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Rockridge News

VOL. 32 ■ NO. 9 ■ ISSUE NO. 348 ■ October 7, 2017 CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council • 4123 Broadway, PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94611

Kids, Costumes and Candy Bags: It's the Rockridge Halloween Parade, Rain or Shine



Is it true that mummies like listening to wrap music?...

Can it be that you would find a sand-witch on a haunted beach?...

Do ghosts prefer the scary-go-round and roller ghoster at the fair?...

Find out at the 26th annual Rockridge Children's Halloween Parade. All you need is a costume, a sweet tooth and, for those under age 12, an escort.

Continuing the neighborhood's great, ghoulish tradition, the Rockridge District Association (RDA) and the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) invite you to celebrate Halloween on College Avenue. **From noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, October 29,** participating merchants will host trick-or-treating along both sides of College Avenue from Alcatraz to Broadway.

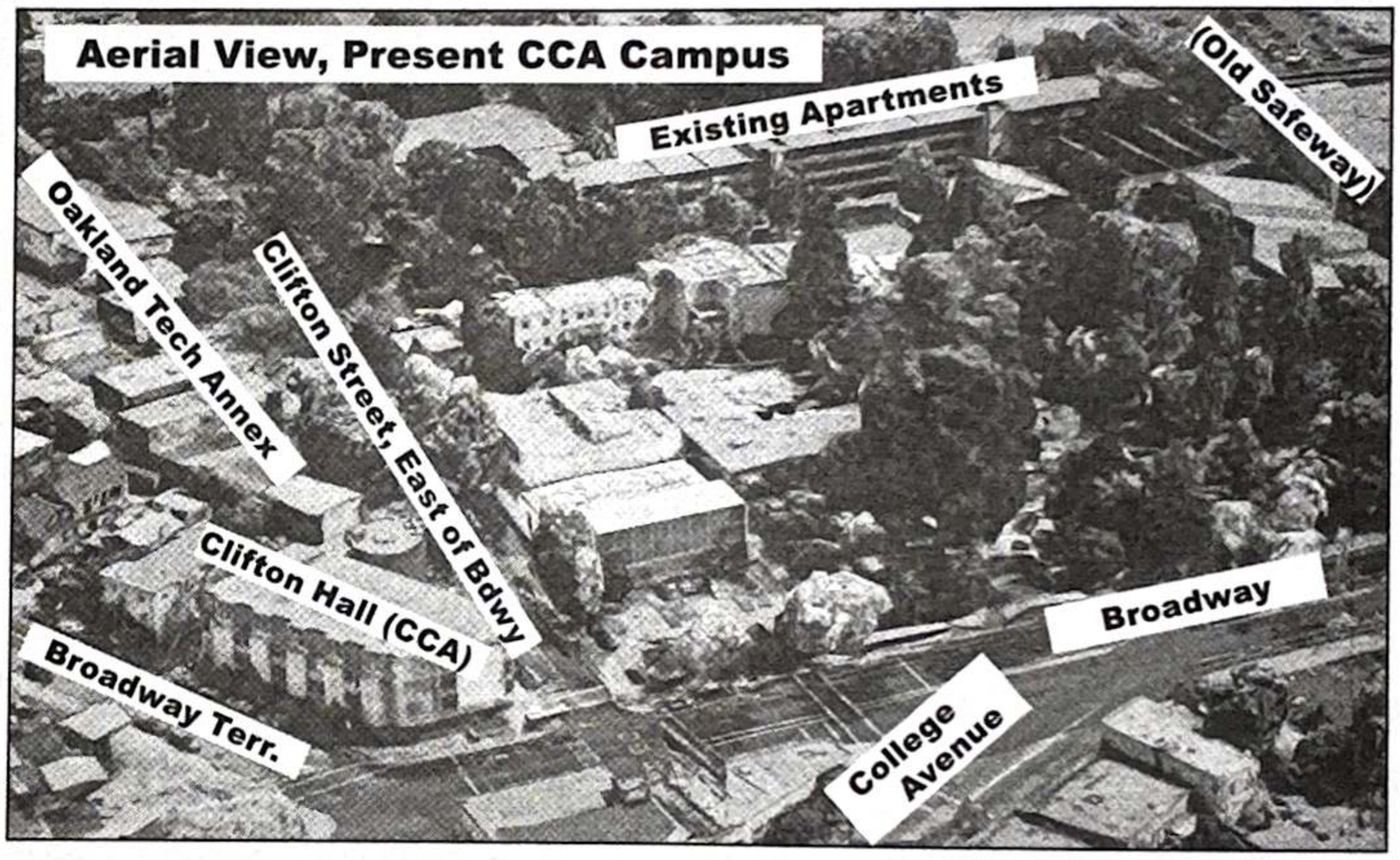
Join the costumed procession at Halloween Central in front of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College, at 11:45 a.m. At precisely noon, we'll start trick-or-treating along College Avenue. At 12:45 p.m., return to Halloween Central for spooky events and silly, scary sing-alongs led by a serenading singer. Join this holiday fun for kids of all ages. It's all happening, rain or shine.

The Rockridge District Association (RDA) and the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) co-sponsor the Parade.

RCPC October Town Hall | Thursday, October 19, 7:30–9 p.m. Rockridge Branch Library

Preliminary Plans for Reuse/Redevelopment of CCA's Oakland Campus

Representatives from the California College of the Arts (CCA) will provide a preliminary overview of reuse plans for the school's Oakland campus, including the permitting process and proposed community outreach, at the October 19 Town Hall. The project is in its early stages. The presenters will introduce the project team, and provide a virtual tour of the site, along with a description of the opportunities to provide affordable and market-rate housing, and other community benefits, while honoring the CCA's cultural legacy. CCA staff will be available to answer questions and gather input that will help to develop plan concepts and designs. More information: Tracy Craig, 510/334-4866, or email tracy@craig-communications.com. **See article, page 3.**



RCPC Seeks Your Help Now

by Stuart Flashman, chair, RCPC board of directors

As a Rockridge resident, you're accustomed to getting your copy of The Rockridge News each month and reading about what's happening in Rockridge. You're also probably accustomed to taking your kids – or took them when they were younger – to FROG Park to play, or you're accustomed to visiting the Rockridge Branch Library to check out books, CDs, or videos, or to attend a Town Hall forum on a topic of local interest.

You are also likely to appreciate being able to shop on College Avenue to buy groceries, clothing, shoes, a hardware item (or two, or three), a pleasant meal, or a service to help you look and feel your best.

