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Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

VOL. 32 ■ NO. 8 ■ ISSUE NO. 347 ■ September 2, 2017

CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

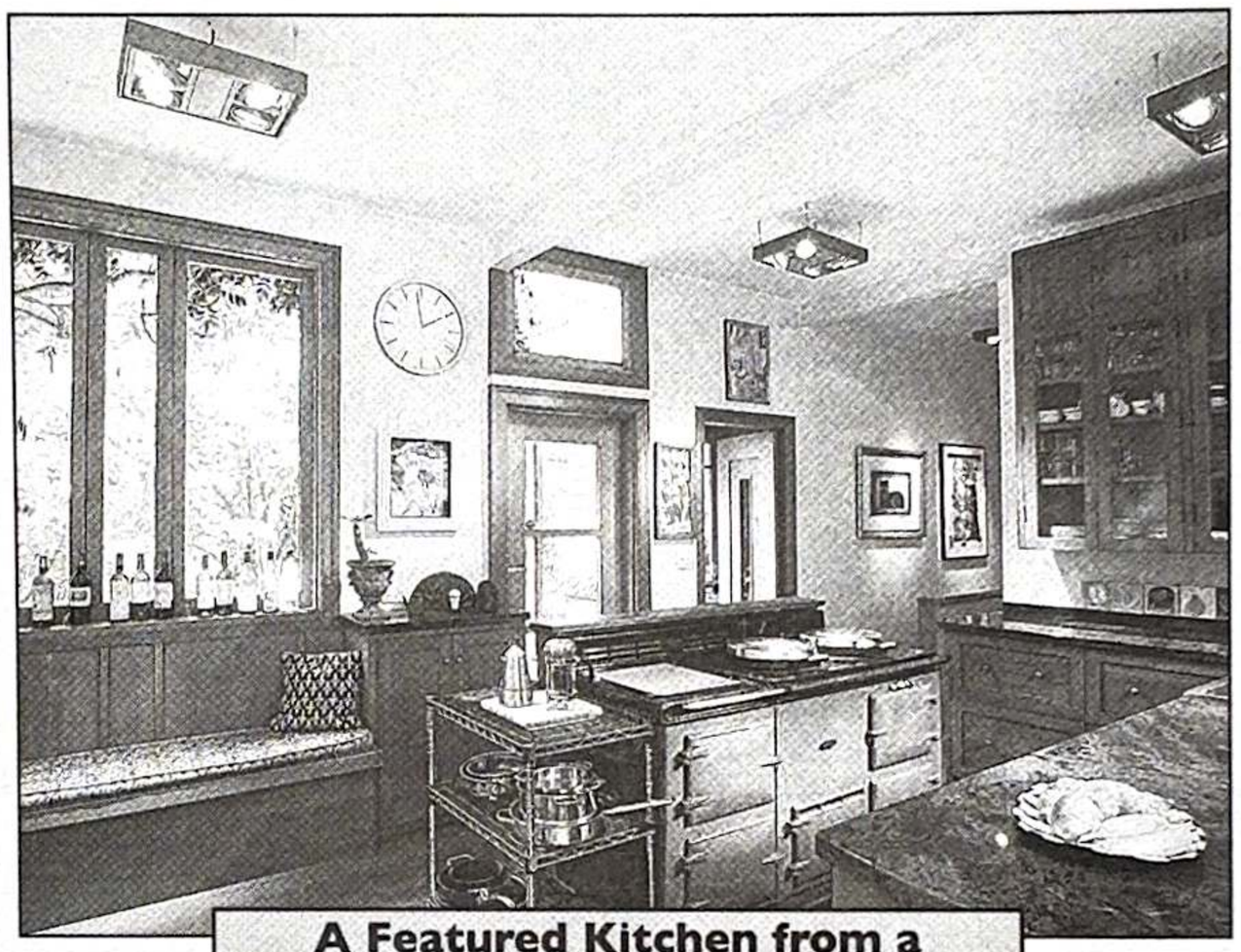
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RCPC KITCHEN TOUR: YOUR DREAM KITCHEN AWAITS

by Leonora Sea, tour committee member

Love the house; put up with the kitchen. Is this you? Then come to the 12th biennial Rockridge Kitchen Tour Sunday, September 24, and find out how homeowners, with the help of architects, designers, contractors, and craftspeople, created kitchens to love.

Nine such not-to-be-missed kitchens are featured on the 2017 tour, including these three: The recent winner of a national remodelers award; the Guy Hyde Chick house by famed California architect Bernard Maybeck; and the iconic Roll Up House. Guests are invited to visit the ground floor of the Maybeck and to take a full tour of the Roll Up House. You'll see much to inspire your own remodel, and have a chance to meet with the people who put together the glorious assortment of kitchens you'll find on the tour.



A Featured Kitchen from a Previous Tour www.kenricephoto.com

Challenges to Changes

Among the challenges homeowners faced: Respecting historic houses while incorporating modern amenities. The Guy Hyde Chick house kitchen and the National Association of Remodelers (NARI) award-winner successfully retain the aesthetic of the original houses, but are nonetheless supremely functional, and in some surprising ways. (Take the Tour to find out what those are). Both kitchens have been remodeled with great sensitivity to the footprint of the original house and kitchen, and have retained or restored the features that make them special.

Other challenges met by the owners of our tour kitchens were to improve traffic flow through the kitchen and to the rest of the house; remove doorways and partitions in inconvenient locations; and establish better connections to the outdoors to more readily entertain guests and enjoy family time in the kitchens. Storage is always important, and the architects and owners found ways to add or upgrade storage systems without overwhelming the kitchens or making them feel cluttered.

On the Tour, you'll note the latest in design trends in many of the kitchens: up-to-date colors; space-saving appliances; effective yet beautiful lighting; and new materials for work surfaces; as well as clever ways to store those always-in-use items like knives and cooking utensils.

Many homeowners found ways to economize on some parts of the kitchen so that they could splurge elsewhere while

RCPC Kitchen Tour, page 10

Rockridge Out & About Street Fair: Sunday, September 17

by Samee Roberts, president, Heart of the Town Events

The Rockridge District Association (RDA) welcomes Rockridge residents to join visitors from all over the region to shop, dine and explore at its 11th Annual Rockridge Out & About College Avenue street fair Sunday, September 17, noon to 6 p.m. This annual event returns to College Avenue to feature a broader range of the fall harvest. Stretching out along College from Alcatraz to Manila avenues, the festival offers a leisurely stroll traversing more than 100 street-level shops, galleries, food and drink establishments, and pop-up services and amenities.

2017 Festival Highlights:

- Live music and entertainment clusters dotting College Avenue, including dance

Out & About, page 12



Fun last year at Out & About

A New Cultural Plan for Oakland

Your Thoughts and Ideas Invited

by Annalee Allen

The city of Oakland's Cultural Affairs Department staff would like to hear from Rockridge area residents about what they want included in a new Cultural Plan.

Staff will hold town hall meetings in each Council district to get public input on shaping this new plan. The first meeting takes place in District 1 – which includes Rockridge – Friday, September 15, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue. Noted poet and cultural place-maker* Roberto Bedoya will lead the discussions.

Bedoya heads the Cultural Affairs Department. "We are in a time of rapid change," he says. "Our population is growing and shifting in character, technology is remaking our lives and relationships, and businesses and investors are changing our neighborhoods and the face of our city.

"Amid all these changes, people want to feel welcomed and respected, to be free to express themselves, to be safe to explore and be curious, and to feel comfortable and at home. In a word, whether residents or visitors, people want to feel like they belong. This is why Oakland needs a cultural development plan. We need to share with each other what we believe in and what our values are. And in this process, we must strive for greater equity and social justice. The arts and artists, culture bearers, creative innovators, educators, and cultural activists play a special role in reminding us who we are, helping us imagine who we want to be, and negotiating the spaces in between."

Learn more about this cultural planning process at www.oaklandnet.com/culturalplan.

Staff will distill community insight and comments into draft recommendations for the Cultural Plan. A final draft plan will be presented to the Council for review and adoption in February 2018.

Bedoya came to work for Oakland a year ago after serving for nine years as the executive director of the Tucson, Arizona, Pima Arts Council. He will address how to keep artists and arts organizations from being priced out of the city, and whether to restore the Cultural Arts Commission, put on hiatus in recent years due to staffing cuts. Bedoya's department oversees $900,000 in annual grants to local arts organizations and a $1 million bond fund for public art.

* **Editor's note:** Web sources identify "place-making" as "a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces. (It) capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, (to) create public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and well being."

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Library program details/hours: Calendar, page 15

THE Rockridge News

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

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Newsletter Advertising/Deadline
Publication date of the October issue is:
☛ **October 7, 2017.**
☛ **October deadline is September 21, 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, September 27, 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.

