017 Rockridge Kitchen Tour and Expo: Tickets on Sale Now; Tour Date is September 24

by Leonora Sea, Kitchen Tour committee

Kitchens come in all shapes and sizes, and that's especially true for the kitchens on the coming Rockridge Kitchen Tour to be held on September 24.

Architects, contractors, designers, and homeowners have found creative and clever solutions to make very small kitchens work like large ones, to turn awkward spaces into supremely functional ones, to enhance and respect historic houses while bringing the kitchens into the 21st century, and to inspire the rest of us by designing with useful ideas for everyone.

This year, the Rockridge Kitchen Tour invites guests to take a peek at nine beautiful kitchens. On display throughout the tour will be the latest trends in color, surfaces, appliances, and use of space; and classic designs that look as fresh and modern today as they did when first completed. Tour-goers will find much to enjoy, including a NARI (National Association of the Remodeling Industry) award-winning kitchen; a full house tour of the Roll-Up House, featured on the 2013 American Institute of Architects East Bay Chapter tour; and a tour of the main rooms and kitchen of the Guy Hyde Chick house, an historic Rockridge home designed by Bernard Maybeck, dean of early twentieth century California architects.

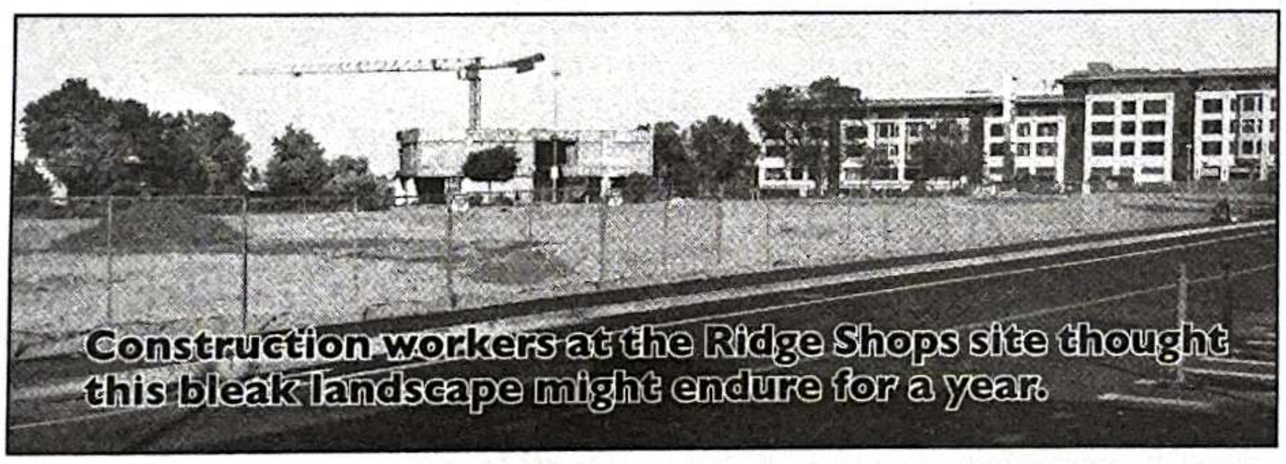


/Ken Rice/2015 Kitchen Tour

At the Kitchen Tour houses, guests will have the opportunity to meet some of the architects and contractors who worked with the homeowners, and will receive a copy of the comprehensive tour brochure, describing each kitchen and listing resources for those contemplating a remodel of their own kitchen. In addition to the tour on Sunday, September 24, plan to attend the Kitchen Tour Expo on Saturday, September 23. The

RCPC Kitchen Tour, page 2

"Shops at the Ridge" Phase II Placed on Hold



Construction workers at the Ridge Shops site thought this bleak landscape might endure for a year.

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC chair

Those walking, biking, or driving past the corner of Pleasant Valley Avenue and Broadway in the last month or two may have noticed the lack of change in the half-demolished former Chase Bank building. More recently, it appeared that all work had stopped on construction of the Phase II project planned to include several two- and three-story buildings housing retail and restaurants as well as additional structured parking.

Inquiries to TRC Retail (formerly Terramar Retail Centers) resulted in this response from Bruce Walton, TRC's V.P. for development:

"We have received a number of inquiries from the community

Ridge Shops on Hold, page 10

RCPC-NCPC Annual Meeting

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC chair

On the evening of June 29, RCPC and the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) co-sponsored what has become an annual joint Town Hall meeting on public safety and related concerns. Although the City's new police chief, Anne Kirkpatrick, was out of state and unable to attend, the co-sponsoring groups were pleased to host the City's new Director of Public Safety, Ms. Venus Johnson, as well as Deputy Chief Darren Allison and other command staff.

The meeting opened with a brief presentation by Theresa Nelson on behalf of the FROG Park Committee, outlining plans for installing new swings and other play equipment at the Hardy area Frog Park. (See page 14, "In Addition," for more details.) After that, Ms. Johnson discussed the City's plans to do more to help former prisoners released from jail or prison have opportunities to "turn over a new leaf," continuing efforts with "Operation Ceasefire," a program focused on those

RCPC-NCPC, page 12

RCPC Kitchen Tour

from page 1

Expo, well-received in 2015 by tour guests and vendors alike, expands this year to feature more architects, designers, contractors, and craftspeople. Expo admission is free to all ticket holders, or $10 at the door without a Tour ticket.

Kitchen Tour tickets are available online now through midnight, September 22, at rockridgekitchentour.org. Tickets will also be for sale at the Expo and on the day of the tour. Advance purchase tickets are $40 plus a small service charge. Tickets purchased at the Expo or on the day of the tour are $45 plus service charge.

The kitchen tour is RCPC's primary fundraiser. Past tour proceeds have helped fund the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt/ Frog Park, Rockridge BART Plaza, College Avenue benches, and will now also help fund the Kevin Faughnan Memorial Grant Program.

Docents Wanted.... Join the Fun on the 2017 Rockridge Kitchen Tour

Volunteer to be a docent on the 2017 Rockridge Kitchen Tour, and get the inside scoop on some remarkable Rockridge kitchens.

Docents, who guide guests in the tour's featured kitchens, receive a pre-tour that offers a behind-the-scenes look at the elements and stories that impressed our selection committee. In addition, docents receive a complimentary ticket to visit the other kitchens on the day of the event. If you enjoy "back-stage" access and have a few hours to contribute to your community on September 24, contact Laura Schlichtmann, Docent Chair, at laura.schlichtmann@gmail.com for more information about volunteering.

A Changing of the Guard: New Resource Officer for Rockridge

Anthony Hutzol, Community Resource Officer (CRO) for police beats 12Y (Rockridge), and 13X (parts of Rockridge) recently announced his reassignment, and introduced Officer David Mac, his replacement, in a notice posted on Nextdoor: "After a wonderful 2 years and 4 months, I am heading to a new assignment, and in my place will be OFC David Mac, dmac@oaklandnet.com, (photo at right). I have spent some time ensuring he is up to speed on current projects and will have a seamless transition from his previous post to our great unit and area. Thank you everyone. And as always, be safe and take care of one another." And our thanks to you, Officer Hutzol.

Introduced at the RCPC-NCPC joint meeting (see page 1), Officer Mac said he has been an officer for two years, following his initial year's training. Born and raised in Oakland, he attended Westlake Middle School and Oakland Technical High. He is 29 years old. — Don Kinkead



/D. KINKEAD

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Library program details/hours: Calendar, page 15

THE Rockridge News

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

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☛ **September 2, 2017. (No August issue.)**
☛ **Submission deadline is August 17, 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.)

College Avenue Presbyterian Church: 100 Years on College Avenue

by Rev. Monte McClain



College Avenue Presbyterian Church, c. 1955. /Courtesy CAPC)

Come November 4, College Avenue Presbyterian Church celebrates its 100th year on College Avenue. The Church community began downtown in 1890, but purchased new land as Oakland expanded northward and eastward in the busy year of 1913. The congregation moved from the downtown location to the present facility on September 23, 1917, eventually followed by a Service of Dedication on November 4, 1917.

CAPC Oakland is celebrating this building anniversary, recognizing the space that continues, a century later, to serve the greater good of Oakland. Duncan MacMillan, the building contractor who worked with Julia Morgan, was a church member. Because of their relationship, Julia Morgan did the architectural design of the building, which Mr. MacMillan then implemented. Things have changed tremendously in the past 100 years: Rockridge came to be, grew, struggled, and has now fully regained its balance, after the enormous dislocation caused by the building of BART and Highway 24 in the late twentieth century. Our Church community

100 Years, page 13

RCPC Land Use Committee

The next Land Use Committee meeting will be Wednesday, July 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. Meetings are generally open to the public.

Five Rockridge Housing Scenarios Unveiled

Alternatives range from wholesale upzoning to changes focused on affordability to leaving Rockridge as-is

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC chair

While there was not a quorum of members present, the June RCPC Land Use Committee meeting nevertheless served as an opportunity to unveil five alternative scenarios for meeting Rockridge's future housing needs.