In each of these cases, you're reaping the fruits of more than 40 years of the Rockridge Community Planning Council's (RCPC) work on behalf of the community, and of the many Rockridge residents who have volunteered countless hours to keep RCPC running and looking after the welfare of Rockridge, its **Your Help Sought, page 12**

Kitchen Tour Recap and Thanks

by Leonora Sea and
the Kitchen Tour Committee

There's no better way to express it: The 2017 Rockridge Kitchen Tour was a rousing success. A good time was had by all – in fact, this year's tour had many of the qualities of a large and successful community party – in this celebration of kitchens, of design, and of the Rockridge neighborhood.

The 400-plus guests toured eight outstanding kitchens, plus the entire Roll-Up House and the ground floor of the Bernard-Maybeck-designed Guy Hyde Chick House, a miraculous survivor of the 1991 Firestorm. This tour's kitchens showcased diverse styles and floor plans, all superbly meeting the needs of the owners. At most houses, architects, contractors, designers, and craftspeople were on hand to talk about the joys and challenges of creating the kitchen. Several homeowners were home for a portion of the tour, and were able to provide their perspectives on the kitchen remodeling experience. For many attendees, these conversations were one of the highlights of the event.

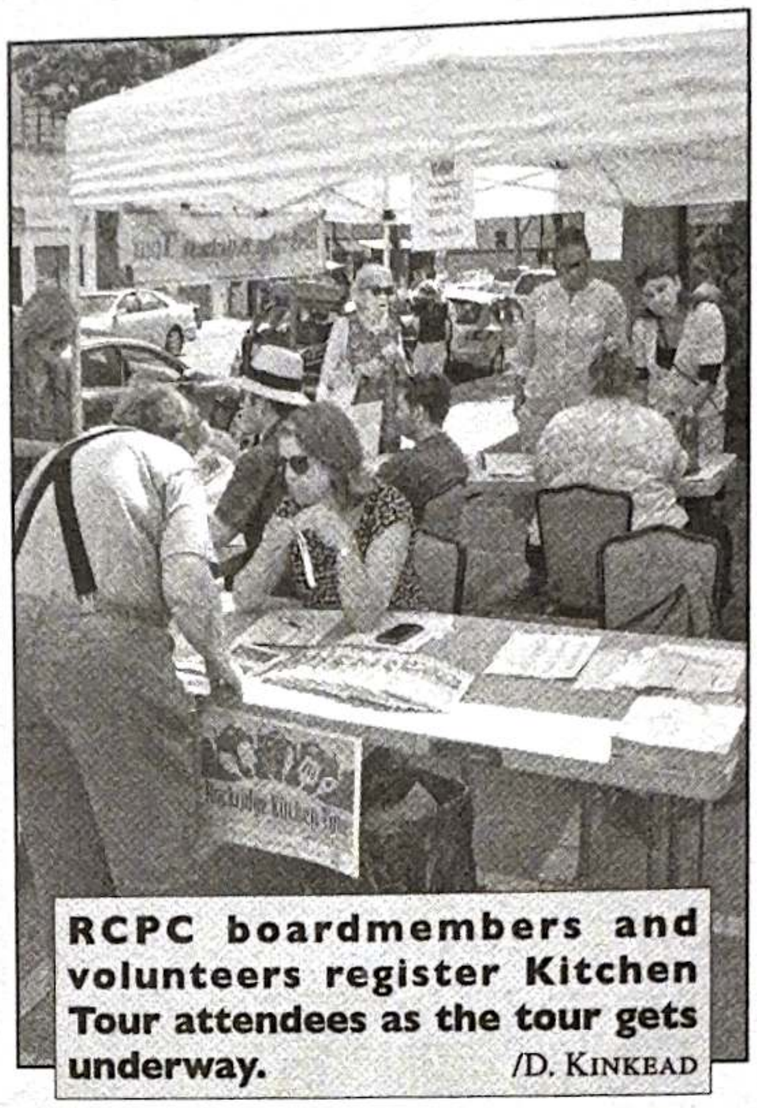
This time around, the tour was favored with lovely weather, and a number of guests chose to walk or bike the entire route. At several houses, tour sponsors, architects, and contractors took advantage of the gorgeous day to set up information tables in the garden, on the deck, or on the patio, contributing to the celebratory atmosphere.

Thanks are due to all who made the 2017 Rockridge Kitchen tour a success.

Thank you to the homeowners, including Carolyn and Jim Baldocchi, Francesca Boyd, Foster Goldstrom, Glen Jarvis, Star Lightner and Ben Riddell, Cheri and Willie Smith, and Maryly Snow, who generously opened their homes and kitchens to tour guests, patiently answered our many questions, and made themselves available for many preliminary house visits. Without them, there would have been no tour.

Thank you to the three dozen docents who made time for training sessions; recruited other friends to join the docent crew; described the kitchens; and ushered tour-goers smoothly and graciously through the houses.

Thank you to the architects, contractors, design consultants, and craftspeople who gave up a Sunday afternoon to meet guests



RCPC boardmembers and volunteers register Kitchen Tour attendees as the tour gets underway. /D. Kinkead

and talk about the kitchens.

Thank you to our Platinum Main sponsor, Realtor Ron Kriss, who made possible the outstanding banners, posters, and postcards. Thank you to our Platinum sponsor, Realtor Daniel Stea, who made possible for the first time a color tour brochure. Thank you to our Gold sponsor, Fremont Bank, for their generous contribution to RCPC.

Ken Rice deserves special mention for his evocative photographs of six of our kitchens, as does Valerie Knight for her delightful graphic design on posters, banners and brochure cover, and beautiful

▸ **Kitchen Tour Thanks, page 12**

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

Contact us at one of the following:
Editor: editor@rockridge.org;
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4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611

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

Newsletter Advertising/Deadline
Publication date of the November issue is:
☛ **November 4, 2017.**
☛ **Submission deadline is October 19, 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, October 25, 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.

Land Use Committee Update

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair

- **Alternatives: future Rockridge housing**
- **CCA site development plans**

The opportunity to learn about future plans for the California College of the Arts' (CCA) Oakland campus and to discuss a partial analysis of five alternatives for Rockridge's housing future drew a robust crowd of more than 30 people to the September meeting of RCPC's Land Use Committee. The presentation on CCA's plans is the subject of the article below. The report on the committee's discussion of the housing alternatives analysis continues at right.

Alternatives: Future Rockridge Housing

Committee chair Stuart Flashman presented PowerPoint slides summarizing the analysis to date. (Those slides can be downloaded at http://bit.ly/2xS916T.) The first slide summarized the five alternative scenarios presented in June. The second slide showed a chart summarizing the analysis done thus far.