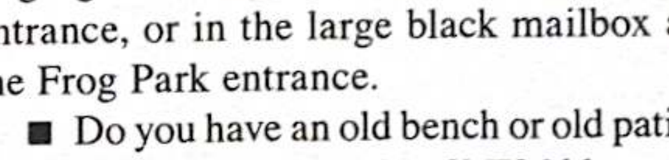
RCPC Land Use Committee Update – September

The Land Use Committee did not meet in August for lack of a quorum and because analysis of the five alternative housing scenarios was not yet complete. The hope is to have that analysis completed and available for review by the middle of September, so that part of the September meeting can be spent on discussion of that analysis.

The other half of the September committee meeting will be spent hearing about current plans for the re-use of the California College of Arts campus on Broadway just north of the Shops at the Ridge development. Representatives of the developers will be in attendance to tell us their current plans and get feedback from the committee and other community members. Once plans are more complete, there will be a Town Hall presentation to the larger community.

The committee also hopes to have updates on plans for Phase II of Shops at the Ridge, and an update on the vacant property at the corner of College & Claremont (former Shell service station).

— Stuart Flashman, committee chair



Report: Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention

Notice: There is no Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) meeting in September. Our next meeting is October 12. Two different groups have been invited to speak at that meeting. Neighbors for Racial Justice will have a presentation on racial bias. BART has not yet responded. We hope they will be available to discuss traffic around the Rockridge BART station and general public safety. Watch for announcements at www.rockridgencpc.com.

Call for volunteers to help staff the NCPC booth at Rockridge Out & About on Sunday, September 17. At least two of the NCPC officers who would normally help with that will be out of town on the date.

Email Karen Ivy, NCPC secretary at: secretary@rockridgencpc.com

Other Notes

The minutes of the August 12 NCPC meeting are available on the NCPC web site at: http://tinyurl.com/nvgrtme; or at: http://tinyurl.com/yb46a2nn

Karen Ivy
secretary@rockridgencpc.com

What Beat do I Live In?
http://spjika.github.io/FindYourBeat/

Hardy Dog Park Improvements Continue

While renovation plans move slower than a turtle with a snail on its back, we are making improvements to Hardy Dog Park every month. We have fixed the flooding issues, built and installed new poop bag dispensers, built and installed leash racks, and solved the stinky trash problem.

How can you help?

- We need newspaper bags. If you have bags lying around, drop them off in the large green shopping bag at the Hudson entrance, or in the large black mailbox at the Frog Park entrance.
- Do you have an old bench or old patio chairs you want to get rid of? We'd love to

Hardy Dog Park, page 13

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CHABOT ELEMENTARY FALL CARNIVAL

by Tamara Spokane, Chabot parent

The Chabot Elementary Fall Carnival has been a Rockridge tradition for years. This year's event is on Sunday, October 18, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on the Chabot campus, 6686 Chabot Road. The event is a fundraiser for Chabot Elementary School, and all residents and neighbors are invited to join in the fun and festivities. As always, admission is free.

Enjoy a family lunch from one of the food stations, including our famous Dads' club pulled pork sandwiches and hot dogs, the taco truck, or a pizza. Then satisfy that sweet tooth by grabbing a treat from our Benefit Bakesale or candy giveaways at the DJ dancing booth.

To burn off some of those calories, the Carnival offers a variety of games for kids of all ages. Plan on winning some prizes, testing your bravery on the Jumpy Slide, and decorating pumpkins and sugar skulls.

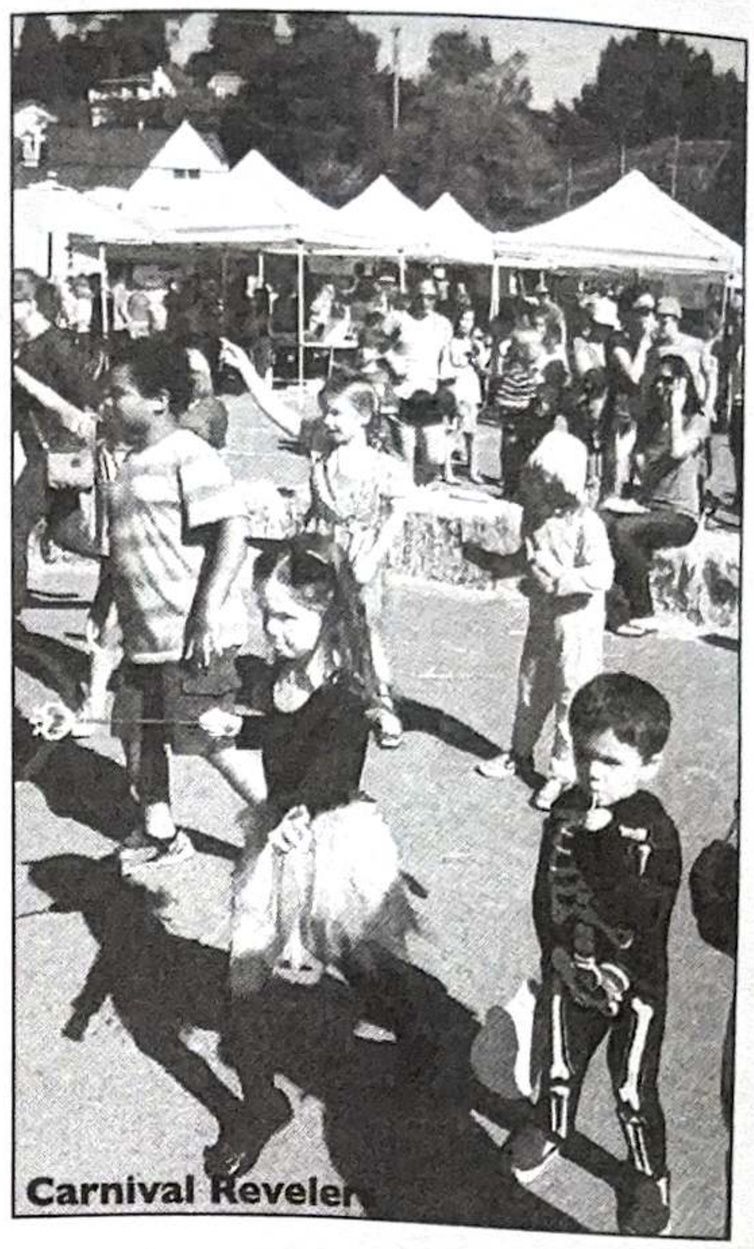
The Chabot Carnival also offers lots of fun entertainment. Don't miss the Hippity Hop Dance class with Mr. J at 12:30, followed by great music with live DJs, and costume and dance contests.

This year we are pleased to add the amazing Wobbly Toggle Puppet Show at two event times: noon and 2 p.m. in the library. Be sure to sure to arrive early to catch the amazing juggling clown, Bri Crabtree, juggling on her unicycle.

Please join us in celebrating all the fun that fall has to offer – games, food, prizes, music and crafts. There is something for everyone.

All proceeds from this family-friendly event benefit the Chabot Elementary PTA and fund enrichment programs such the library, music, art, science, Spanish, and the garden; coordination of numerous after-school programs; help in the classrooms; and more.

Special thanks to our sponsors for supporting the Chabot community: 1st United Credit Union; MPR Financial; Piedmont Dental by Design; Yovino-Young, Inc.; and Cole Coffee who will provide free coffee at our Bakesale. Go to www.chabotelementary.org for more information.



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Scenic Streets of Oakland

Scenic Streets of Oakland Sets Gardening Party, Saturday September 23

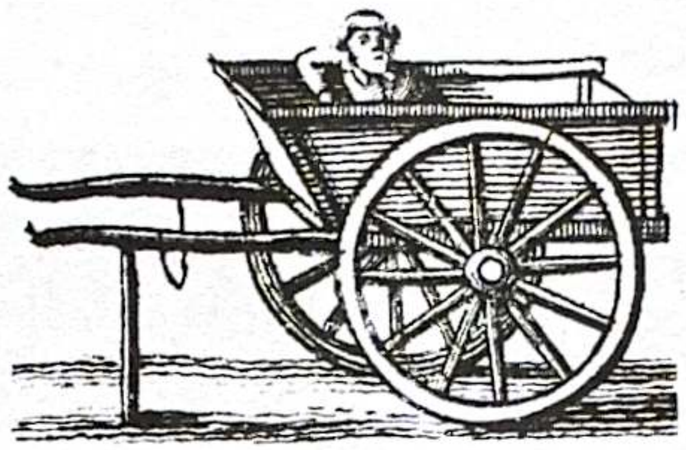
by Lee Patterson, Scenic Streets member

All Rockridge neighbors are invited to help Scenic Streets maintain neighborhood plantings on sidewalks and the areas adjacent to the Claremont Avenue/ Highway 24 on- and off-ramps. A gardening party is planned for Saturday, September 23, 9 a.m. to noon. Our main focus will be spreading mulch on the ramp side areas, but there will be lots more to do, including weeding, raking, trash pickup, and pruning.