The scenarios follow up on RCPC's April Town Hall meeting, which focused on the future of housing in Rockridge. At that meeting three alternative futures had been presented and discussed: one for maximum growth; one with a focus on encouraging affordable housing; and one that would leave the area's zoning more or less as it is now.

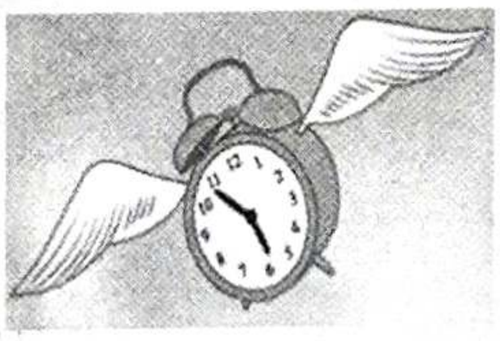
Comments from the meeting audience expressed a desire to have more options to consider, and more detailed analysis of the implications of each option. The five alternative scenarios presented at the June Land Use Committee meeting are intended to expand the range of alternatives. The meeting also included some discussion of what should be considered in the analysis of options.

The five options, like the three presented in April, range from radical change to leaving Rockridge's zoning as it is (the "base case" scenario). A Power Point presentation of the five options, along with photographs showing examples of the different residential densities involved, is available for download at http://tinyurl.com/ydzyjrhx.

Two of the options emphasize a market-driven approach to housing, with upzonings intended to encourage higher density development. One option would upzone almost all of Rockridge while the other, in line with the Oakland General Plan's overall development policy, would focus the upzoning in areas around the Rockridge BART station and AC Transit bus lines.

The other two scenarios involving change would focus on further encouraging affordable housing. Both would involve providing additional incentives for projects including affordable units. One would apply those incentives throughout Rockridge, while the other would create a new affordable housing zoning overlay district that would apply to sites identified as "Opportunity Sites" for new housing in the General Plan

Rockridge Housing Scenarios, page 13



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Scenic Streets of Oakland Ramps Up Spring Cleaning



"These Shovels and Rakes Are Waiting for You!"

by Lee Patterson, Scenic Streets

A hearty ***thank you*** to the six energetic volunteers who joined Scenic Streets' forces on Saturday, June 10, for a spring Scenic Streets Gardening Day. Special thanks to Charlene, Ky and Leah, first-time participants.

We collected and bagged lots of litter off the notorious on-ramp "motor speedway" (the access to Hwy 24 from Claremont Avenue). It's sure to be clean for at least a few days....

A load of free mulch was delivered as well, but there was not the time or people power to get to it. We've saved it for the next Gardening Day, likely to be in September.

Dramatically illustrated by the scope of the work was the need for more volunteers. If you have a free couple of hours every once in a while to help keep an important part of your community looking good, contact Lee Patterson (510/923-1084). We need ***you***.

Visit Scenic Streets' website – www.scenicstreets.org – for more about what we have accomplished and our plans for the future.

Furry Friends at the Library Are So Much More



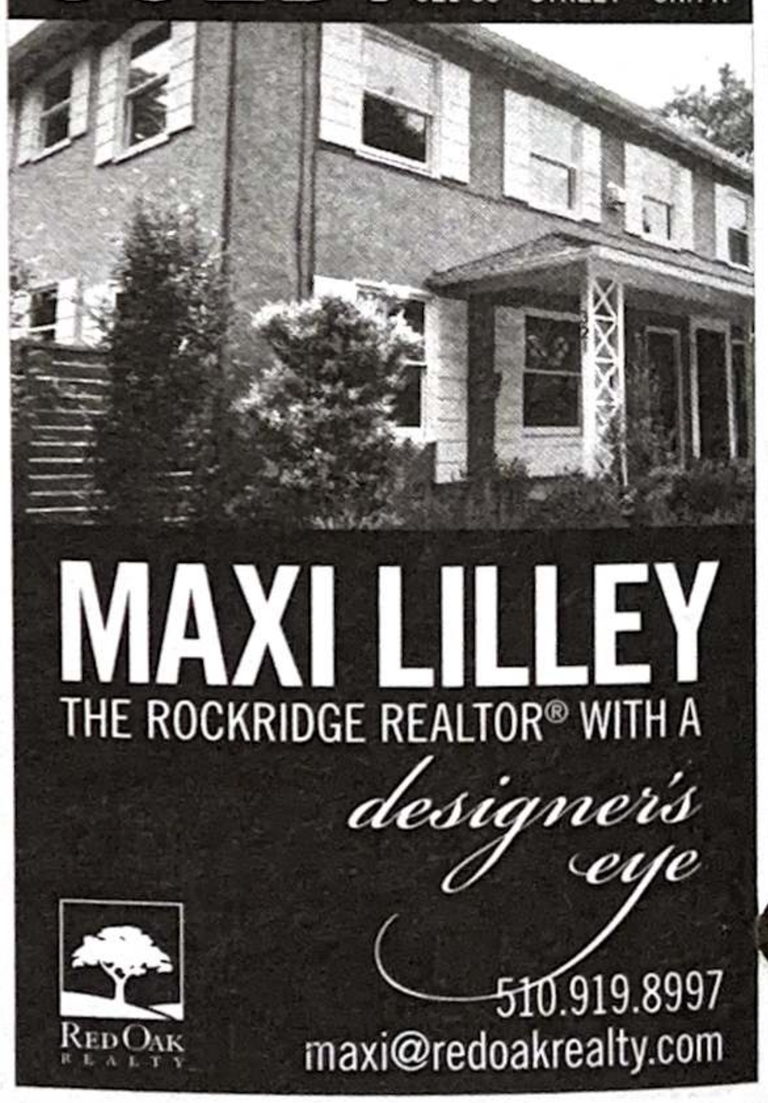
by Sarah Washburn, Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) board member

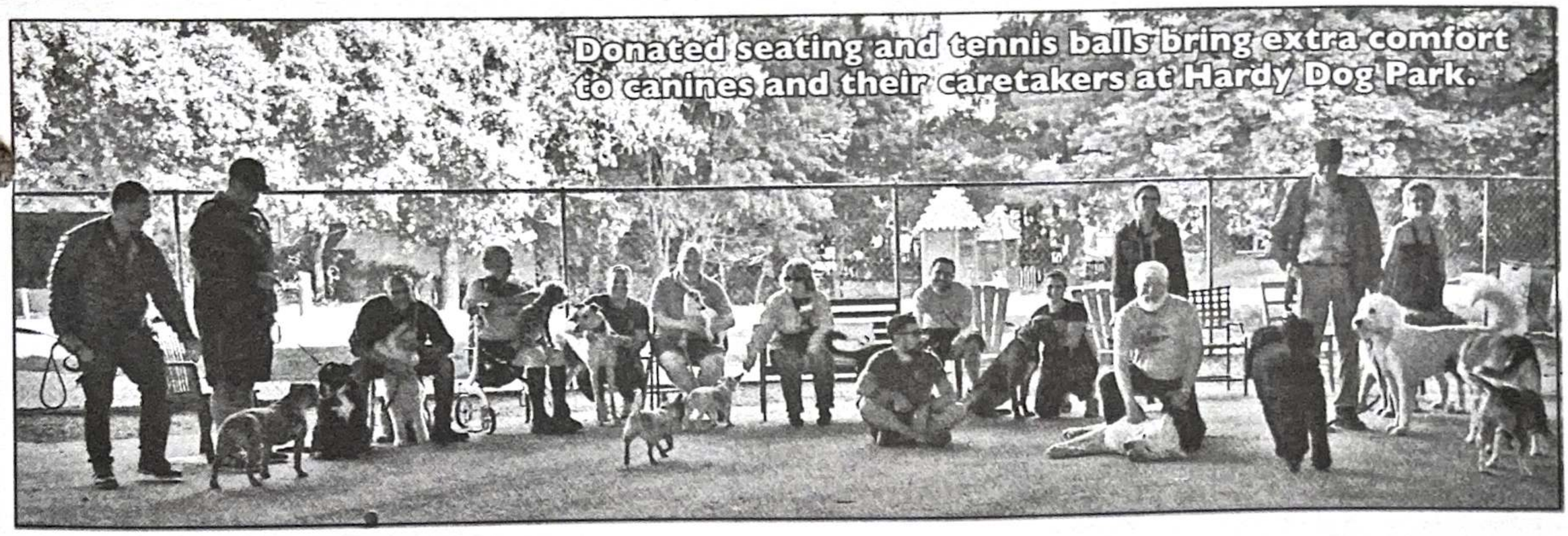
If you were lucky enough to visit the Rockridge Library on the morning of Saturday, June 24, you likely saw lots of furry friends in the parking lot and even more happy young children's faces. Funded by the Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL), the library organized a popular petting zoo where some of our littlest neighbors had an opportunity to get up close and personal to animals they never see on the streets of Oakland. Supplied by Barnyard Pals, there were bunnies, ducks, a mama goat, a baby goat, chickens, and two baby pigs. At one point there were more than 40 people in a line winding around the fenced enclosure. Children waiting in line were helped to be patient by Erica, the Children's Librarian, who supplied coloring supplies and activities to fill the time before young hands met fur and feathers.