Commenting on the chart, several committee and audience members said the analysis seemed vague and didn't appear supported by hard data, thought that more actual data was needed, and thought that the high-growth alternative #1 might not

Land Use Committee, page 10

Committee Hears Early CCA Site Plans

by Alden Conner, RCPC board member

The September Land Use Committee meeting hosted the first public discussion of plans for the redevelopment of the California College of the Arts (CCA) campus. David Meckel, director of campus planning at CCA, opened the presentation with a brief history of the school and its presence in Oakland. He explained that CCA decided to consolidate its campuses in 2006 with the goal of adding affordable student housing to the future campus. The college was able to purchase a parcel of land immediately adjacent to its existing campus in San Francisco, leading to the decision to move there and close the Oakland campus. Looking for a buyer for the historic property, CCA reached out to nonprofits and schools, but the site's unique redevelopment challenges were not well-

CCA Development, page 14

October Town Hall Topic.
See story, page 1.

College Avenue Presbyterian Church: 100 Years of Service

November 5 is the 100th year and first day of the presence of College Avenue Presbyterian Church in the Julia Morgan-designed building at 5951 College Avenue, one of the first structures built in our neighborhood. The church began downtown in 1890, moving to the burgeoning area now known as Rockridge in 1917.

Celebrate with our community at a special service Sunday, November 5, at 10:30 a.m. and/or join us for a community celebration with cake, ice cream and fun activities at noon. See www.capcoakland.org/centennial for more details.

– Pastor Monte McClain

ZONING COUNTER

6058 College Avenue

Proposal: To subdivide a parcel into four new parcels containing an existing commercial building with a rear parking lot, and three detached single-family dwellings (fronting on Florio Street).

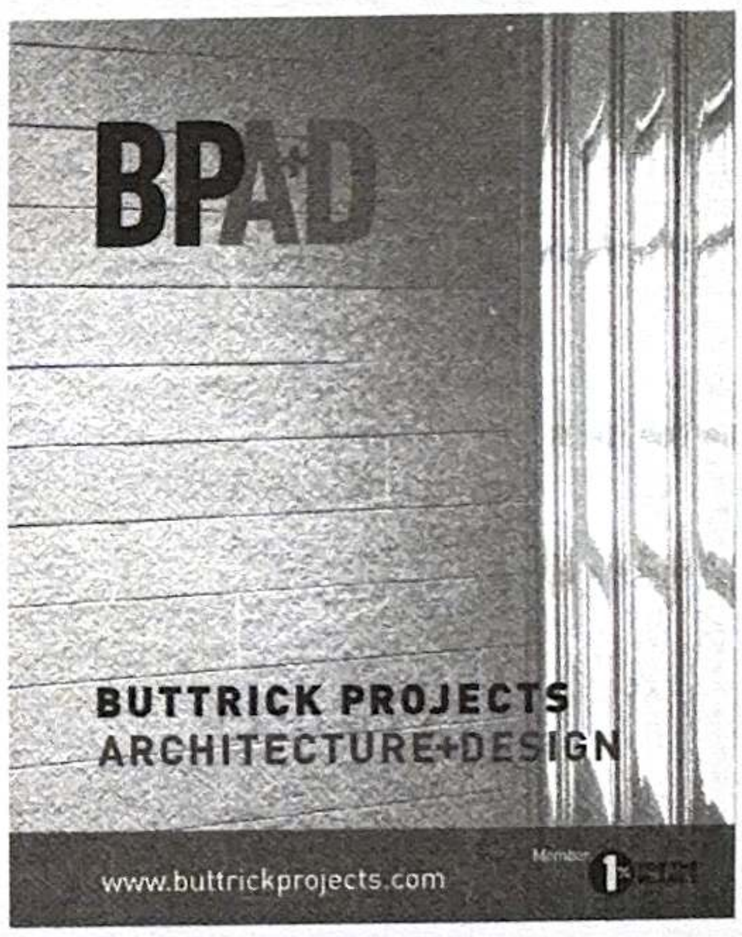
Applicant: Alexandra Kay, 510/529-5435

Owner: Olund, Larry W. & Bergquist, Mary A., Trustee

Planning Permits Required: Parcel Map Approval to subdivide one parcel into four new parcels (TPM10503); and Minor Conditional Use Permit for subdivision between existing buildings.

Case Planner: Danny Thai at 510/238-3584 or dthai@oaklandnet.com.



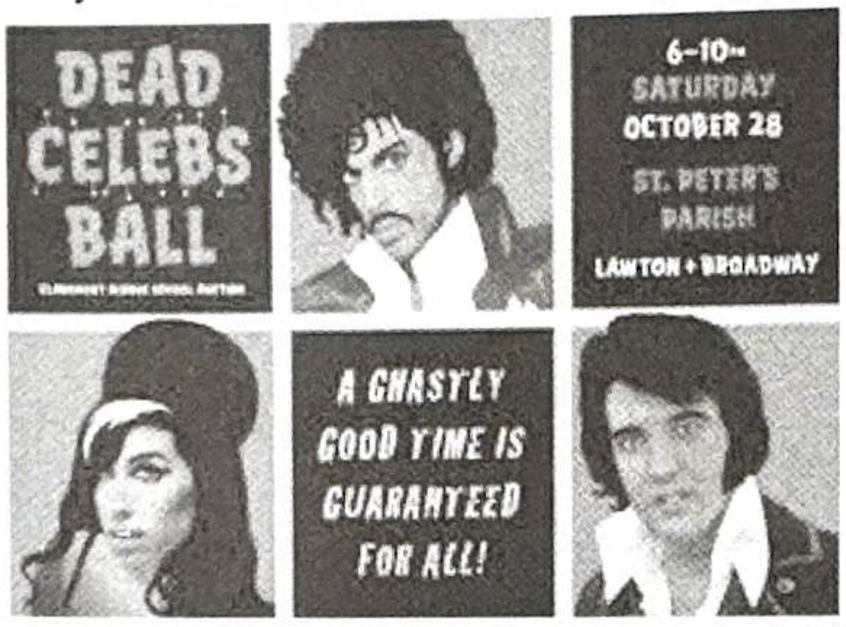


Claremont School Auction: Year 11 Dead Celebs Ball

by Aidan Wylde, Auction Co-chair

Claremont Middle School's Auction returns for its eleventh year Saturday, October 28, 6 p.m., at St. Peter's Parish hall on Lawton Avenue at Broadway.

Our Dead Celebs Ball will have Mexican food from Mi Pueblo, drinks donated by Trumer Pils and other community businesses, and music. The live auction should generate plenty of excitement, with auction items including a couple of vacation homes, unique restaurant offerings, and some cool Warriors tickets. We'll also raffle a wine cellar, a bike, even an Apple Watch.



This is our public school's biggest fundraiser each year. We're a very diverse school, committed to improving the education outcomes for all our students. Proceeds from the fundraiser help to cover the cost of our school librarian and teaching assistants in math classes, as well as nature-oriented field trips, T-shirts for athletics, and other school functions.

Partygoers: you may come in costume as a dead celebrity, or come as you are. All are welcome. We have plenty of school alumni, Rockridge News readers, and community attendees in the neighborhood.