Please be aware that Caltrans requires anyone working on the Highway 24 ramps to be at least 16 years old. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes or boots, preferably with ankle support. Work on the sidewalk plantings is available to all ages. Gloves, hardhats, goggles, and safety vests (for ramp work) will be supplied by Caltrans; some tools will be provided by Scenic Streets. You may also bring your own tools, if you wish. Be sure to mark them with your identification. Wheelbarrows are especially useful. Let us know if you plan to bring one.

Your work will be much appreciated, and you'll come away with a sense of satisfaction for a job well-done.

We will meet on Claremont Avenue at the south end of the Hardy Dog Park. If you plan to attend, an RSVP to lee.scenicstreets@gmail.com would be appreciated, though is not required.



Frog Park 'Swings + MORE' Project Update and Coming Fall Activities

The FROG committee is pleased to announce that significant progress has been made over the summer on the "Swings + MORE" project regarding permitting and approvals.

- The Oakland Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) voted unanimously in mid-July to approve our project without any conditions. (See: PRAC-July12-2017 Meeting-FROG).
- Alameda County Right-of-Way updated and approved the permit August 14.
- City of Oakland Planning Department approval was granted and issued August 16.

Three Down, One to Go:

One remaining required permit is the Caltrans encroachment permit approval. Now that we have the city's Planning Department approval, required by Caltrans, we are moving forward on the Caltrans permit application. Our design consultant is completing construction drawings so we can submit the application to Caltrans.

These are important achievements, and prerequisites to city processes to secure bids and contractors. We look forward to moving the process along to the next phase.

FROG Notes:

Homelessness: FROG has been working with Councilmember Dan Kalb, the homeless services manager in the City Administrator's office, the Oakland Police and Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Oakland Public Works (OPW) dispatch supervisor, among others, to help us address the issues related to the presence of the homeless in lower Rockridge and around Frog Park.

For years, FROG committee members have called to alert city officials about people sleeping in basketball courts, by the swings, and in other parts of the greenbelt. Recently, these issues have grown to include tents and makeshift structures, stored personal possessions, and occasional harassment of those who use the park for recreation. All of us on the FROG committee are working to bring this to a resolution. We encourage neighbors and park users to

FROG Report, page 10



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Eyes on Rockridge

Chronicle columnist strives to show, not just tell...

by Judith Doner Berne

From his apartment overlooking College Avenue in Rockridge, Otis R. Taylor Jr. turns out three columns a week for the San Francisco Chronicle covering people, politics and problems throughout the East Bay.

"I see my job as educating people," the 39-year-old Taylor says. For instance, "If I want to drive the narrative about homelessness, I can't just say it. I try to show how real people are living who are born with disadvantages. I really want to put empathy into my stories."

We meet at one of his favorite Rockridge hangouts, Old Brooklyn Bagels and Deli on College Avenue, where he is checking his computer and eating his go-to sandwich – a pesto bagel with butter, bacon and egg, downed with a root beer. "They know my order," he tells me with a disarming smile that isn't apparent in the photograph that runs with his column.

He pretty much chooses his own stories, juggling two lists of prospective subjects – "those I want to do and those I need to do. I like to work on Sundays when it's quiet, so I have three to four columns in the air every Monday when I start."

In a favorite (August 2), he chronicles the life of Richmond resident Leedell Omar Thomas, 25. Thomas was homeless for two years while, ironically, his part-time job was to provide safety at an apartment complex. Now that he works full-time as a security guard for Safeway, he can rent an apartment of his own with help from Shelter, Inc., a nonprofit that provides housing-support services.

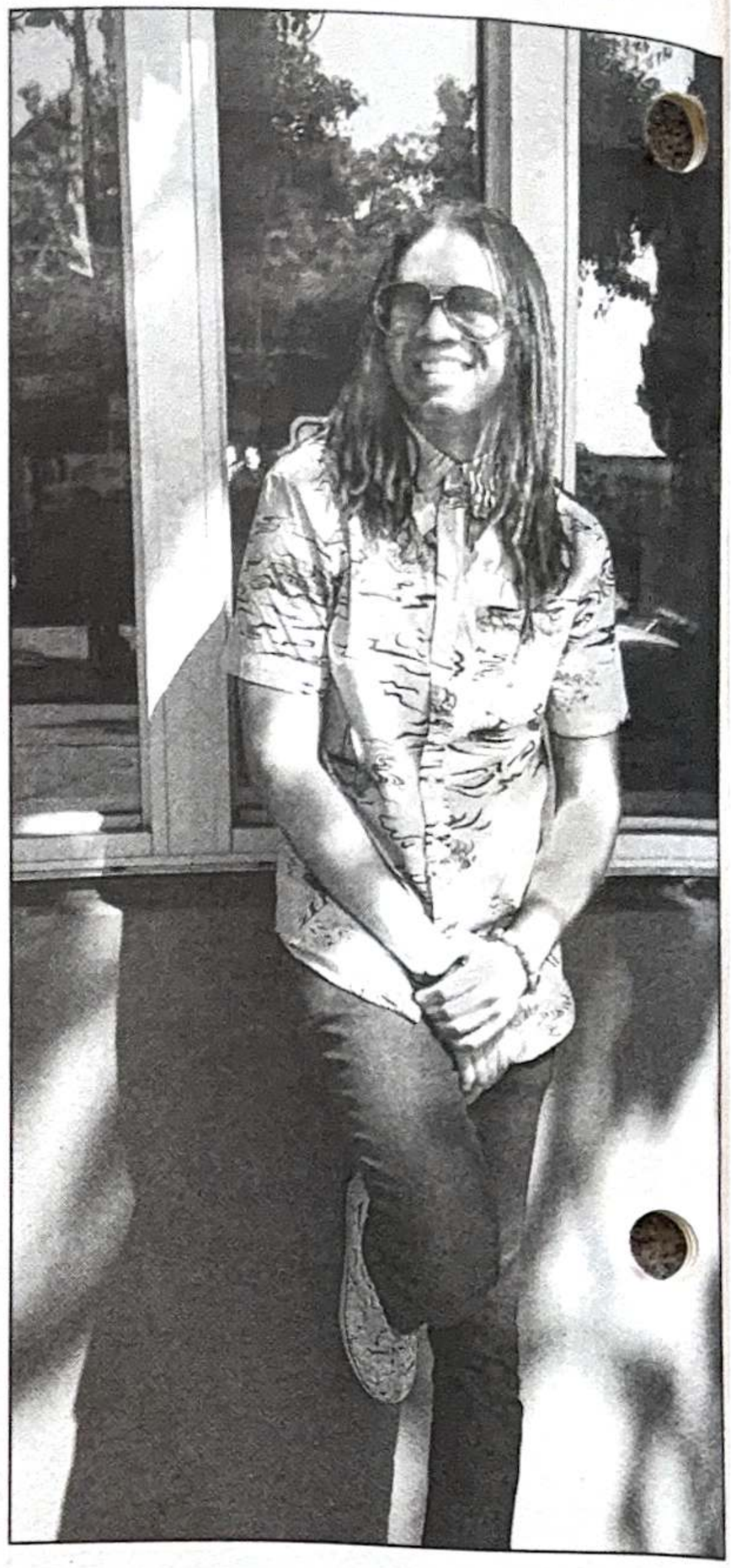
"Thomas could've given up," Taylor wrote. "It's inspiring to watch a former foster kid, whose mother sold drugs and whose father pimped women, swim against the current of hopelessness flowing through the Bay Area."

It was also a favorite column of Kirsten Schwartz of Albany, who said in a letter to the editor: "I grow more impressed with Taylor's work as I read each new piece. He's a great addition to the Chronicle and to my ongoing education about parts of the Bay Area that I usually don't get to but that I want and need to know about."

Taylor, who recently celebrated his first anniversary with the Chronicle, hadn't seen the letter. But he seemed pleased since, he says, his columns sometimes provoke negative responses.

He's been a working journalist since he was news editor and circulation manager for the student newspaper at Clemson University, from which he graduated in 1999 with a B.A. in English. In 2001, he began a 13-year stint with The State newspaper (daily circulation 75,000) in South Carolina's capital, Columbia, where he started out covering high school sports. He advanced to writing features and columns and spent his last four years there as lead writer for arts, culture and entertainment.

Not Just Telling, page 7



Rockridge is home to San Francisco Chronicle columnist Otis Taylor, pictured in front of the Rockridge Library. /Judith Doner Berne

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Not Just Telling

from page 6

When Taylor left for San Francisco in 2013, "it was for a girl, not a job," he says with a smile. The next year, he moved to Rockridge. "You cannot beat Rockridge. The neighborhood's temperament is good. I like chatter." And, when the time comes to have a family, "I would want to live in Rockridge."