Why animals at the library, you ask? Well, libraries bring the world to our communities. Sometimes you fill your imagination with new adventures; other times the library provides those new experiences for you. One parent shared that this was the first time her child had ever touched an animal other than a dog or a cat. Events like these encourage families to become more deeply connected to the library. Libraries are a reflection of those whom they serve. As libraries organize more imaginative activities that provide exposure to the staff, to the build-ing, and to what the library offers, the library can develop a greater community of lifelong learners,

Furry Friends at the Library, page 14







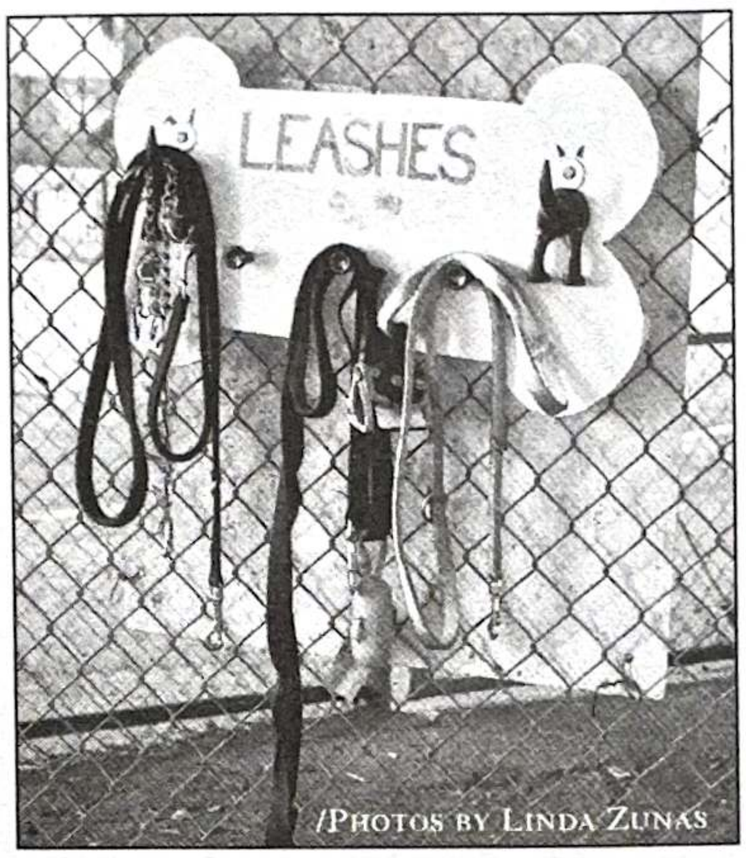
Dog Park News

by Linda Zunas

Thank you to everyone who responded for our calls to restock our park last month. We received hundreds of donated poop bags and are grateful now not to be running out.

Please do continue to drop clean, empty newspaper bags off at our park. You can drop them off in the black mailbox at the FROG Park entrance, or the green shopping bag at the Hudson entrance.

Thank you also to those who donated old patio chairs. We now have enough seating for everyone and we appreciate it. We continue to need tennis balls. If you have old tennis balls, please drop them over the fence; all our dogs will thank you.



/Photos by Linda Zunas

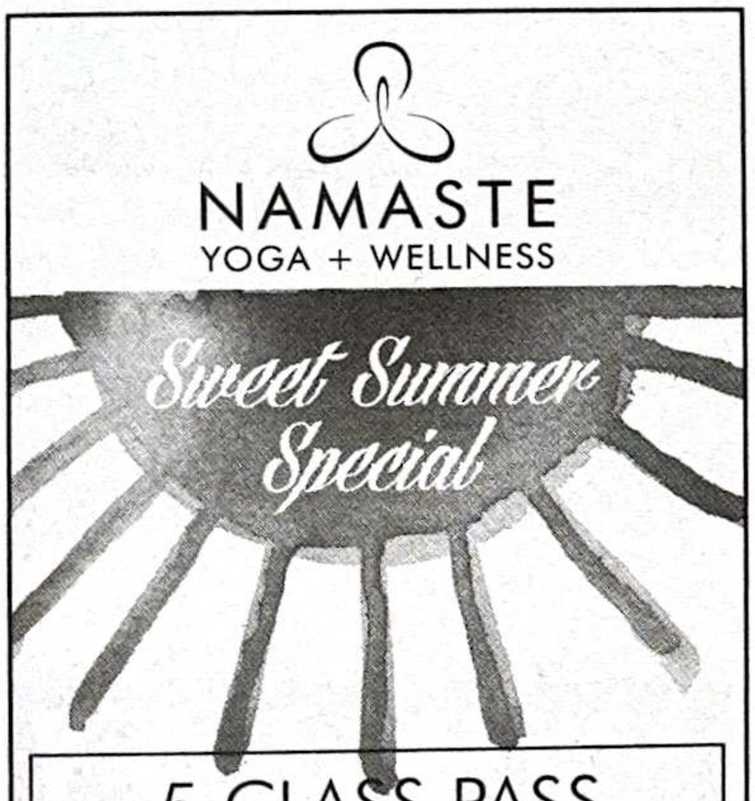
Meanwhile, the Hardy Dog Park Group has been busy:

- We built and installed three new leash racks last month;
- We continue monthly cleanups, and encourage you to come by on the first Saturday of each month from 9-10:30 to join us;
- We are kicking off the final fundraising push. We are applying for a grant and some community sponsorships, and have gotten letters of support from Councilmember Dan Kalb, Oakland Parks and Rec, and the City Administrator. Renovation fundraising will pick up again over the summer as we launch a personalized brick campaign. Look for more news in the coming months.

If you have not done so already, please join our email list. Simply send a note to HardyDogPark@yahoo.com

We look forward to seeing you and your dogs out at the park this summer.

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Eyes on Rockridge

by Judith Doner Berne

'We talk of our love of Oakland and our wives...'

Everyone calls him Mac. You may have seen him, at age 97, on his early morning walks from Piedmont Gardens Senior Living Community up to the highest fountain in Mountain View Cemetery.

But for the many years he lived in Rockridge, he was more widely known as Judge Winton McKibben of the Alameda County Superior Court, later a Visiting Judge, who presided over several historic trials.

There was the 1980 trial of Eldridge Cleaver, writer and an early leader of the Black Panthers, for shootings of Oakland Police officers in 1968.

There was the 1989 trial of Huey P. Newton, co-founder of the Black Panthers, for embezzling state aid funds that had been designated for the Panther-founded Oakland Community School in 1982.

And in 1999, as a visiting judge, there was Kevin "Big Kev" Robinson who pled no contest to dynamiting the Vallejo Courthouse in 1997.

Mac, who grew up in Belvedere, Illinois, made a pact with his high school buddies "that we all would become attorneys and clean up the state of Illinois." They dispersed to different colleges; World War II interfered; he served as a weather observer on an air transport base in Ireland. (They all did become attorneys but Illinois still has its problems.)

After the war, Mac went on to finish the undergraduate education he had begun at Northern Teacher's College (now Northern Illinois University) at UC Berkeley. He then earned his law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law. In 1976, he was appointed to the bench by Gov. Jerry Brown during his first gubernatorial stint.

"He's a real prince," Joe Roberts, a retired federal district probation officer, who also lives at Piedmont Gardens, told me. "He's awfully well thought of by everybody within the legal system. He's also a very humorous man."

But, to Mac, his most important accomplishment is "the lasting" of his 75-year-long marriage to his wife, Margaret,

Everyone Calls Him Mac, page 7



Judge Winton (Mac) McKibben (second from left) and walking buddies George Krevsky (left), Harry Fish and Foster Goldstrom begin their Monday morning trek through Mountain View Cemetery. JUDITH DONER BERNE

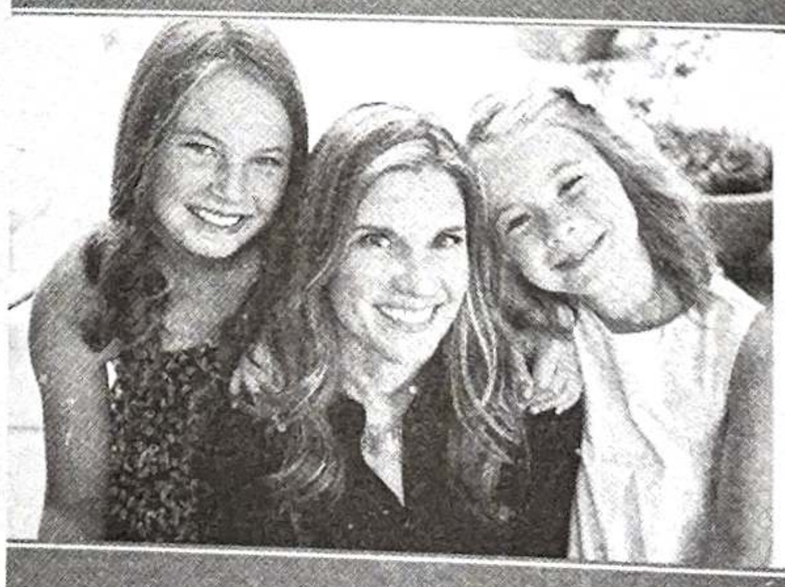
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Everyone Calls Him Mac

from page 6

whom he met in college. "My wife was my most steady pillar. Without her, I don't know if I would have been as reliable and steady as I turned out to be."