Our District 1 Councilmember Dan Kalb attended last year and has been invited to attend this year. His office has again donated Warriors box seats. We wish him well in his future pursuits.

Special thanks go to our sponsors and in-kind donors

Tip Top Bikes, who already sponsor "Ride for a Reason," have donated a bicycle for the raffle; Ruth Goldstone at Marvin Gardens Real Estate; Tom Nitsan at MPR Financial; Maxi Lilley at Red Oak Realty; La Farine Bakery; Betty's Bakesale on Telegraph; Anne Brandon at Alain Pinel Realtors; Honda of Oakland; Albert Nahman Plumbing and Heating; and Fremont Bank.

The auction team would also like to make special mention of a major donor, alumnus family, and all-around inspiration, the Brekke-Trinclisti family. Thank you all.

Questions about the auction? Email the auction team at auction@claremontms.org.

The Claremont PTA is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Thank you for your support.

▪ Calendar This

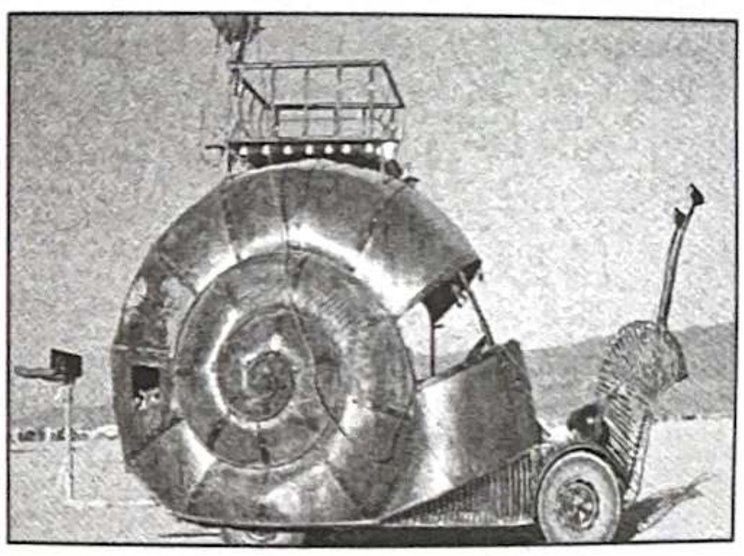
Mobile Mayor Comes to Rockridge in November

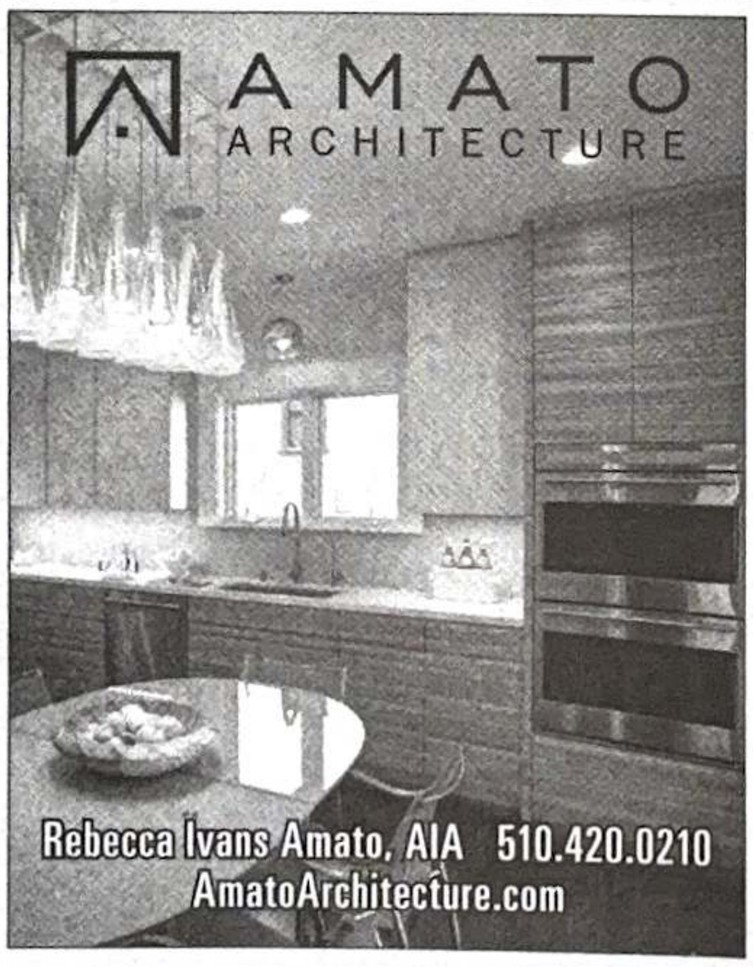
Have you got a question or concern for Her Honor, the Mayor? This summer, Mayor Libby Schaff's office inaugurated a community contact initiative called Mobile Mayor, an opportunity for the Mayor and City staff to visit different areas in Oakland, meet constituents, and provide city services.

The Mobile Mayor will be in Rockridge Saturday, November 18, from 11 a.m. to 52 p.m. at the Rockridge BART Plaza.

According to Knigi Glee of the Mayor's office, these events are in public, open spaces to provide maximum accessibility to residents. A booth is set up for the Mayor to meet with residents one-on-one for 5 to 8 minutes at assigned times. Attendees can ask questions, discuss concerns and share suggestions. Residents may also discuss other matters with City staff while they wait, or they can step away and return at their appointed time.

Watch for more details in the November issue of The Rockridge News.







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Hardy Dog Park Update and Invite

by Linda Zunas

Thank you to everyone who continues to donate supplies to our dog park. Be sure to check out our brand new website: HardyDogPark.org.

We received hundreds of donated poop bags and we are grateful not to be running out. Please continue to drop clean, empty newspaper bags off at our park in the black mailbox at the FROG Park entrance, or the green shopping bag at the Hudson entrance. Please: no empty food bags.

Our monthly cleanups continue on the first Saturday of each month, 9-10:30 a.m. And, be sure to join our email list. Simply send a note to HardyDogPark@yahoo.com

See you and your dogs out at the park.

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Want to Make Your Mark in Oakland? Paint the Town! An Oakland Program

by Oakland Department of Transportation

Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) staff members are excited to announce the Paint the Town! pilot program. This program allows community members to paint temporary street murals on Oakland's roads.

After receiving over 150 responses to our Request for Community Interest, OakDOT is seeking applications for temporary street murals. Apply for Paint the Town! Go to http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oak/groups/ceda/documents/report/oak066557.pdf and save the PDF to your computer before filling it out.

Why "Paint the Town!"?

Street murals can brighten and represent a neighborhood and help strengthen community spirit. They can also potentially slow traffic, and they are fun to make. A street mural designed and painted by community members brings people together and adds life and surprise to our streets.

Where Can Murals be Painted?