Besides Brooklyn Bagels, favorite College Avenue venues include Sukho Thai, George and Walt's and Rockridge Café. "He comes in and orders pancakes and French fries and root beer," says Margie Flannagan who has worked at Rockridge Café for 21 years. (It's a good thing he runs and plays basketball!) "I liked his recent piece (August 16)," she says, proposing that counter-protesters boycott white nationalist rallies that were upcoming in Berkeley and San Francisco. "It's very sage advice."

"Music is a hobby," Taylor says, so with a couple of employees at Eddie's Drive-In Liquors, "we sit and talk music." A former bass player from a music-loving family, "I'm really excited about the new record store. I like to make DJ mixes." He hosts a monthly radio show on KGPC, Peralta College's community station.

Much as Taylor loves California, he does miss South Carolina where he grew up, specifically "my traveling softball team. We were really good." And, "it was really emotional for me when that Confederate flag came down at the State Capitol (July, 2015)," following the shooting of nine worshippers at Mother Emmanuel A.M.E., an historic black church in Charleston.

"I moonwalked into this job," Taylor says of his column in the Chronicle. Last year, while the managing editor of a hyperlocal news organization, he answered a request from Chronicle editor-in-chief Audrey Cooper to coordinate the San Francisco Homeless Project involving 80 media outlets. "I was the only one who volunteered." When she took him out to lunch to thank him, he told her, "I want to work for you."

"I really feel I was called" (to this assignment), he says. "As a black person in a position of privilege, I need to speak freely about racism. I can easily be labeled an angry black man. But as a black man, I should engage in conversations. What I'm trying to do is be a conduit."

In Oakland, "I'm terrified that the diversity and inclusiveness is being lost. We could do something really progressive – build more affordable housing using the taxes from cannabis sales. It could really trickle up.

"It breaks my heart to see kids going to high schools where they're not challenged," Taylor says. "And I'm really worried about the immigrants. People are so disadvantaged, it hurts. I want to write from the ground up. I wear t-shirts and jeans and try to walk their path. But I get to go back to my nice home in Rockridge. It makes me really sad."

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

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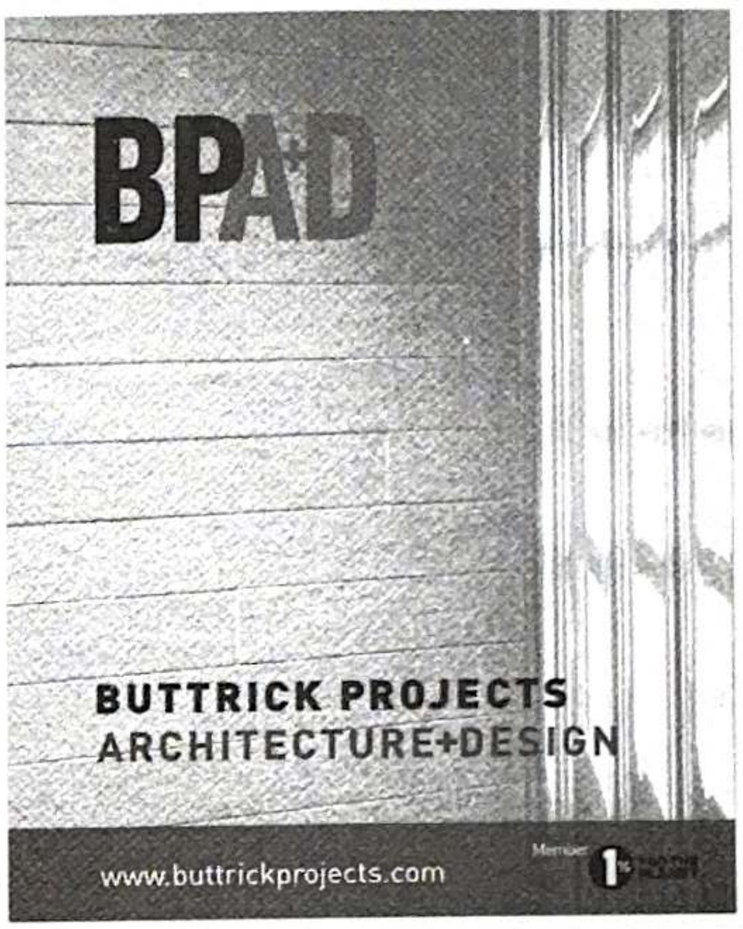
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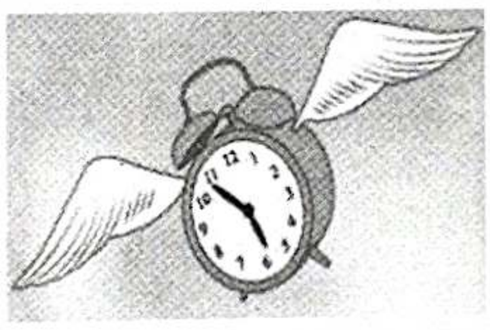
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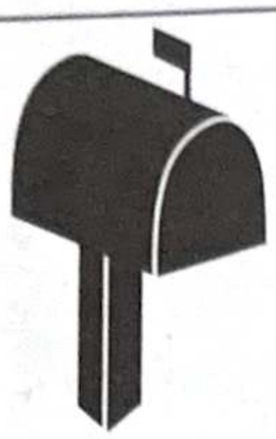
Annual Creek to Bay Day and Frog Park Cleanup

by Leonora Sea, DMV Neighbors

It's time for the annual Creek to Bay Day Temescal Creek and FROG Park cleanup on Saturday, September 16, beginning at 9 a.m. Be part of International Coastal Cleanup Day, a truly worldwide effort to make our planet's waterways cleaner and healthier. Join in with DMV Neighbors Association and the Friends of the Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt to clean up our special Rockridge neighborhood park. Temescal Creek, between the pond at Big Frog and Clarke Street, is a pumped water feature in the park. The water returns to the actual Temescal Creek through the Little Frog grate. When we clean up trash and debris, not only does our park look better, but it keeps litter out of the creek, Bay, and ocean.

Sign-in tables will be located at Cavour and Redondo, for those who want to work on the creek between Clifton and Clarke Streets, and at Big Frog near the play structure for those who want to work on the pond, play area and greenbelt path to Clifton. Coffee and snacks are available for volunteers. Tasks include weeding, pruning, trash pickup, raking and sweeping. Families and groups are welcome. Students needing service hours for school will receive a signed letter verifying their participation. Tools and gloves provided, or bring your own, making sure they're well marked as yours.

More info: contact Leonora Sea, DMV Neighbors Association: LeonoraSea@comcast.net; FROG: info@frogpark.org, or look up FROG Park and Temescal Creek on the city of Oakland's Creek to Bay Day Web site: www.oaklandcreektobay.org.



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.

Density and Traffic Make Rockridge Desirable and Keep it Thriving

Editor:

Letters to this paper frequently rail against new development in the area, bemoaning the density, the traffic, the environment.

In regard to the first two, there are many lovely neighborhoods in Oakland that are less dense and have less traffic, and are far less expensive. Density, and the traffic that goes with it, are what makes Rockridge a desirable place to live, and keeps Rockridge thriving. A brief walk down College Avenue, with its many shuttered storefronts, demonstrates that we need more, not less of it.

More high-density housing, like apartments and condominiums, will bring more people, including more young people with disposable income, that will sustain existing businesses and provide fertile ground for new ones. Rockridge is a desirable neighborhood because of, not despite, its business corridor, and we should be doing everything we can as residents to support our businesses.

In regard to the last complaint – that development is not environmentally friendly – well there, the writer was just wrong. Dense, multi-unit housing is much more efficient and environmentally friendly than single-family homes. It's also much better for our community, which is struggling with a major housing crisis.

— Maria McKee

Irresponsible Dog Owners Spoil College Avenue Walks

Editor:

It seems to me there are more and more dogs being walked on College Avenue by more and more dog owners indifferent to the waste dropped by their pets. I am constantly dodging piles of these leavings as I walk along. I am not sure what – if anything – can be done about this but it's disgusting and takes away from the Avenue experience. A good start would be for dog owners to take more responsibility for picking up their pet's droppings.

— Johanna Woodby

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Sunday 9/24 12:30 to 5:30pm "Rockridge Kitchen Tour" (sign up to tour 9 wonderful remodeled kitchens)

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Happy Autumn!

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PACIFIC UNION INTERNATIONAL

New Assistant Principal for Claremont Middle School

by Claremont PTA

We'd like to welcome Gary Watson as Claremont Middle School's new assistant principal. He takes the position held for three years by Ms. Tonia Coleman, who has taken an assistant principal position at Berkeley High School.