In what he termed "my first retirement," he stepped down from the Superior Court bench in 1989. "We had a cabin at Clear Lake, and I wanted to drink martinis and read poetry with my wife." And before he had an opportunity to tell her that he also wanted to serve a stint in the Peace Corps in Africa, they found themselves raising their only grandson, from the age of four until he graduated high school.

During that time, he became a Visiting Judge, retiring for a second time in 2008. That was the same year Margaret took a fall that left her with a brain injury and symptoms of dementia. When Mac could no longer care for her at home, he moved her to a skilled nursing facility.

Four years ago, so they could once again be under the same roof, he sold the art- and music-filled contemporary home that they had rebuilt after the 1991 Oakland Hills firestorm. He took an apartment in the residential living section of Piedmont Gardens in Oakland and brought Margaret to its skilled nursing unit where he has dinner with her most nights.

"Originally, we had a classic Maybeck-style redwood house, designed by Warren Perry when he was dean of architecture at Cal," Mac told me. Margaret smelled smoke that morning (Saturday, October 19, 1991, the day before the fire rekindled) and called the fire department, he recalled. "They said, 'If there is a problem, we'll let you know.' Well there was a problem and they didn't.

"I was on a ladder cleaning leaves out of the rain gutters and a couple drove by and said, 'you should get out of here.' We each took a car. Margaret had the foresight to take the bank records. I didn't think to take anything. I was dressed in cutoffs and tennis shoes with holes. I was due in court on Monday so I had to go out and buy a suit and shoes."

Selling the land and buying another house was not in the picture, he said. "We wanted to stay where we were. It is such an ideal spot where we could walk to shopping, the BART, and the university." À Côté and Marica Seafood Restaurant were their dining favorites.

Both were tennis players, so an added attraction was the private Chabot Canyon Racquet Club and the public courts, both just down the street. Margaret played at the club (to which they loaned money for contruction) and he on the public courts.

In rebuilding their home, they worked with Rockridge architect Bill Dutcher. "We wanted a place where we could hang art and a living room that was acceptable for playing music. We hosted little ensemble groups." Margaret, who played piano and was a member of the Berkeley Community Chorus, often held rehearsals of her alto section. One of their two sons, Brian, is a retired Berkeley music teacher, educator and administrator.

Mac used to run or play tennis – all well before 8 a.m. "We were called 'The Dawn Patrol' on the tennis courts," he said. "No matter what time the sun came up, we were there." He still arises around 5:30 a.m. "Every morning I argue with myself; 'Am I the master of my soul, or just another deadbeat,'" he confided with a smile.

A half hour of calisthenics and he is off to walk either with his weekly walking buddies, including former Rockridge neighbors George Krevsky and Foster Goldstrom, or with his longtime running partner, Susan Sawyer, retired Alameda County public defender. "All the public defenders appreciated that he treated our clients very well," she said.

"We started running in 1982," Sawyer told me. "It was five miles, then four, then three… He would walk and talk and that would keep me going. And now we walk and finally I'm faster than he is."

"Judge Mac is one of the most unforgettable characters I've met," Krevsky emailed me. "He's worthy of a Reader's Digest special. His passion for the democratic process and his commitment to social justice are inspirational. I have been charmed by his storytelling and reminiscence of his years on the bench.

"When he first asked us to join him on his walks five years ago," Krevsky said, "I was intimidated by the thought of walking in the cemetery. Judge Mac wasn't and before you know it we were inspired to join him as we trudged just up the hill past the beautiful fountains and talked of our love of Oakland and our wives."

He continues to attend "the things we always did" – Berkeley Rep and Aurora theatre productions and concerts of the Oakland and Berkeley Symphonies.

Although fully involved in the activities at Piedmont Gardens, serving as chairman of both the library and finance committees, "I still wish I were home in many respects," he said wistfully. "There are a lot of activities here. But it isn't home."

To comment on this column or to suggest stories about you, your neighbor or your Rockridge neighborhood, email judyberne@att.net.

Remember: No Newsletter in August!

Shopping? Find it in Rockridge!

City of Oakland supports 2nd unit developments.
Thinking of a 2nd unit? Contact FMSProjects to see how to best achieve this in 2017!

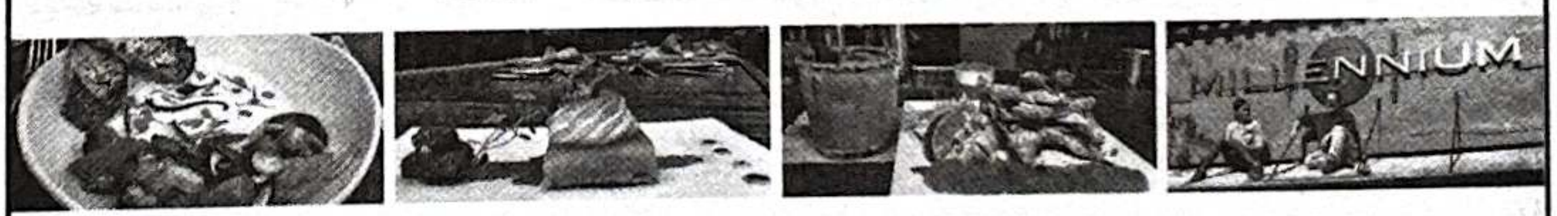
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•

"Shops on the Ridge" Development Raises Traffic, Planning Problems

Editor:

I am a Rockridge resident and have just become aware of the plans for the Shops at the Ridge. The following website was recently posted on Nextdoor Rockridge: http://www.jrdv.com/work/rockridge/.

While I understand the desire to reduce leakage of retail from Oakland to adjacent areas, the project seems out of scale to the neighborhood. It is like a mini Bay Street, a retail development built in an old industrial area, not in the midst of a residential area.

I had not seen anything in The Rockridge News during the planning phase. There was quite a bit of coverage during the planning of the Claremont/College Safeway replacement, which I recall was downsized based on community input. Did the RCPC have any involvement in this project? It may be slightly out of the area the RCPC usually deals with, but it will substantially impact Rockridge residents.

My biggest concern is the traffic. There are two other large developments on the corners of Broadway and 51st/Pleasant Valley Avenue; a large senior residence and another big project on the northwest corner (details unknown to me but apparently residential). To add serious insult to injury, I understand the section of Broadway between Broadway Terrace and Keith is being reduced to one lane in each direction. I presume the decision to allow bicycle lanes was based on current traffic volume, not predicted volumes based on the three substantial new developments which will feed a large volume of traffic onto Broadway.

Does the City of Oakland Planning Department's left hand know what the right hand is doing? Was there community input into these decisions, and if so was there full disclosure on the planned developments when the "lane diet" decision was made? Does the RCPC or anyone else have similar concerns?

— Mark Goldsmith

RCPC Chair Stuart Flashman Replies:

Thank you for your letter. I am responding both as chair of the RCPC board of directors and chair of RCPC's Land Use Committee. RCPC was involved heavily in commenting on the planning of all the projects you mentioned, with RCPC participating (and notifying the community through The Rockridge News and our e-newsletter) in numerous community meetings, along with representatives of Piedmont Avenue and Temescal community organizations.