Street murals can be painted entirely on asphalt at two locations:

- At intersections of low-volume streets.
- At the midblock of streets or potentially a whole block length.

What Do You Mean: Temporary?

Street murals usually last about a year without maintenance. **Note:** The City of Oakland will not be responsible for any maintenance associated with the street murals/ paintings. The City has the authority to remove the mural, in part or in whole, at any time. Applicants are responsible for maintenance if the City deems it necessary.

To paint a street mural, applicants must submit an application by November 30, and receive approval from OakDOT. OakDOT will contact selected applicants on January 5, 2018.

For the Paint the Town! pilot program, OakDOT will select up to 30 applications, and has organized application clinics at Oakland Public Library branches to provide assistance for your application. During these clinics, community members learn more about the program and application process. Attending a clinic is not required to apply, but we encourage you to come:

- **October 10**, 4 – 5:30 p.m., West Oakland Branch, 1821 Adeline Street
- **October 11**, 6:30 – 8 p.m., Main Library, 125 14th Street
- **October 14**, 2 – 3:30 p.m., Melrose Branch, 4805 Foothill Boulevard

All Paint the Town! applications will be reviewed by The Oakland Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, which will select projects to receive in-kind support, including a designer, paint and supplies, and installation permit costs (artists' fees are not eligible). There is no need to fill out a separate application. Not all applications will be funded.

Learn more about this process online: search Oakland Paint The Town.

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Eyes on Rockridge

Triplets add life to street where their mom grew up

by Judith Doner Berne

Dana Young and her attorney husband Kaipolani K. B. Young (Kaipo) are raising their triplet girls in a Craftsman house on Ocean View Drive, two doors away from the home in which Dana grew up and where her mom, Marie Ciraulo, two of her brothers and a nephew still live.

Dana was four when the family moved to Rockridge in 1969, as BART and the freeway were being built. She attended Chabot Elementary for a year, then St. Augustine, graduating from Bishop O'Dowd High School where her triplet daughters, age 15, are now sophomores.

"It's always been a real cool neighborhood," Dana told me, as we sat on the front porch this past spring – her leg in a cast from an ACL tear suffered during a January ski vacation. "But now it's the place to be. I can grocery shop, get supplies for the house, buy a dress, a present. Getting anywhere on BART is super simple."

I came across Dana, who is vice president of strategic partnerships for World Play Project in Berkeley, through her message on my neighborhood listserv. Two of her daughters, both statewide power tumbling champions, were fundraising to pay their way to a national invitational tumbling and gymnastics competition held in Milwaukee in July.

Although twins are rampant on both sides of their extended family, Makana, Maile and Keale are the only triplets. "At least I'm the grandma, I don't have to be the mom," Ciraulo told me, having driven up and joined us on the front porch. "You can handle two (Dana's twin brothers) but three…" However, it's obvious that she helps out, as she drives off to meet the bus bringing the girls home from school.

The triplets and their dog, Kina – the other male in the household – all have Hawaiian names, a tribute to their dad's heritage. Plus, the interior of the house is replete with Hawaiian touches: furniture made from Koa wood; art by Hawaiian painters; outrigger paddles on the wall; tiki torches in the backyard; a poster listing their favorite Hawaiian beaches. "I surf and I paddle," says Dana, also a runner and skier, who describes herself as "super sporty. I really like that Aloha spirit."

It's September before I have a chance to actually meet the triplets and make contact with their dad. Then, it's clear how proud the sisters are of their heritage. "Lots of people think it's cool to be Hawaiian," Keale said. "We get to go there a lot," Maile chimed in. And there are the Hawaiian dinners their dad cooks up during the week as well as for special occasions.

It's important to Kaipo that his daughters "are humble, respect others and stay connected with *ohana* (family). We try to go home (Hawaii) so that they can visit their *tutu* (grandmother), aunties, uncles and cousins. I want them to be familiar with the culture and the island way of living."

As for being triplets, "It's just like having siblings," Makana said. "We share clothes." Yes, sometimes there's a "discussion" over who gets to wear what. "And we do our homework together," Keale said. When they were younger, the three shared a bedroom. Now, Maile has her own room and Makana and Keale bunk together. But soon an upstairs laundry area will be turned into a bedroom so each can have her own.

All three of the daughters are power tumblers and soccer players, but Makana recently gave up tumbling to concentrate on soccer, playing for her high school as well as for East Bay United (formerly the Rockridge Soccer Club). For that team, "I have to learn a new position," she explained. She was a midfielder and has been shifted to defense.

"It tickles me that the girls are involved in soccer," emailed Kaipo, who lettered in soccer for four years at Iolani High School in Honolulu. All three, he said, have been playing competitive club soccer since they were eight. But this year, Maile and Keale, who look the most alike, will limit their soccer to their high school team. That's so they can spend more time at power tumbling – in which they compete regionally, statewide and nationally.

They generally train 12 hours a week at Head over Heels TNT gym in Emeryville. Power tumbling involves many of the same skills as gymnastics, but uses different equipment – the floor, a traditional trampoline and a double mini trampoline – and isn't an Olympic sport.

Makana also is pursuing different interests than her siblings in school, where all are Honor Roll Athletes. "I really like performing arts and singing," she told me. "I also like math." "My strength is history," Keale said. "But I also like science. I might want to be a biologist." Maile also picked science as a favorite subject. "They all have different personalities," Dana mused. "But they complement each other."

As it did for their mother, Rockridge has served the triplets well as children and now