Mr. Watson comes to Claremont after 17 years teaching in elementary schools in the Bay Area. He decided to switch to becoming an administrator, he says, to effect positive change with a larger number of students.

As for his jump to the middle school level? "Middle school is where students encounter the most intellectual and emotional growth in such a short period," he says.

Seventeen Years in Education

An Oakland native, Mr. Watson began his educational career in 2004 as a physical education teacher at Vallecito Elementary School in San Rafael. In 2008, he moved to the West Contra Costa School District to teach 5th grade math, science, social studies and physical education. He was there for the past nine years.

Mr. Watson received his teaching credential from Dominican University of California, along with a Master's in Science in Elementary Education and Curriculum. He completed his administration credential at Brandman University, and also holds a California multiple subject teaching credential.

Experience in the Private Sector

Prior to teaching, Mr. Watson had careers in the military and in the private sector. He worked at Charles Schwab, Kaiser Permanente and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. He also worked as a telecommunications operations supervisor with the U.S. Army for eight years.



Claremont Assistant Principal Gary Watson

/Courtesy of Claremont PTA

Outdoors With Barney the Boxer

Mr. Watson's favorite sport is basketball and his all-time favorite team is, of course, the Warriors. For fun, he likes to play sports and hike in Marin with his dog, Barney, a boxer.

"I am inspired by my colleagues and excited to work with such a dedicated group of educators," he says. "The commitment of the families and the spirit of the students at Claremont have created an amazing community where I look forward to coming to work each and every day."





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RCPC Kitchen Tour

from page 1

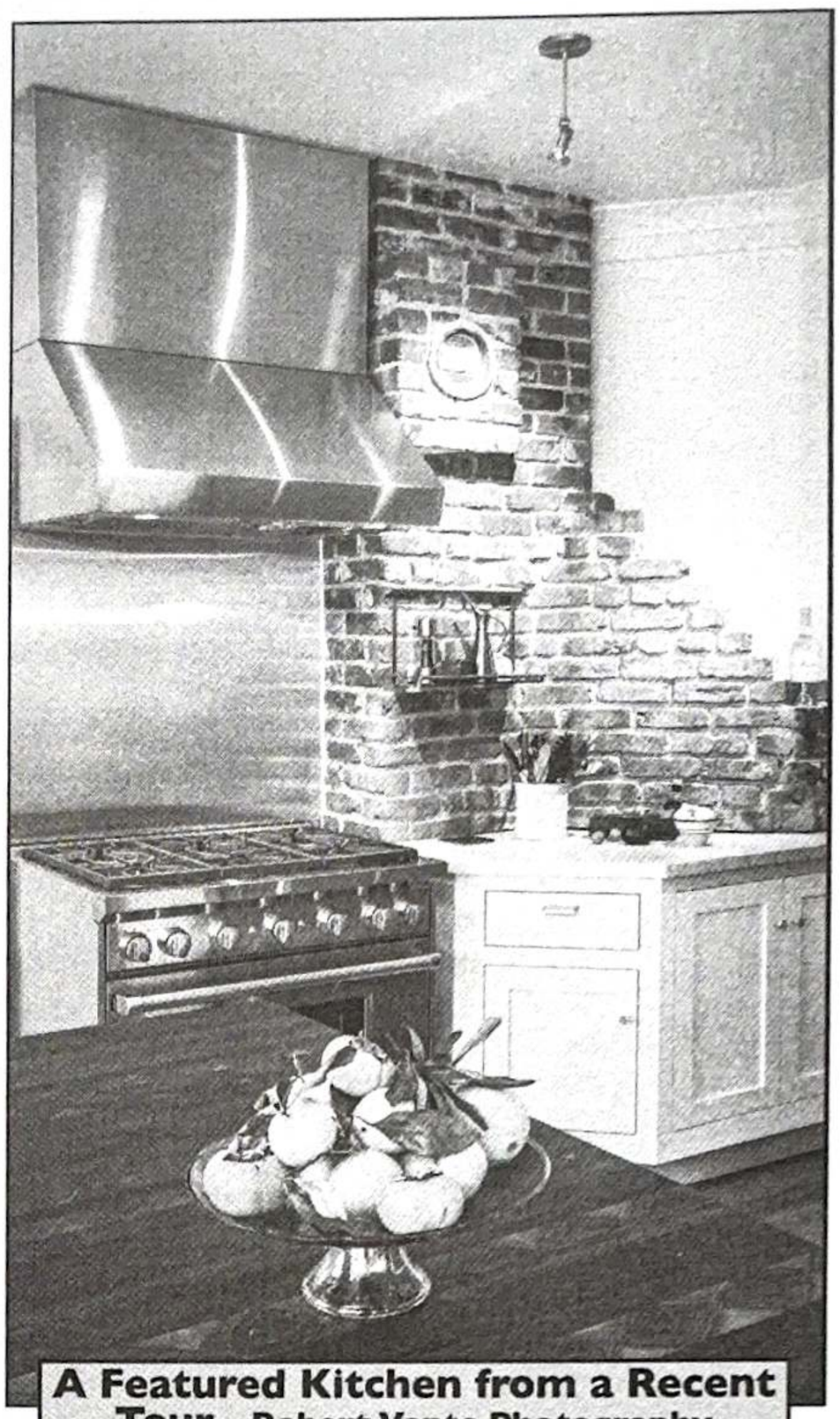
staying on budget. Others were able to balance encouraging their children's interest in cooking with easy maintenance.

Most of the kitchens are newly renovated, but this year's tour includes one classic to illustrate how inspired design never goes out of style. Except for upgrades as better appliances have become available, this kitchen is a quarter of a century old, but looks as if it was finished yesterday.

Kitchen Tour guests receive a copy of the comprehensive tour brochure, describing each kitchen and listing resources for those contemplating their own remodel. Docents with extensive knowledge of the remodels will also be on hand at each site on the tour to answer questions about the owner's goals and challenges. The brochure is a treasure trove for design enthusiasts and future renovators.

The Kitchen Tour Expo

In addition to the tour on September 24, be sure to visit the Kitchen Tour Expo Saturday, September 23 in the Claremont Middle School gym, 5750 College Avenue.



A Featured Kitchen from a Recent Tour **Robert Vente Photography**

Tour tickets include admission to the Expo, well-received in 2015 by tour guests and vendors alike. This year's Expo features more exhibitors, architects, designers, contractors, and craftspeople. Meet the creative talent behind the kitchens you will see on Sunday, and get an in-depth look at how these design professionals approach kitchen renovations.

After viewing the marvelous kitchens on the tour, you're likely to be pretty hungry. Make a full day of it in Rockridge, and enjoy College Avenue's vibrant commercial district with its fine dining and shopping opportunities.

2017 Kitchen Tour tickets are on sale now online at http://rockridgekitchentour.org/seminar-expo/ for $40, and will be for sale at the Expo and on the day of the tour for $45. Tickets are also available at Nathan & Co., 5636 College. Expo-only tickets are $10.

FROG Report

from page 5

do the same, to keep the park safe. If you see a problem or experience harassment, call 510/777-3211 for emergencies or 510/777-3333 for non-emergencies. If you see graffiti or illegal dumping, contact the Public Works call center at 510/615-5566, email them at: opwcallcenter@oaklandnet.com, or file a report on SeeClickFix, a smartphone reporting app available at https://en.seeclickfix.com/oakland.

Garbage and Other Issues: FROG has reached out to the Oakland Public Works department (OPW) and others to help devise a new garbage pickup schedule to begin to address overflows on the weekends and from the Farmer's Market prepared food vendors. We have contacted the Department of Environmental Health, including Alameda County Vector Control, 510/567-6800, to request a review of the area to ensure safety for our children. If you notice a pest issue, call and report the incident.

The Tire Swing: The city has ordered a new tire swing to replace the one broken and missing for months. We hope to have it installed soon.

Creek: Water was flowing briefly. Members of the DMV Neighbors Association took the initiative and cleaned the creek thoroughly before the turn-on to avoid blocked drains. Unfortunately, the control system for the pump is not working properly. Alameda County Public Works Agency is arranging repairs. Once the pump is fixed, the creek will flow again.

Coming Activities:

- **Creek to Bay Day,** September 16. See story, page 8.
- **Rockridge Out & About**: Visit us at our booth on September 17 and see the final plans for the Swings + More project. See story, page 1.

To volunteer or to ask questions, please contact: chair@frogpark.org. To support FROG, visit www.frogpark.org/donate.

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Notes: Business Changes on College Avenue

Now at 5433 College Avenue...

Diesel, A Bookstore in Oakland, officially changed its name to **East Bay Booksellers** on September. 1.

After a nearly year-long community-lending campaign, Brad Johnson purchased the Rockridge bookstore from owners Alison Reid and John Evans, who continue their ownership of Diesel bookstores in Brentwood and Larkspur.