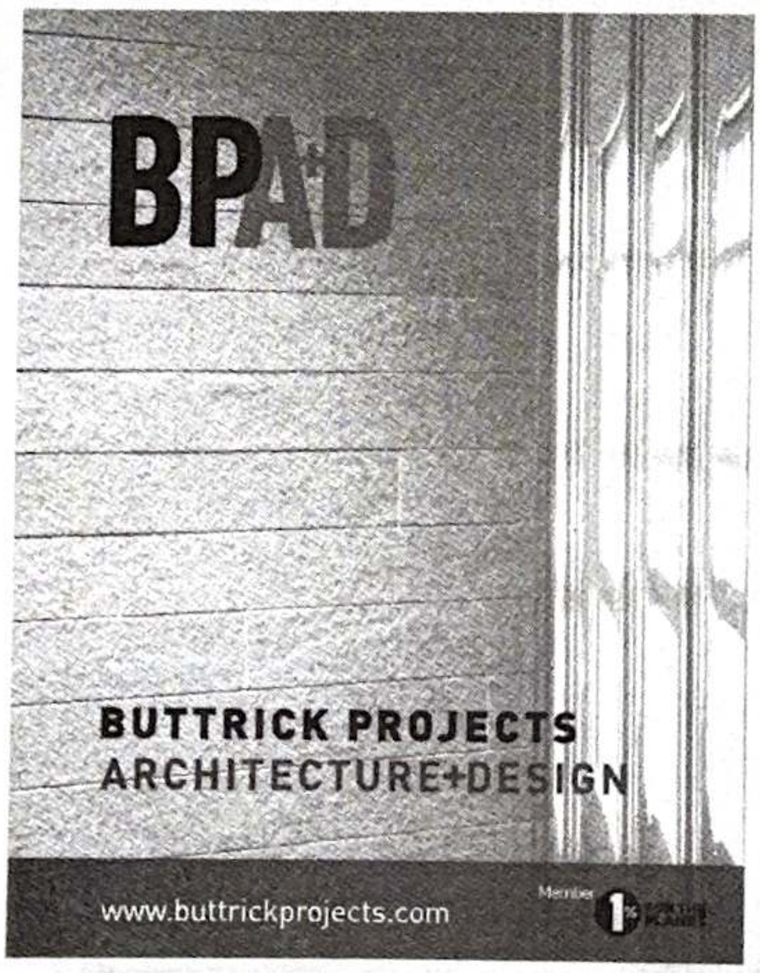
We commented heavily, specifically on the traffic impacts of all these projects, and the City did a major traffic study for the Rockridge Shopping Center redevelopment project, as well as further studies for the senior housing project (Merrill Gardens), the Temescal Apartment projects, and the Broadway "lane diet."

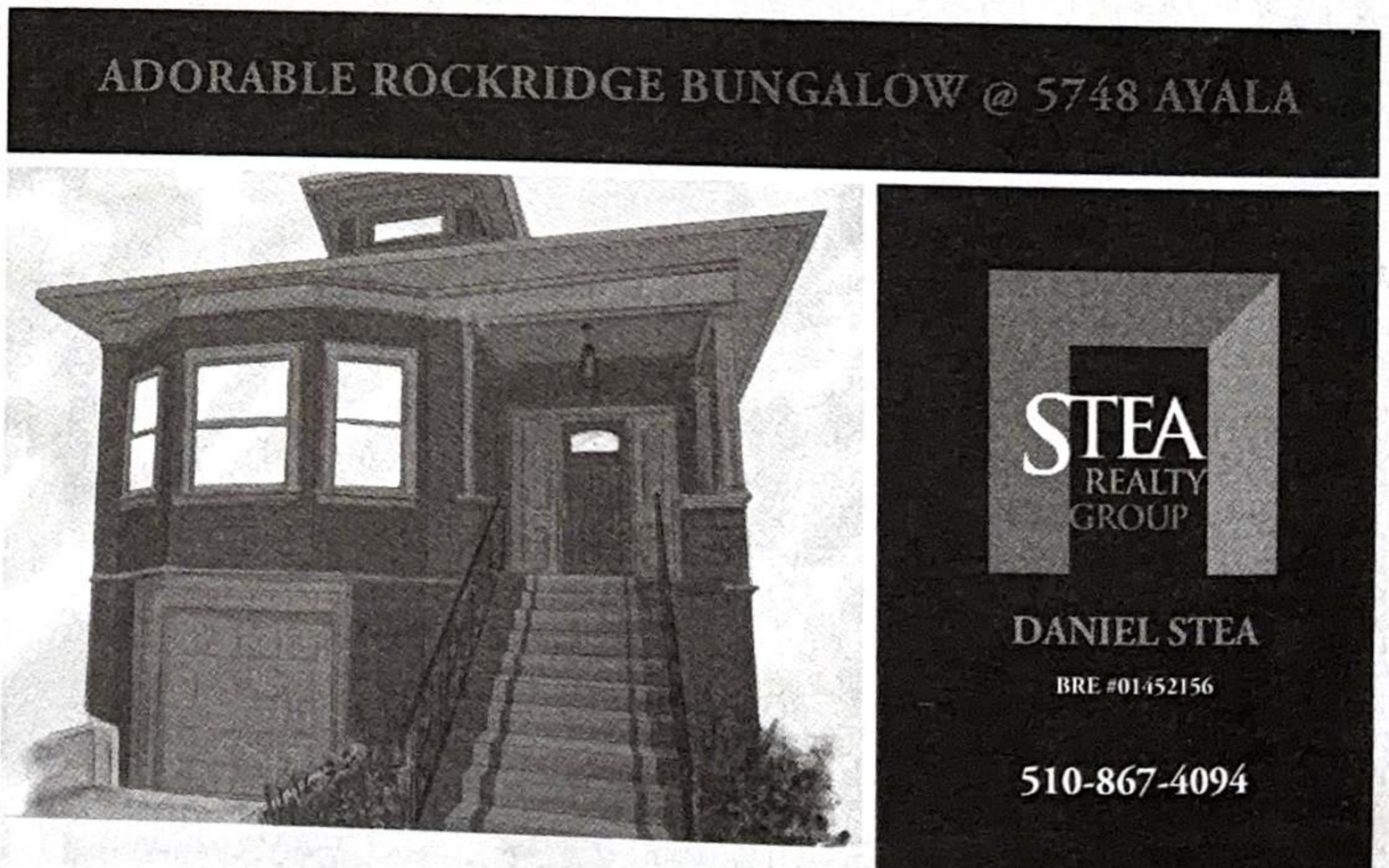
While the Broadway/Pleasant Valley/51st Street intersection will definitely be impacted by the first three, Safeway has paid for improvements, including added turn lanes and an upgraded traffic signal and controller, to partially mitigate the impacts. The City nevertheless was required to acknowledge significant and unavoidable traffic delay impacts at that intersection [the Legislature abolished considering such traffic delay impacts as environmental impacts two years ago], and adopted a statement of overriding considerations finding that revitalizing that shopping center was important enough to justify those impacts. As part of the project approval, Safeway was required to set aside $500,000 for additional traffic mitigation measures once the project is completed. That was insisted upon by all the community groups.

Because both the Temescal Apartments and Merrill Gardens are "infill" residential projects, the Legislature has exempted them (and all similar projects) from environmental review.

The traffic study of the Broadway lane diet found there would be a maximum of five minutes of additional delay at the peak PM commute hour in the northbound direction, but no other significant traffic delays.

Letters to the Editor, page 9





Letters to the Editor

from page 8

offsetting that were increased pedestrian and cyclist safety on Broadway. (That section of Broadway has experienced a high number of pedestrians and cyclists being hit by cars while attempting to cross at crosswalks, for the most part the result of speeding by drivers. The lane diet is expected to reduce traffic speed and thus improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.)

Visit RCPC's website at Rockridge.org, search for "Rockridge Shopping Center," and you will find numerous articles, all of which originally appeared in The Rockridge News, beginning in 2007. There are also articles discussing the Merrill Gardens, Temescal Apartments, and Broadway lane diet projects, all of which also originally appeared in The Rockridge News.

I appreciate both your letter and your concerns. I am sure there were many others who also missed the articles in the Rockridge News, and may have been surprised when the new project started taking shape on the ground. Part of the reason for my long response is that the issues involved were th important and complex. RCPC has only a limited ability to influence the City, and even less in changing a private developer's direction. As this issue's front page article explains, the community may yet get a second chance the influence Phase II of this large project. We encourage you and the entire Rockridge community to speak up.

— Stuart Flashman
stuflash2@gmail.com

I Support Our Current, Community-oriented Zoning Regulations

Editor:

I am writing to express my thanks to Carol Behr for her eloquent and well-reasoned letter (The Rockridge News, May 6). I share her concern about the direction Oakland leaders appear to be taking us. Our neighborhoods and the city at large have become victims of an irreverent pursuit of money and a willful denial of the environmental values so closely linked to our daily lives. Wherever I go, I see the proliferation of towering condominiums. There is no green space between outer walls and sidewalk; and there is no parking for future tenants even though there is no public transportation immediate to these structures. Wherever I go, I also see bumper-to-bumper traffic. The air is thick with carbon pollution, and I look in vain for the trees that would help combat this pollution. Most important is the fact that none of the new "housing" I see is affordable to teachers, artists, writers, musicians, or the elderly – the very people who have, in fact, "created" a vibrant and just Oakland, have made it a desirable place to live. I urge RCPC and Mayor Schaaf to examine the values pushing us into ever more density and despair. I, along with Carol Behr, urge support of our current, community-oriented zoning regulations.

— Sharon Osmond

Trash and Transients in Frog Park

Editor:

I have noticed that an unusually large quantity of trash is piling up in Frog Park between Clifton and Cavour and around the DMV parking lot in the area. There is also a green tent pitched there nearly every day. Some of the benches have also been commandeered by sleeping bodies. Cooking is also going on using hibachi which could create a fire hazard. I have seen someone defecating or doing similar activity near where animal models are displayed.