Rockridge Generations, page 7


Questions About Wills, Trusts, and Probate?
Kyle M. Johnston
Estate Attorney
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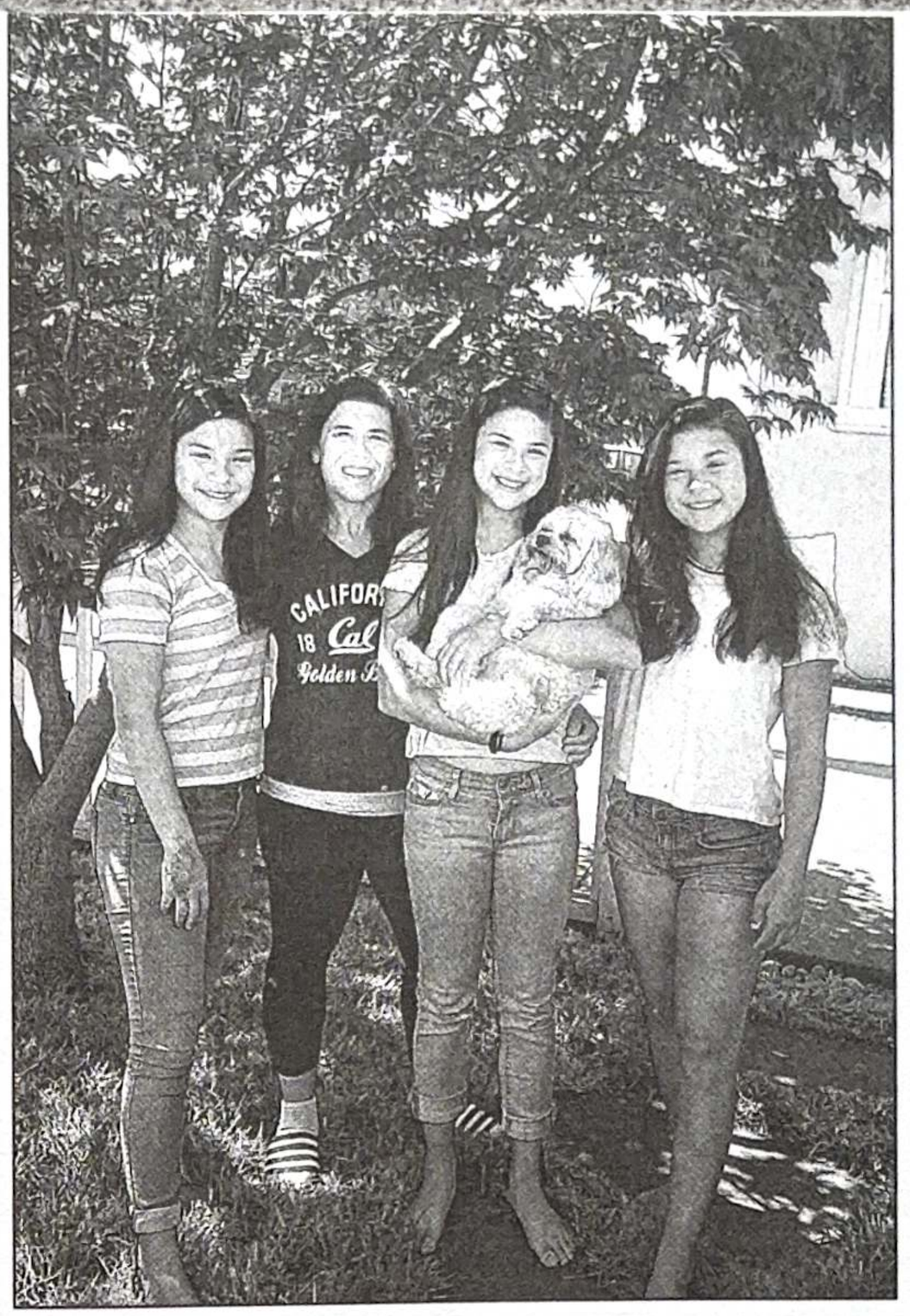
Rockridge Generations

from page 6

as teens. "When we were younger we would walk to Frog Park," Makana said. Now, their proximity to College Avenue allows them to easily meet friends to eat at Crepevine or Cactus or go for ice cream at Cream. "Most of our friends live within walking distance," Keale says.

"It's nice having our grandma so close by," Maile said. Ciraulo, who recently sustained a concussion from a fall, "is very supportive," Keale said. "We need her as much as she needs us."

Two doors down, Paul Karp and Hillary Spindler enjoy having three willing babysitters for their youngsters, ages 6 and 4. "It couldn't be more convenient. We just drop them off and run down to College Avenue for dinner," says Karp, director of research for the Oakland renewable energy company, Greenbiz. "And since there are three of them, it makes for a lot of coverage."



Maile, left, Makana (holding their dog, Kina) and Keale, right, live just two doors down from their grandmother's house, where their mom, Dana Young (second from left), grew up.

/Judith Doner Berne

Over the summer, I find out from Karp, the triplets run a week-long camp for neighborhood children and their friends, aided by the fact "they have a big trampoline in the backyard." His kids, he told me, "absolutely idolize 'the girls.' They are a fun family."

Dana and Kaipo met at University of San Francisco Law School, after she graduated from U. C. Berkeley and he from Santa Clara. "I took the bar exam and went into public relations," she said. He's a partner at the Oakland law firm, Leader-Picone & Young, LLP. Both are active at their daughters' high school where Dana runs events and Kaipo helps coach girls' soccer.

"I am a proud and lucky man," their dad said. "It has been an amazing journey seeing them develop into young women, each with her own unique personality. I am outnumbered. The bathroom can get chaotic."

"I'm already dreading when they leave for college," Dana confided. "I think it's going to be really hard because I really like them."

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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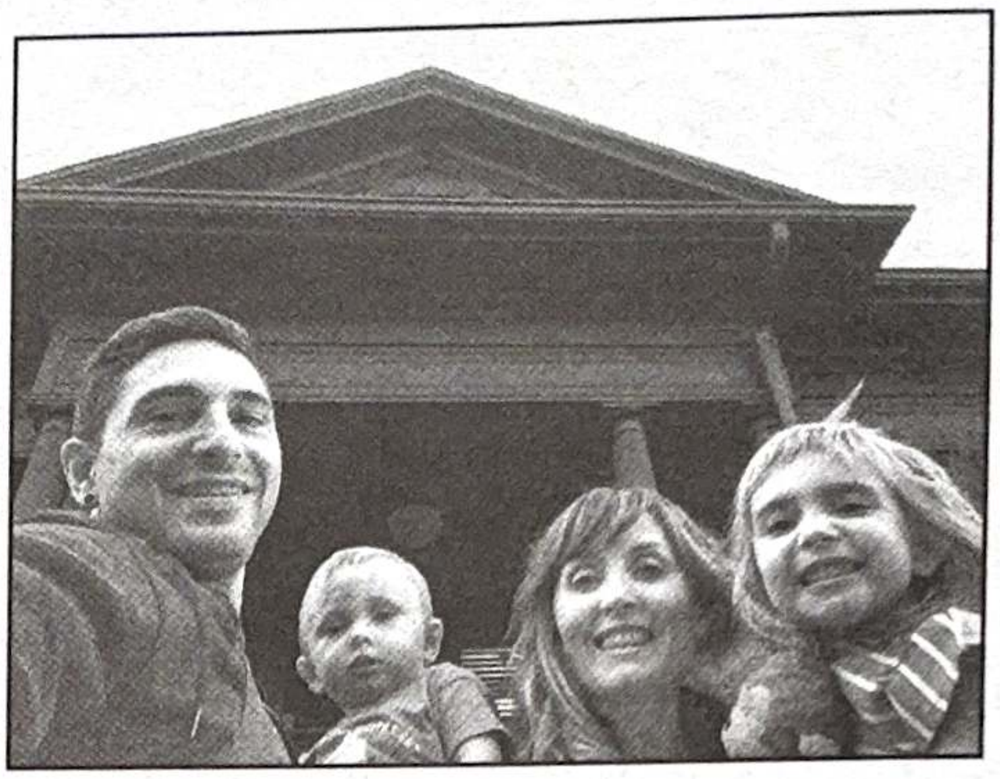
Rockridge Homeowners Find Scientific Solution to Correct Their Drafty Home

by Jeffery Liang, Senior Program Services Specialist, StopWaste

When Maria McKee and Stephan Tsochandaris purchased their Rockridge home two years ago, they envisioned it as a place where their family could spend the rest of their lives. Though they knew this home, built in 1908, needed some work, they were not prepared for the cold winter nights.