Johnson, who has worked at Diesel for five years, says on the Diesel website: "For much of my adult life I pursued academia – I wasn't expecting bookselling to pursue me instead..."

The bottom line is that Rockridge will continue to have two bookstores within its boundaries.

Detailed information on the new ownership can be found on the Diesel website at http://www.dieselbookstore.com.

— Judith Doner Berne

Now at 5391 College Avenue...

Funky Furniture SF opened across from the library at the triangular corner of College and Manila Avenues in early August.

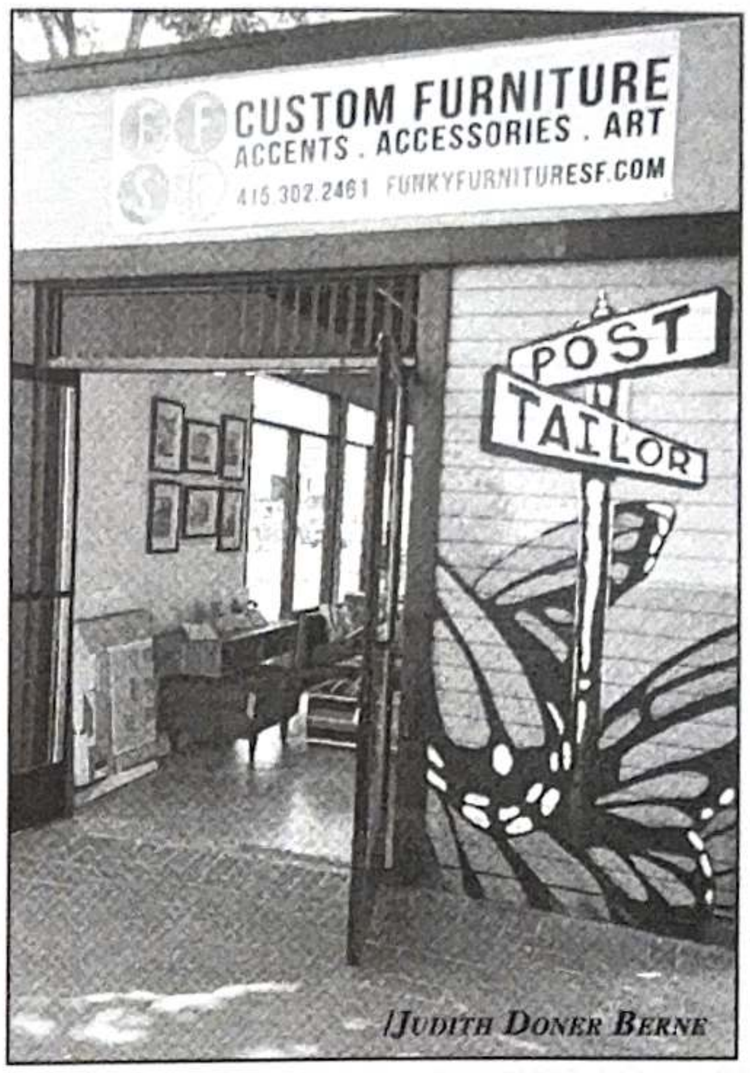
The mid-century modern custom furniture and accessory store moved to Rockridge after 10 years south of Market in San Francisco.

Soon, its name will change to Post and Tailor which is already on the murals painted on its outer walls (photo, right.)

"We love the neighborhood," co-owner Reg Hirons says. "We're definitely excited to be part of the community."

The store's sofas and chairs are custom-made in Los Angeles, its wood tables in San Francisco. Sofa pillows, some of which say Rockridge, College Avenue and Oakland on them, are the work of co-owner Kania Edelberg, as is some of the art work available for purchase.

— Judith Doner Berne



/Judith Doner Berne

Belotti Restaurant Adds "To Go" Location

Joyce and Michele Belotti, owners of College Avenue's Belotti restaurant, have announced plans to open a to-go version of the restaurant on Piedmont Avenue. They had this to say about their new *bottega* location: "It will have very limited seating for 'eating on the spot' as it's meant to be a to-go space for the most part. We will have options for people to order and schedule pick-up of their food online, to come in and buy fresh Belotti pasta, sauces, and typical and regional homemade Italian appetizers and snacks. We are very excited about this new space and looking to open the shop in early fall."

Stay tuned to Nosh (http://www.berkeleyside.com/nosh/) for more information as the new Belotti's bottega gets closer to opening at 4001 Piedmont Avenue and 40th Street.

— Compiled from Nosh/BerkeleySide.com postings

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Former Pasta Site New Home to Resurgent Bakery

by Cindy Warner, freelance journalist

La Boulangerie de San Francisco plans a mid-October opening of its Rockridge bakery at the former Pasta Pomodoro restaurant location on the corner of Lawton and College Avenues, according to a company representative. The announcement, long in coming, elicited a string of excited comments – in French and in English — from Rockridge locals on Nextdoor, a neighborhood website.

Katie Solinger, director of operations (or Directrice des Opérations) at La Boulangerie de San Francisco, says the company expects to hire 30 staff and, if busy enough, even more. The small company re-created by owner Pascal Rigo will first open in San Francisco and at the Rockridge at the College Avenue location. La Boulangerie had been set to open in September, but pedestrians peeking in the windows saw no reassuring signs of change. Solinger says the small company concentrated resources on the opening of a San Francisco location due to permit issues with the city of San Francisco. Oakland presents no such issues. She says because of the month-long delay,

Bakery, page 13

CAPC Group Descends on Frog Park



After their hard work, College Avenue Presbyterian Vacation Bible School members gather with Pastor Monte McLain, lower right.

/Leonora Sea

The College Avenue Presbyterian Church (CAPC) Vacation Bible School (VBS) made its annual pilgrimage to "Big Frog" on August 16. The trip isn't just about play, although there's plenty of time for that, too. Forty children and adults, led by the Reverend Monte McClain, pictured at left, converged on the park to work. Some of the kids have grown up playing in the park, others were visiting for their first time. In either case, the enthusiastic VBS campers picked up two huge bags of trash and filled eight paper greenwaste bags with leaves, grass clippings, and redwood duff, a fantastic result in only an hour and a half. Each year, CPAC brings the group to contribute much-needed maintenance during that long stretch between Earth Day and Creek to Bay Day. The job they did clearing redwood duff out of the pond is especially crucial this year, as it's expected that Alameda County Flood Control will be turning on the creek pump very soon. Thank you to Monte, the counselors, and the VBS campers. — ***Leonora Sea, DMV Neighbors Association***

Out & About

from page 1

music in the BART plaza.

- Market Hall's Annual Picnic in the Street: Celebrate the market's 30th anniversary. Market Hall merchants will turn out for the company's annual Picnic in the Street offering signature foods and libations. They also sponsor the ever-popular Cookbook Exchange benefiting Rockridge Public Library.
- Rockridge establishments and local food vendors offer a feast of great eats in the festival food courts.
- Scores of artisans showcase handcrafted art, clothing, jewelry, soaps, artifacts, mementos, and more.
- Aerialists, acrobats and contortionists thrill audiences at the Kinetic Arts Center circus arts stage.

Kids can frolic in the family zone featuring arts & crafts, face painting, and the annual kiddie carnival complete with rides, inflatables, games and climbing wall.

Skilled practitioners demo a range of wellness services such as yoga, massage, Ayurveda, and aromatherapy. Also, Namaste Yoga + Wellness will again host a Mindfulness Lounge.

Cole Hardware joins in sponsoring fall-themed arts & crafts and other creative activities for children of all ages.

More than 100 community, artisan and business booths will combine with Rockridge's plethora of existing businesses to offer a wide array of shopping opportunities. Festival-goers can get a jump on fall and holiday shopping with antiques and home furnishings, clothing and jewelry, health and wellness services, books and learning, international and artisanal foods, and much more.

Admission to the 11th Annual Rockridge Out & About is free. The fair is supported by contributions from the Rockridge District Association (RDA), Market Hall, Fremont Bank, Ford GoBike, Henry Levy Group, Strahan Insurance Services, Lawton Associates, Barrel Room, DHR Counsel, McGuire Real Estate, Farmers Insurance: Ruth Stroup Agency, The Golden Squirrel, Kids Gym Berkeley, Oakland Magazine, East Bay Express, BART and the city of Oakland, with additional support from other businesses and organizations.

Find more event details at RockridgeOutandAbout.com.

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8/02/2017	2	2	2005 Pleasant Valley Ave	$679,000	$579,000	70	$638,000
8/07/2017	4	2	5521 Kales Ave	$1,095,000	$1,095,000	12	$1,550,000
8/16/2017	2	1	5748 Ayala Ave	$825,000	$825,000	14	$850,000
8/17/2017	2	2	5340 Broadway Terrace	$599,000	$599,000	13	$625,000

Homes sold in August closed 14% over the asking price on average.