This could be the new normal for urban life but why should children have to experience it so early in their lives? Can something be done, such as, asking people to camp away from areas which children frequent.

— Name withheld by request

Reply: FROG Stewardship

First: Continue using Frog Park. People who are homeless have as much right as the rest of us to enjoy the greenbelt and Frog Park during the daytime, as long as posted rules are observed. This means no alcohol, no open flames, no dumping, no loud music, no vandalism, no disorderly conduct. Outside of City-established park hours – dawn to dusk – they do not have the right to camp, cook, or

Letters to the Editor, page 12

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It's Summer! Allergy-Free Ice Cream Tours

A local food tour company is expanding its weekend tours of Rockridge ice cream and gelato shops to accommodate those with food allergies.

"It's always pained me to hear parents say that they or their child felt like they couldn't come and enjoy our Ice Cream & Gelato Tour because of an allergy," Lauren McCabe Herpich, owner of Local Food Adventures, says. "All kids should feel included and be able to enjoy this sweet treat with family and friends."

The one-hour tour, which takes guests to three sweet spots along College Avenue, features sorbets, ice cream flavors free of nuts, and soy-based ice creams, as well as a scoop of ice cream history.

The allergy-free tours will be held Sunday, July 16; Saturday, August 19; and Sunday, September 10.

Email info@localfoodadventures.com, call 510/604-6546 or visit www.localfoodadventures.com.

— Judith Doner Berne

Ridge Shops on Hold

from page 1

regarding the status of the Phase II development of the Ridge. While we understand the neighborhood's desire to see a completed project, the rapidly changing retail environment has caused us to reevaluate our leasing strategy and the site layout. Add to that the spiraling cost of construction in the Bay Area, TRC is having to revisit the economics of our Phase II Plan. Finally, recently discovered (undisclosed) environmental issues (asbestos embedded in concrete) have caused us to stop the demolition of the bank building as we explore options for the safe removal of the hazardous material. Councilmember Kalb's office continues to monitor the situation, and updates will follow as new information becomes available."

So, it appears that Phase II of the project is on hold for an indefinite period while TRC re-evaluates its options. With the major housing shortage in the Bay Area, RCPC is hopeful that the re-evaluation will include asking the parcel's owner (a San Francisco-based family corporation) to reconsider its opposition to including housing as part of the project. Any major change in the project would likely require reopening the project's environmental review, especially in terms of traffic impact.

Poison Hemlock Growing Locally

This is the time of year when volunteer plants grow in areas where small children play in the park in my neighborhood. I'm happy to see native plants thrive, but Poison Hemlock (the plant that killed Socrates) is spreading in the hills and several have started growing along the walkway between Frog Park and the DMV. It looks very similar to Queen Anne's Lace. Learn to differentiate between the two plants: www.ravensroots.com/blog/2015/6/26/poison-hemlock-id.

— From a June 10 posting on Nextdoor by Janet Winter

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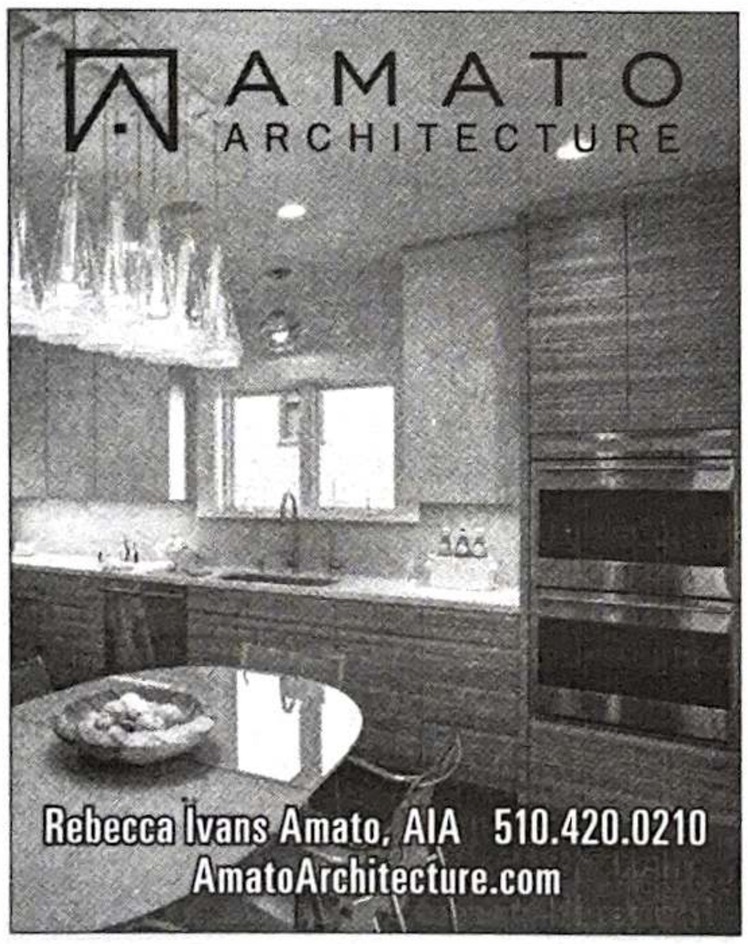
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Coming in August; Register by July 14 for Gifts

POLICE · COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

National Night Out Tuesday, August 1– Register by July 14 for special gifts

Who can host a National Night Out party? The City of Oakland welcomes the participation of any neighborhood or community group in National Night Out (NNO) activities, and encourages you to use this event to bring people together and to have fun.

History of National Night Out

Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, NNO is America's night out and a time for neighbors to get together to have a block party, ice cream social, potluck, or other outdoor event to build neighborhood spirit and unity, the first defense against crime.

Registration is now open. Register by July 14 to receive giveaways for the kids, a special gift for the host, and an informational packet. Registration is not a requirement to hold a block party, but should you choose to register by July 14, you will receive special material, including:

- Block Party Guide
- Sample Program Ideas
- Getting to Know You Questions
- Customizable Flyer
- How to Start a Neighborhood Watch Group.

For more information, go to www2.oaklandnet.com/nno or call 510/238-3102. To register online, go to https://solar.oaklandnet.com/go/nno.

Newsletter Seeks Two Volunteers

We have two opportunities for volunteers this month. Please let us know if you can help out:

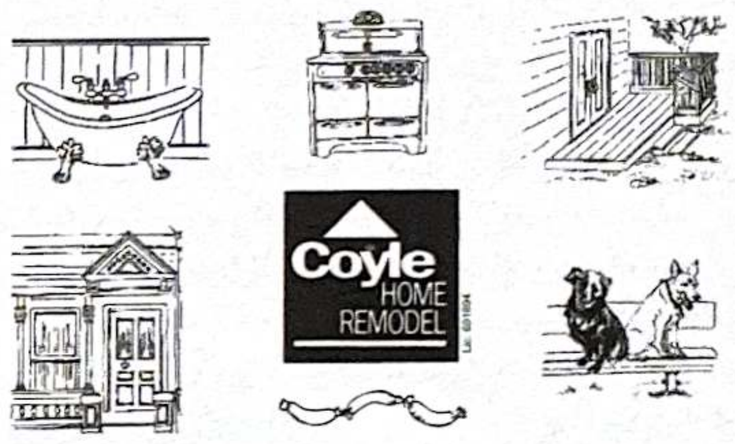
1. Once a month, pick up two boxes of bundled newsletters on 62nd Street (xColby) and deliver to Ocean View Drive just above Broadway (address to be provided to volunteer). Due to extensive travel and surgery, the current Marshals cannot pick up the boxes but can distribute the bundles.

2. Route 01B,D: Chabot Road beginning across from public tennis courts at 6885. Then deliver to 7037, 7045, 7101, 7117, 7211, to 4 houses on Marie Way and back to Chabot to 5 houses past Marie Way until dead end.