"It was as if we had no walls. It felt like we were camping every day," said Maria. With no insulation in the walls or floors, the house had difficulty retaining heat. The inefficient furnace, installed in the 1980s, only exacerbated the situation: it would cycle on and off loudly, circulating hot, dry air that would quickly leak out of the house. The constant cycling often woke the entire family, leaving them sneezing throughout the night as well as greatly increasing their energy bill.

After researching home upgrades and finding the Home Upgrade rebate program at www.BayAreaEnergyUpgrade.com, Maria and Stephan found Ultimate Home Performance, a local Oakland contractor that focused on a building science approach, treating the house as a doctor treats a sick patient. Through testing that involved blowing air into the house to find leaks, the contractor pinpointed areas that needed sealing and weatherizing. The results showed that the furnace was only 40 percent efficient and the ductwork leaked 62 percent of the system's hot airflow directly into the basement.



Maria McKee and Stephan Tsochandaris and their children in front of their now-comfortable home.

The treatment recommendations surprised the couple. Although they had assumed they would need new windows, Ultimate Home Performance suggested measures that would give them the biggest bang for their buck, prioritizing air sealing, attic insulation and new ductwork instead. In addition to these measures, they replaced the furnace with a combined hot water heater and air system known as "the Maserati of heating systems."

Now, after almost a year since the upgrades were completed, Maria says the house maintains a comfortable warmth and the right level of moisture throughout the house year-round. In addition to the savings on their energy bill, they received $3,643 in state and local rebates. And, best of all, they can decide when they feel like going camping.

Learn more at: http://www.stopwaste.org/about/about-stopwaste

Tour this Rockridge home and learn how the owners made their home healthier and more comfortable while receiving state and local rebates. **Stop by anytime Sunday, October 22, between 1 and 4 p.m. for a contractor-led tour of the home.** Register at https://RockridgeGreenHome.eventbrite.com.

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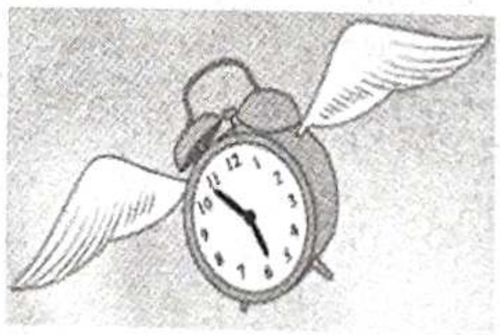
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The Mailboxes of College Avenue

by Mary Catherine Haug

Are you one of those people (perhaps of an older generation like me?) who still likes to use the mailboxes on College Avenue?

Email has its place, but there is something to be said for our written words being personally delivered as a letter on paper.

In the old days, I regularly used the mailbox at the BART station and also the one on the corner of Lawton (in front of Sukho Thai). But I've noticed recently that the collection times on both boxes were smeared over somehow, so I became wary of dropping a letter in. (Was mail really being collected?) Once I even called the West Grand Carrier Annex to inquire if these were functioning boxes; I was told that they were, but I was still skeptical.

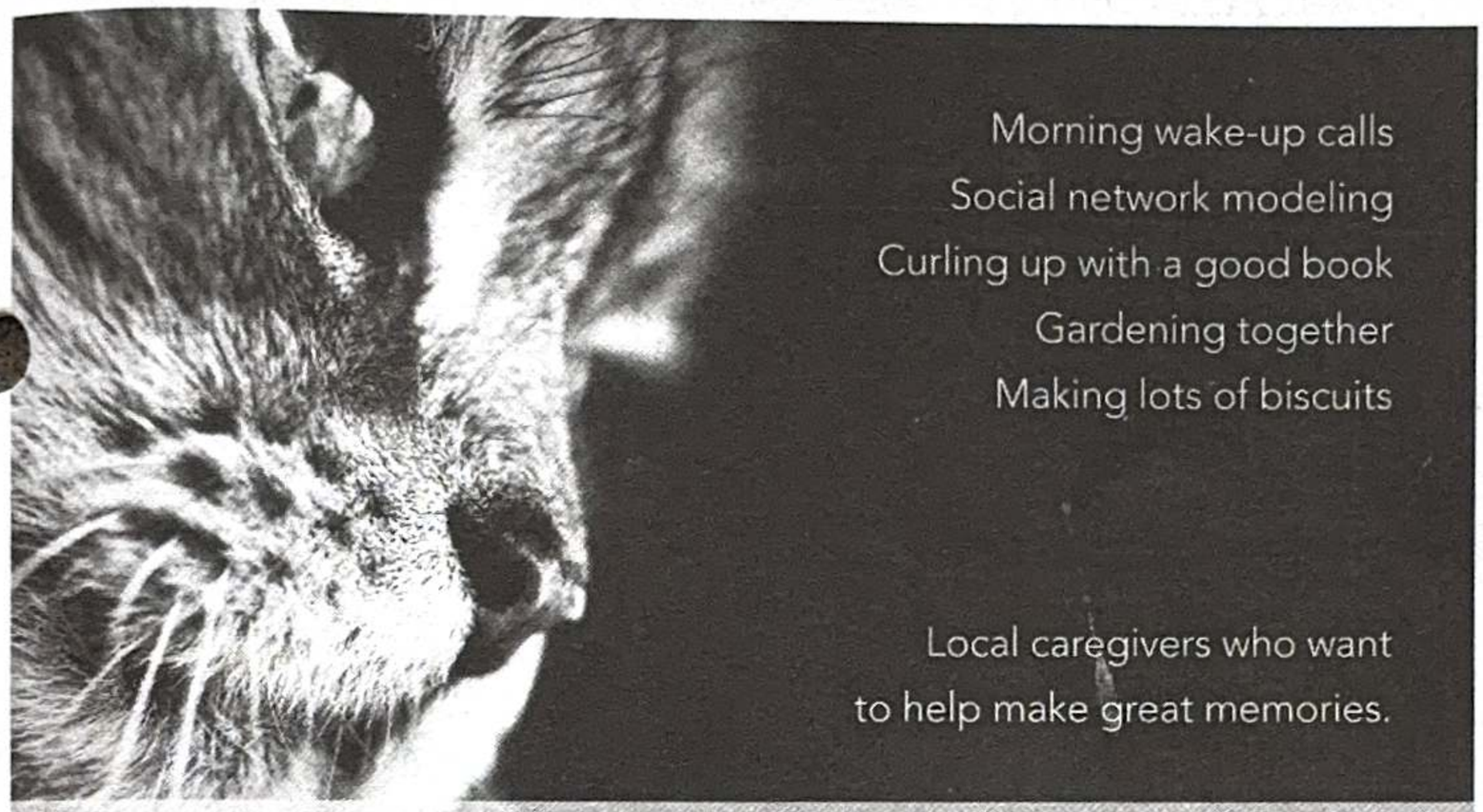
A short survey of the other mailboxes along College Avenue shows only the boxes at Claremont and Chabot Road are clearly doing business. The box at Alcatraz and College (in Berkeley) disappeared a year or so ago. The box at 5337 College (near Rikyu & Pucquio) has half of its label covered. Just around the corner from College at 5289 Broadway (Blick Art), the mailbox seems to have gotten a work-over from a talented graffiti artist. (Would you put mail in there?)