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If you're thinking of buying or selling, give us a call for a free consultation.

Volunteer at Oakland Schools

Back To School Volunteer Fair

Volunteering for Oakland hosts its Ninth Annual Back to School Volunteer Fair on Saturday, September 9, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at Lakeview Elementary School, 746 Grand Avenue (across from the farmers' market).

This is one-stop shopping for anyone interested in making a positive impact on Oakland schools and kids. Meet different nonprofits working with Oakland schools and find your perfect volunteer match. Get free training to:

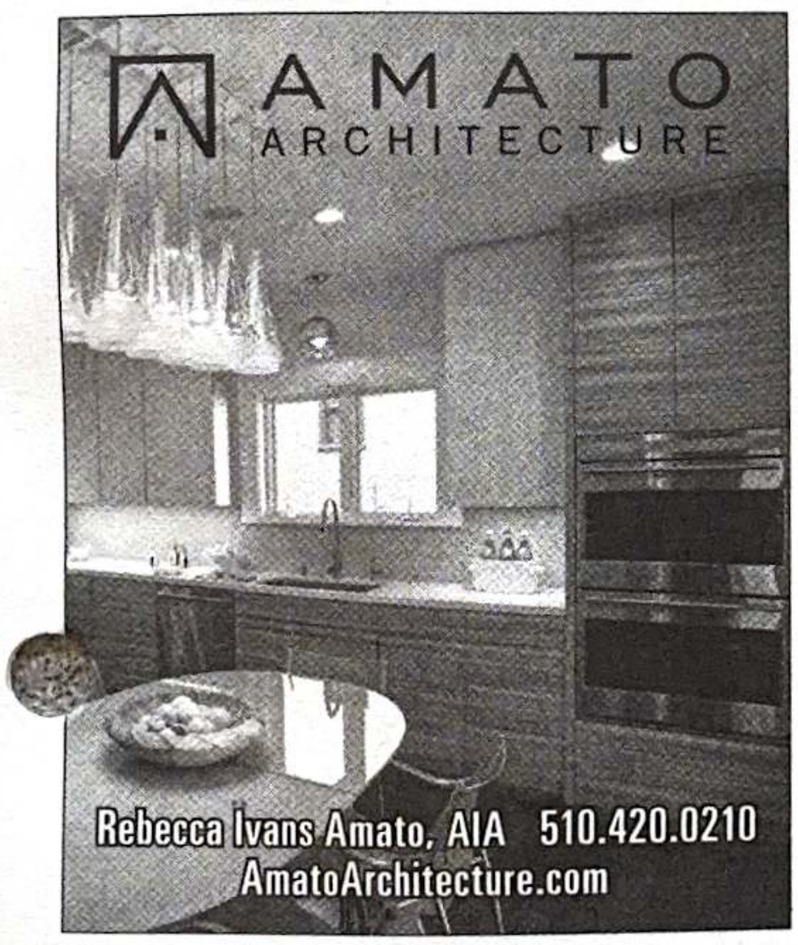
- Mentor, tutor, or read with kids
- Help out at after-school programs
- Assist in the classroom or office
- Provide tech support
- Raise funds or plan events for schools

There will also be a raffle with fun prizes and on-site support to complete any volunteer clearance requirements you may have. http://www.oaklandedfund.org/volunteerfair/

Be a Volunteer Story Reader in Oakland Preschools

Foster a life-long love of reading in Oakland's children. Oakland Public Library's volunteer program **Books for Wider Horizons** holds its annual training at the Rockridge Branch Library over six evenings: 10/4, 10/5, 10/11, 10/12, 10/18, and 10/19; and one full Saturday, 10/28.

For more information, email rvenuto@oaklandlibrary.org, or phone 238-7453.

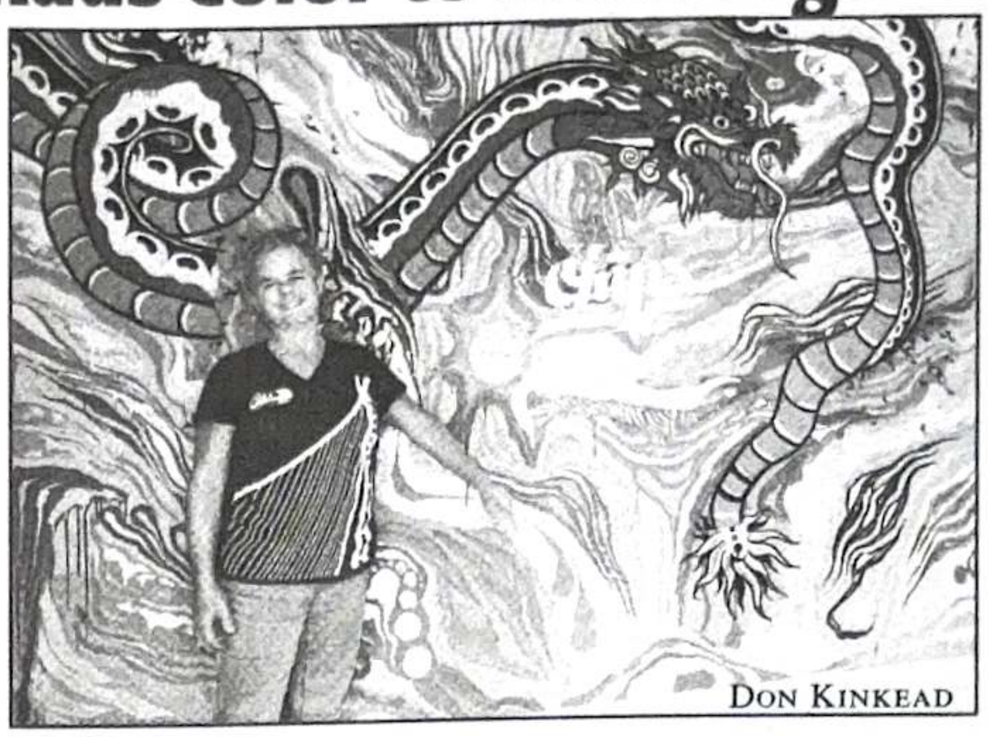


Local Artist Adds Color to Rockridge

by Don Kinkead

You may not know her name or recognize her, but you might have seen recent examples of her work. Rockridge artist Caroline Stern redesigned and painted the "Welcome to Rockridge" sign posted at College and Broadway and decorated the outside west wall of Frog Park's restroom with a fanciful mural illustrating park attractions.

Working from her studio – Deco Art on Claremont near Hudson – Stern also handles larger commissions throughout Oakland and the East Bay. To foster and encourage new artists, she hosts periodic shows in her studio. She is pictured above during such a show in front of a mural painted jointly by brothers Morgan and Jesse Pringle.


DON KINKEAD

Bakery

from page 11

the company plans no special event for the opening and does not know if Pascal Rigo will be on site.

Rigo sold the popular company a few years ago to Starbucks. Starbucks will continue selling the baked goods at its outlets but has closed the La Boulangerie stores. The revived La Boulangerie will bake goods for its own stores at its central facility and deliver to Rockridge.

Hardy Dog Park

from page 3

have you donate them to the park.

- Please join us for build and cleanup days, the first Saturday of every month from 9-10:30 a.m. Meet other dog owners and join the community.
- We need 2-3 more people to join our renovation committee. Committee members will own pieces of the renovation, from managing fundraising to working with contractors and Caltrans, to finding a new 501(c)3 umbrella organization. Come help us make a difference to the neighborhood!

Have questions or want to learn more? Email HardyDogPark@yahoo.com

City of Oakland supports 2nd unit developments.
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City Makes Progress on Pothole Program

To date in 2017, Oakland Department of Transportation (ODOT) pothole crews have repaired more than 15,000 potholes, almost as many as in all of 2016. Crews are on pace to fill another 5,000 by the end of the year, toward a total goal of 20,000 this year.

If you have meant to, but have not yet reported a pothole, do so now. Many have been repaired, but some may have been overlooked or unreported.

Please send pictures of remaining potholes to SeeClickFix, the mobile phone reporting app, or call them in to 510615-5566 with location or a close address if possible.