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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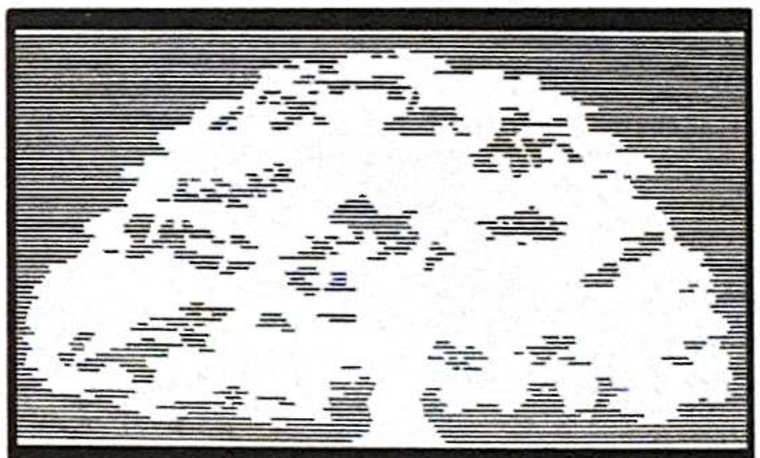
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6/2/2016	2	2	6286 Colby St	$975,000	$975,000	14	$1,400,000
6/2/2016	5	3	6452 Regent St	$1,295,000	$1,295,000	17	$1,350,000
6/5/2016	2	1	463 Hudson Street	$985,000	$985,000	8	$1,207,000
6/5/2016	3	1	474 Hardy St	$945,000	$945,000	14	$1,240,000
6/6/2016	2	2	5283 Broadway Ter	$859,000	$859,000	16	$1,315,000
6/12/2016	1	1	321 63rd Street	$585,000	$585,000	16	$710,000
6/13/2016	1	1	321 63rd Street	$585,000	$585,000	16	$715,000
6/15/2016	2	2.5	5283 Broadway Terrace #4A	$1,500,000	$1,500,000	0	$1,500,000
6/16/2016	3	1	5707 Vicente Street	$850,000	$850,000	15	$1,000,000
6/21/2016	2	1	5400 Claremont Ave	$699,000	$699,000	12	$885,000

Homes sold in June closed 24% over the asking price on average.
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Letters to the Editor

from page 9

use the park for sleeping or toilet activities. These activities have negative impacts on the park for all users, and are not allowed in any city of Oakland park.

Second, homelessness is a problem that, as a neighborhood, we cannot solve by ourselves. There are things we can do in the near term, however:

- Evenings and weekends, use SeeClickFix to report encampments. (Find the problem reporting app at: https://en.seeclickfix.com/oakland. There is no need to risk a photo if the phone's location service function is turned on.) You will get notifications of reported issues and can add your vote to fix items others have sent in.
- Call the Oakland Public Works call center (510/615-5566) weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. They will dispatch Operation Dignity to offer services.
- If a camper is cooking over an open flame, immediately call the fire department (911).
- Join a park cleanup (often a couple of homeless neighbors do, too).
- Quite a bit of the trash near the DMV is actually Farmer's Market and DMV customer-related. The FROG committee is working with Oakland Public Works to add more receptacles.
- Above all, keep visiting the park with children. With a bit of watchfulness by parents and caregivers, it's still a good place to run around, walk a dog, ride a scooter or bike along the greenbelt path, and have fun.

RCPC-NCPC

from page 1

most heavily involved in criminal activity, which offers them support services if they want to change direction, but promises a high likelihood of jail or prison time if they don't. Also, she said, the City is continuing to train additional officers to replace those lost to attrition. (Those plans may have received a setback by the Council's last-minute removal of one Police Academy from this year's budget.) She also noted that the City is closing in on completing the goals it agreed to in the consent decree to improve how the police interact with Oakland citizens.

Deputy Chief Allison then provided more detailed information on current police activities and priorities.

"Our theme," he said, "is to hire the best and be the best at what we do." To that end, the department has seven top priorities:

1. Reduce homicides and shootings by 10 percent.

2. Reduce street robberies by 10 percent, and in Rockridge particularly at BART and along College Avenue.

3. Address human trafficking with a goal of stamping it out.

4. Address "side shows," where drivers show off their cars and skills by spinning doughnuts and driving dangerously. They are increasing in rates of violence.

5. Deal with issues of homelessness. "We do not intend to and will not criminalize homelessness, but we will address criminal activity at homeless encampments."

6. Reduce response time for priority calls for service. "It can be 2 to 3 minutes, but that is not good enough." He added that the department has made it a priority to hire more dispatchers to ensure that emergency and non-emergency calls are promptly answered and needs addressed."

7. Comply with Negotiated Settlement tasks. "We are close on past compliance, and working on our internal affairs process, stop data, and personnel assessment database process."

The police are focusing on "precision policing," he said, meaning developing detailed data that can be used to prevent and solve crimes. Many categories of crimes are trending downward, although murders and shootings are still up in parts of Oakland (but not in Rockridge).

The majority of subsequent audience questions concerned homelessness and homeless encampments. The deputy chief emphasized that Oakland's homeless are still Oakland citizens, and many grew up in Oakland neighborhoods. He noted that homelessness is not a crime, and that the police prefer to work with social service agencies to find permanent housing and social services, rather than simply arresting people. He said Oakland has recently initiated a mobile medical unit to visit and treat the homeless, and acknowledged that many homeless need mental health treatment that has not kept up with the need.

Turning to local crime statistics, Rockridge's new Community Resources Officer (CRO), David Mac (see photo and notes, page 2), pointed out that while crime had decreased in Rockridge, vigilance remains a watchword. He encouraged people to be aware of their surrounding, and not to bury their faces and their attention in a cell phone.

Area 2 Commander Capt. Jake Bassett, also at the meeting, stressed that surveillance cameras can benefit not only the households that set them up, but the larger community as well, by furnishing evidence to support ongoing criminal investigations.



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Algae Closes Lake Temescal

According to an article published June 28 on the SFGATE website, Lake Temescal has been closed since Tuesday, June 27 to swimmers and dogs after an outbreak of toxic algae was detected in the water, park officials said.

Find the article at: www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Oakland-s-Lake-Temescal-closed-due-to-toxic-11252754.php



After the 100-year-old pillar at the corner of Benvenue and Alcatraz avenues was destroyed by a careless truck driver, neighbors rallied to raise funds to combine with the insurance settlement to ensure it was rebuilt. When the photographer supposed to record the near-complete reconstruction failed to show up, neighbors Sip Siperstein, left, Ned Fischer, Martha Tracy, Davis Tussman, Sander Yu, Jeni Qian Yang, and Jeff Gillman, gathered around the new pillar for a photograph taken by neighbor Doug Berman. The final piece, a stone cap, has since been fitted.

100 Years

from page 3

is looking to celebrate this anniversary, and the continuing use of the space as a church, throughout the Fall. Celebrations will include building tours, guest speakers, photographic displays and a celebration service on Sunday, November 5, at 10:30 a.m.

You can get involved in the celebrations in many ways: sharing photos or memories, helping us with historical information and tours, and collaborating with us for special events. You can find more information on the church website at http://www.capcoakland.org/centennial.

Rockridge Housing Scenarios

from page 3

Housing Element.

Those present at the June committee meeting felt that the wider range of options would help the community better understand what was possible. The next few months will involve fine-tuning these options with the help of housing experts and fleshing out an analysis of the impacts, both positive and negative, that each option would have on Rockridge. The hope is to have a more complete package of options ready to present to the community by this fall.

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July insight: The Feds raised the 'short term' interest rates recently. This rate for which the government loans money to banks impacts the prime lending rate, consumer's rates on credit cards and home equity lines of credit. They do not directly correlate to long term mortgage loans as is sometimes inferred. Home loans are driven by the bond and securities market. Those rates remain low. Feel free to call if you'd like to be referred to a local lender or want more information on the Rockridge real estate market.

Happy Summer!



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Furry Friends at the Library

from page 4

starting with our youngest neighbors.

The summer reading program at the library is a prime example of this engagement. If you've ever heard of the summer slide – the time during summer break when kids' learning is at risk of slowing down and losing some of the achievements gained during the school year – you should know that the library is a critical asset for bolstering learning during this time. A fun and engaging petting zoo may introduce a child to the library, a somewhat minor exchange with a significant impact.

This is why we do what we do: the Friends of the Rockridge Library helps the library extend its reach and provide programming and services that encourage our entire community to become engaged learners for a lifetime.

Adults had a fun surprise at this gathering, too. Members of the FORL board were at the event, sharing what we fund and why we do it. We brought a bit of excitement to the adults with a prize drawing of gift cards from Cole Hardware and Cactus Taqueria, and a gorgeous gift basket generously donated by Nathan and Co. Winners were thrilled, one sharing that this was the first time she had ever won anything.

The library's summer schedule is full of fun. Check out the list of activities on the Oakland Public Library website (www.oaklandlibrary.org), and consider supporting your library with a tax-deductible donation to the Friends of the Rockridge Library. Visit us at www.RockridgeFriends.org.



There are many ways to engage children (and adults) with libraries. Pictured at left is part of a children's petting zoo recently hosted by Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL). For adults, FORL had prize drawings for gift cards and a gift basket donated by College Avenue merchants.

/Sarah Washburn, FORL board member

In Addition...

More on FROG Park Plans as Discussed at the Joint Town Hall

Taking steps to keep the park as relevant as possible for users, the FROG committee surveyed the community for its wishes for park equipment, learning that more swings and more public art were high on the list of desired improvements, Theresa Nelson reported.

Steps are underway to add more traditional swings as well as toddler swings for younger children and bucket swings with extra support for special needs children. Later, an Apollo spinner, described by company literature as the 21st Century merry-go-round with a central pole and rope structure designed for climbing, will be added. The goal is to serve everyone in the community: adults with or without children and kids of all ages and physical abilities.