Sign up with SeeClickFix at: https://en.seeclickfix.com

— Carolyn Burgess
NCPC 13Y
Public Safety Committee Chair
North Hills Community Assn

Rockridge Musician/Therapist Strikes the Right Note

by Jo Ellis and Don Kinkead

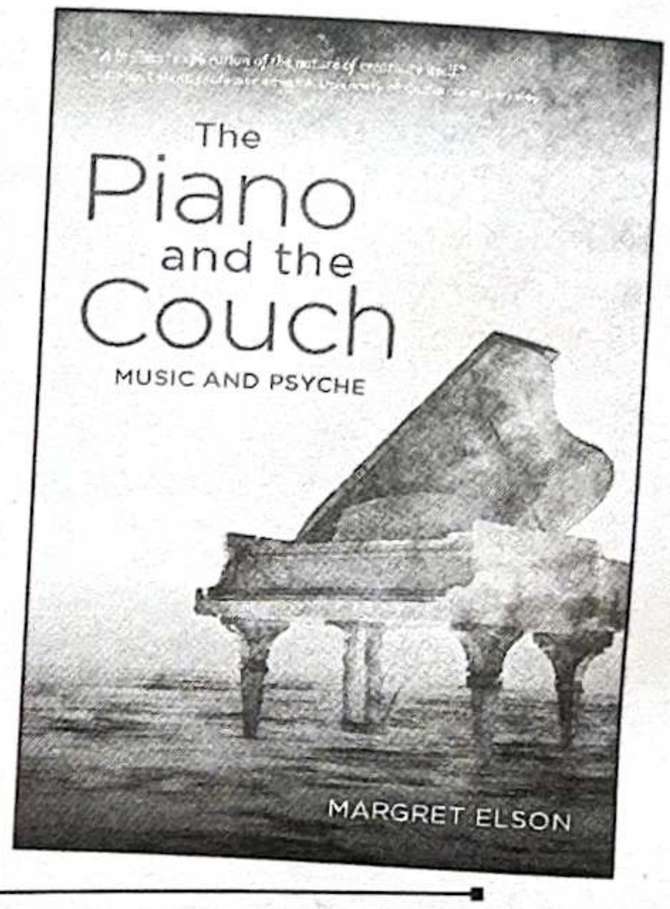


Congratulations to Margret Elson on the publication of her latest book, *The Piano and the Couch: Music and Psyche*. Margret, a resident of Rockridge for almost 50 years, is a writer, a performing musician as soloist and in ensemble, and psychotherapist. During the early days of The Rockridge News, she co-founded and wrote "The Rockridge Muse," a monthly arts and artists-oriented column for the newsletter for a number of years. She currently teaches piano and practices psychotherapy in Oakland.

In her dual careers as musician and psychotherapist, she has taught and re-trained pianists, coached instrumentalists and vocalists, and helped them overcome impediments to their artistic development.

Just published, her book is available now at our local bookstores and also on Amazon, which offers the following review: "Through detailed descriptions of real life sessions with pianists, Elson takes us on an odyssey through the unconscious worlds of her musician clients, revealing their journeys through darkness and surprise, and ultimately into the light." Describing her literary work, Margret says, "I write about the interrelationship of music and psychology, and include detailed sessions of work I do with talented, traumatized musicians."

Although none are currently scheduled, Margret will let us know when she will be appearing at Bay Area book readings.



RN Classifieds

Your Message Could Be Here
Your 36-word message is $22. (Phone number counts as one word.) Mail to: **RN Classifieds**, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. ***The newsletter's October issue deadline is September 21. The October issue*** *will be out on October 7. For information:* **smontauk@gmail.com**

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Email Rockridge News Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210 (after noon), or mail to: Rockridge News Community Calendar, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the month. **Compiled by Jo Ellis**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

District 1 Councilman Dan Kalb

Drop-in Community Office Hours: 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

- **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:

- **Talk Like a Pirate Day - Stories About Ships:** Tues, 9/19, 6:30pm. All ages welcome for a story time about ships and pirates; with sea shanties.
- **TWIG: 'Tweens ages 9 to 12** are invited to get together for crafts, snacks, writing, reading, drawing, and chatting. Every 2nd Tues each month (9/12, 10/10) 6:30-7:45pm.

FOR TEENS

- **Study Room Hours:** Do your homework at the library. A high school tutor is available for homework questions. Tues & Thurs, 4 - 5pm; Wed: 3 - 4:30 pm.
- **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 Tues, Thurs, and Fri 3:30 to 5pm; Wed 1:30 to 5pm.
- **Yu-Gi-Oh Card Game Club:** Beginners welcome. Every Friday 3:30 - 5pm.
- **Origami Fidget Spinners:** Make fidget Spinners; decorate them with colorful origami paper. All materials provided. 9/20 at 2pm.

FOR ADULTS

- **Ready, Set, Connect!** One on One Computer Help. Saturdays 11-1. Call 597-5017 to book an appt
- **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.
- **Stop Fake News:** An interactive program on the current fake news phenomenon. We'll dig in and share tips on recognizing false or misleading stories. Tues, 9/19 6:30pm.
- **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 (cancelled in Sept);** 6pm-8pm. Sign-up for lottery starting 5pm; lottery at 5:45 pm. Call day of program to confirm.

Art Exhibits:

Gallery

Sept: **Darril Tighe:** Watercolors.

Oct: TBD

Lobby Display Case

Sept: **"The Best Tool for School is a Library Card!"**

Oct: TBD

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/Readings and Events

(Name change to **East Bay Booksellers** on Sept 1st.)

FREE and open to the public.

- Thurs, 9/7, 7pm. Journalist **John Nichols: Horsemen of the Trumpocalypse:** *A Field Guide to the Most Dangerous People in America.*
- Tues, 7/19, 7pm. Local author **Janine Kovac**: *Spinning: Choreography for Coming Home.*
- Wed, 9/20, 7pm. **Tongo Eisen-Martin:** *Heaven is All Goodbyes: Pocket Poets No.61.*
- Fri, 9/22, 7pm. **Jesmyn Ward:** *Sing, Unburied, Sing.* In conversation with writer **Rahawa Haile.**
- Sun, 9/24, 3pm. PERFORMANCE! **Ilona Bray** brings to life *Mossby's Magic Carpet Handbook: A Flyer's Guide to Mossby's Model D3 Extra-Small Magic Carpet (Especially for Young or Vertically Challenged People).*
- Tues, 9/26, 7pm. **Chelsea Martin:** *CACA DOLCE: Essays from a Lowbrow Life.* In conversation with **Colin Winnette.**
- Wed, 9/27, 7pm. **Santiago Gamboa:** *Return to the Dark Valley.*
- Thurs, 9/28, 7pm. Local author **Daniel Handler:** *All the Dirty Parts.*

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 Multi-Grammy nominee **John Santos** and **The Colibri Trio**, performing lyrical and poetic music of Latin America. Sun., Sept 10, 2pm. Tickets $15: in advance at http://colibritrio.brownpapertickets.com/ or at the door (cash only) beginning 12:30pm (doors open 1:30) Refreshments and reception follows. 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. Come alone or bring friends. $5-10 sliding scale donation. The Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. Info: squirrellystringband.com.

North Oakland Senior Center

Mon. – Fri., 9am to 4:30pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way: 597- 5085

Programs include: Arts/crafts; health counseling; dancing and exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's support groups, computer classes/more.

- **TAI CHI BEGINNERS: Free** lecture and demo to kick-off the Fall session. Wed, Sept 13, 9:15am.
- **Chair Yoga:** the chair gives support to keep the body flexible and helps to bend and reach things easier. Cost $5 per person; paid at class time. Fridays, 10:30-11:30am. (An on-going class, but beginners welcome to join at any time.)
- **LAWYER IN THE CENTER:** Wed, Sept 20, 1:30-4:30pm. Call during business hrs. to make appt for 20-minute slots.
- **Sign Interest Sheet now** at reception desk for **ALL ABOARD FOR YOSEMITE trip** planned for May 8 thru 10, 2018. Then **save the date** for October 17th Information Session.

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. Call 597- 5085 for more info.

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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What do you like most about Rockridge that you want others to know about? Contact: editor@rockridge.org.



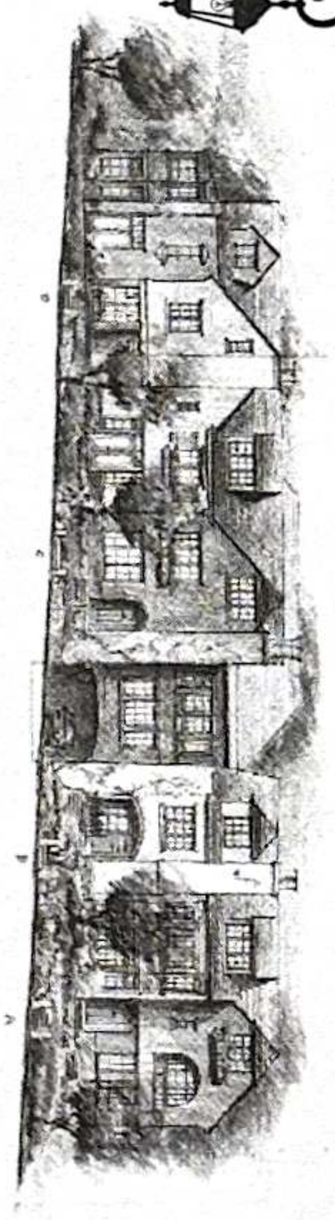
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