Also, the committee hired Caroline Stern of Deco Art on Claremont Avenue who painted a cheerful mural featuring Frog Park. You can find this mural ot. See plans for other park improvements: www.frogpark.org.

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 parking lot. **3rd Sunday each month,10:30am-12:30pm.** Times/locations of other office hrs. or more info: mmharris@oakland.net or www.dankalb.net/contactdan.

Rockridge Branch Library
5366 College Avenue, 597-5017
FOR CHILDREN

Summer Volunteers wanted, ages 11 to 16 to help with the Summer Reading Program and general library tasks. Contact Erica (Children's Librarian) to reserve a spot: 597-5017 or esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org.

- **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:

- **Summer Reading Program:** continues through August 5. Everyone to age 13 invited to listen to others read aloud or to read independently to win prizes. Record the days you've read to get prizes & be in the raffle.
- **Tues. evening events at 7pm with live performers** (for all ages):
  - 7/11: **East Bay Symphony Instrument "petting zoo."**
  - 7/18: **Puppet Company** (Magic Teakettle).
  - 7/25: **Germar Magic.**
  - 8/1: **Kamishibai Stories.**
  - 8/8: **90-Second Newbery Films.**
- **Wed. Workshops:** craft, science, & construction sessions at 3:30pm. Stop by for a schedule of activities.
- **90-Second Newbery Film Makers Workshop:** to make a minute-&-a-half-long group film that retells the story of a Newbery-Award-winning book. Sign up now for 8-session workshop; **meets Tuesday-Friday, 3:30-5pm, 8/2-8/16.** Stop by, call, or email Erica at esiskindOPL@gmail.com or 510/597-5017 to reserve a spot. Best for ages 8 to 12.

FOR TEENS

- **Teen Summer Passport Program:** now thru 8/5. Explore Bay Area Hot Spots; connect with players online by submitting reviews and creating book lists; and receive prizes thru the summer. Sign up at 597-5017 or www.oaklandlibrary.org/summer.
- **Teen Advisory Board (ages 14-18):** Help advise the library how to better serve teens; **get community service credit for school.** 2nd Sat. each month, 1 to 2pm.
- **Teen 'Scape Program:** Play video & board games; make crafts. **Every Wed.: 2 – 4pm, until 8/16. After 8/23, every Tues, Thurs, and Fri 3:30 to 5pm; Wed 1:30 to 5pm.**
- **Lip Balm Making Workshop by Rock Paper Scissors Collective.** 7/22 at 2pm.
- **Heroes of History T-Shirts:** Workshop with **Angie** from **Oakland Hand Made.** Learn to print your favorite historical heroes on T-shirts. 8/23 at 2pm.

FOR ADULTS

- **Summer Reading Program:** now thru 8/5: Write a mini review or complete three activities to enter a raffle for great gift cards to local businesses. Grand prize raffle is for an iPad Mini. Stop by the library or play online: https://playadult2017.oaklandlibrary.org/
- **Help downloading eBooks:** Work one-on-one with a librarian to get started with our amazing collection of digital resources. Fridays, 2 -3:30pm. Make apt. online or call 597-5017
- **Writers Support/Critique Group:** Bring 15 copies of up to 5 pgs. (double-spaced, MS margins) of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (or come empty-handed). **Third Sat. each month,** 1 to 5pm; wheelchair-accessible. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com. Call to confirm.
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal info and referral. 1st Tues each month;** 6pm-8pm. Sign-up for lottery starting 5pm; lottery at 5:45 pm. Call day of program to confirm.

Gallery Exhibits

July: **Oakland Art Association;** Photographers **Lobby Display Case.**

July: **Summer Travel.**

LIBRARY HOURS
Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sun and Mon: also Tues, 9/5 and Sat, 9/9.

Diesel Book/Poetry and Events

FREE and open to the public.

- **The Month of July– Where's Waldo Scavenger Hunt Contest until Mon, July 31, at 5pm.** Get a **Find Waldo passport** at DIESEL and get it stamped or signed in each neighborhood store when you spot Waldo. Then, exchange the passport for a small prize and get entered into the drawing for the Grand Prize to win Waldo books.
- Sun, 7/9, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Don Bogen:** *An Algebra* and **Joseph Di Prisco:** *Sight Lines from the Cheap Seats.*
- Tues, 7/11, 7pm. **Publication Party** for local author **Shani Raviv:** *Being Ana: A Memoir of Anorexia Nervosa.*
- Tues, 7/18, 7pm. Local author **Richard Rothstein:** *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America.*
- Fri, 7/28, 6pm. **Pajama Party Story Time for Kids.** Come in PJs; bring teddy bear; have milk and cookies. Local author/artist **Lily Williams** reads bedtime stories from *If Sharks Disappeared.*
- Sun, 7/30, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with guest poets **Christopher Howell, Joseph Millar** and **Dorianne Laux.**
- Thurs, 8/3, 7pm. **Paul Kingsnorth:** *Confessions of a Recovering Environmentalist and Other Essays,* and *Beast* (a novel), in conversation with DIESEL bookseller **Brad Johnson.**
- Sun,8/6, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with guest poets **Cassandra Dallett** and **Bruce Isaacson.**
- Thurs, 8/10, 7pm. Local author **Yalie Kamara:** *When the Living Sing.*
- Sun, 8/13, 3pm. **Publication party** for **Christine Evelyn Volker:** *Venetian Blood.*
- Tues, 8/15, 7pm. **Publication party** for **Margaret Wilkerson Sexton:** *A Kind of Freedom.*
- Fri, 8/25, 6pm. **Special Musical Pajama Party Story Time for Kids.** Come in PJs; bring teddy bear; have milk and cookies. Bay area author/musician **Mike Mirabella** and illustrator **Amy O'Hanlon** read bedtime stories from *On the Luck of an Irish Sailor.*
- Sun, 8/27, 3pm. **Poetry Flash;** discussion of *Heaven Was Detroit: From Jazz to Hip-Hop and Beyond* with editor **M.L. Liebler** and contributors **Greil Marcus, Al Young, Melba Joyce Boyd, Brian Jabas Smith, George "Moseley the Punk" Moseman, Joel Martin,** and **Pat Thomas.**

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 **Le Jazz Hot,** the Quartet of the Hot Club of San Francisco, celebrating the music of Django Reinhardt's pioneering Hot Club de France. More info at http://www.lejazzhot.biz/. Sun., July 16, 2pm. Advance tickets: http://lejazzhot.brownpapertickets.com/ or at the door (cash only) beginning 12:30pm (doors open 1:30): $15. Refreshments and reception follow. Honoring 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.

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.

Temescal Farmers' Market

Open Sundays, 9am to 1pm (all year). Locally grown fruits and vegetables; fresh ranch eggs; home-made bakery items; fresh cut flowers; unique prepared foods, fresh locally caught fish, handcrafts and more. Sample the goods; meet the grower. **Live music. Bring reusable bags.** 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Telegraph) at DMV parking lot.

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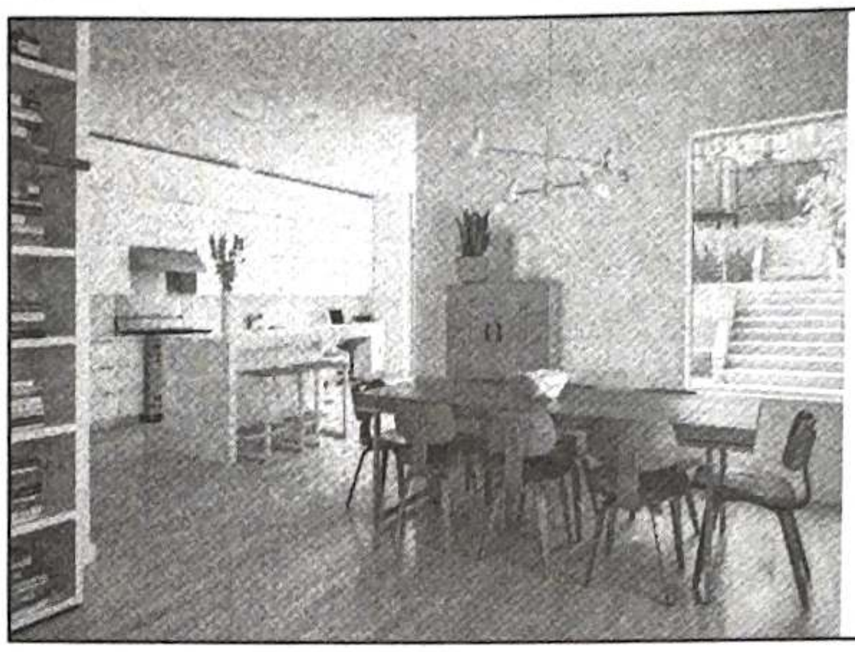
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