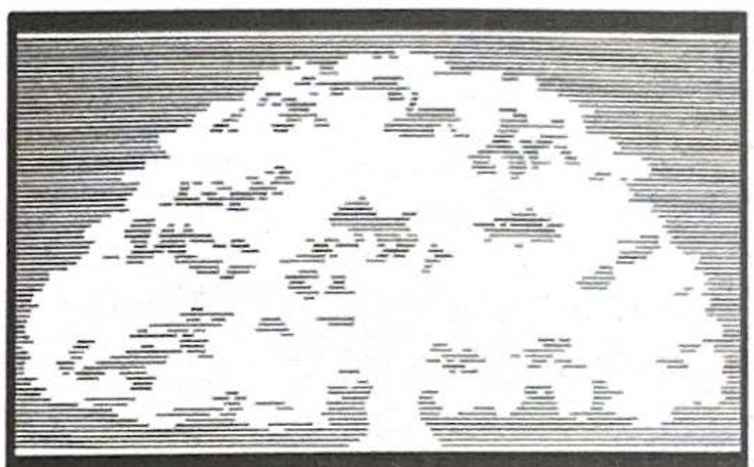
Deciding to make a personal visit to the carrier annex, I found a helpful supervisor who seemed to be acquainted with the mailboxes of College Avenue. She said that when the Chabot box was removed for repair, there was a tremendous public outcry until it was returned to service. She implied that the covered collection times of the other boxes were perhaps to discourage usage. Indeed they are not being used much, and may be removed soon.

Are the mailboxes worth keeping in service? I think so.

If you agree and want to make a personal inquiry and plea, go online to USPS.com or call 800/222-1811, or customer service at 800/275-8777.

In the meantime, use them while you can; they may soon go the way of the phone booth.




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Scene at Out & About



Band teacher Ari Brown and the Claremont Middle School Jazz Band are an integral part of Rockridge Out & About. Jazz band members must show up at school an hour before start time to practice. /Judith Doner Berne

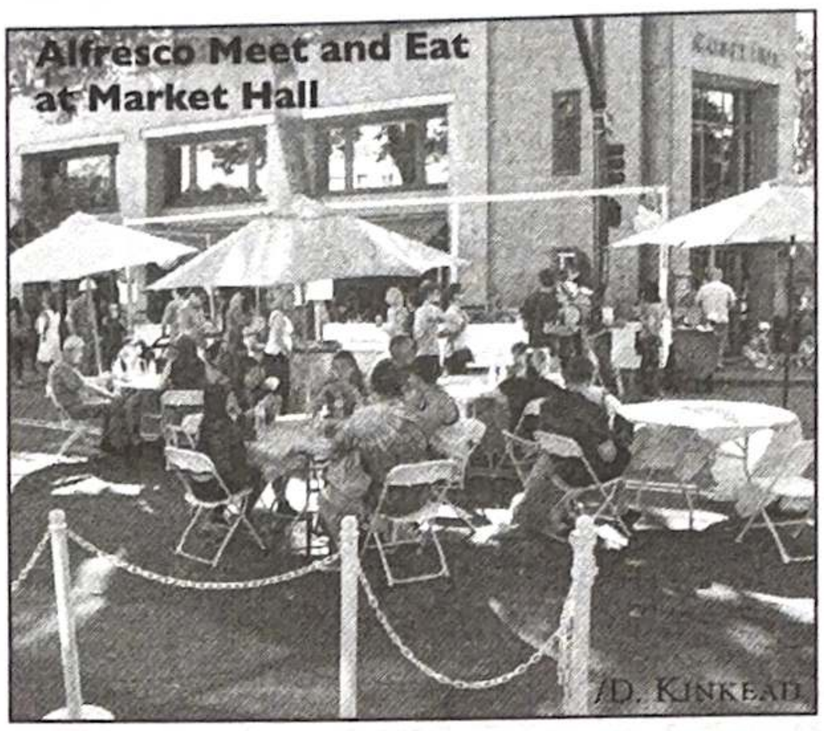


Lidia Walker with Big Blu Soul Revue

/Cindy Warner

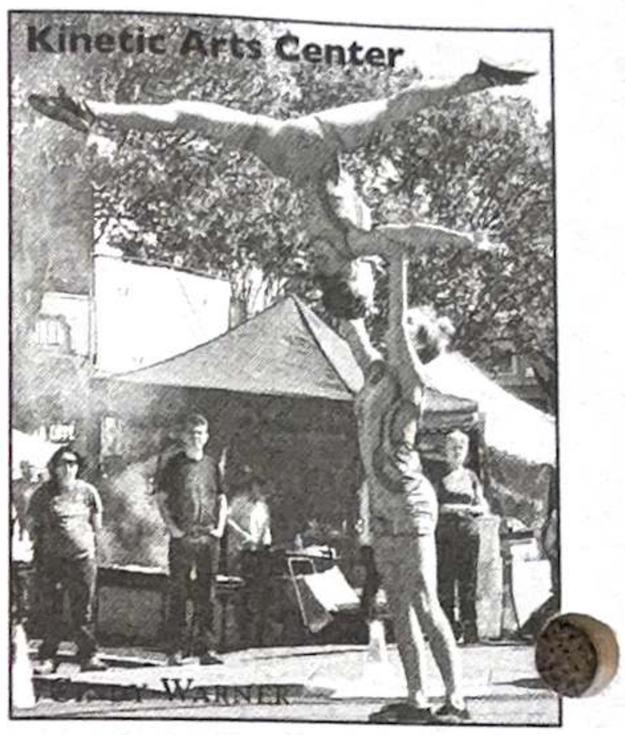


Hat Heaven /D. Kinkead



Alfresco Meet and Eat at Market Hall

/D. Kinkead



Kinetic Arts Center

C. J. Warner

More Out & About photos, top of page 14.

Land Use Committee

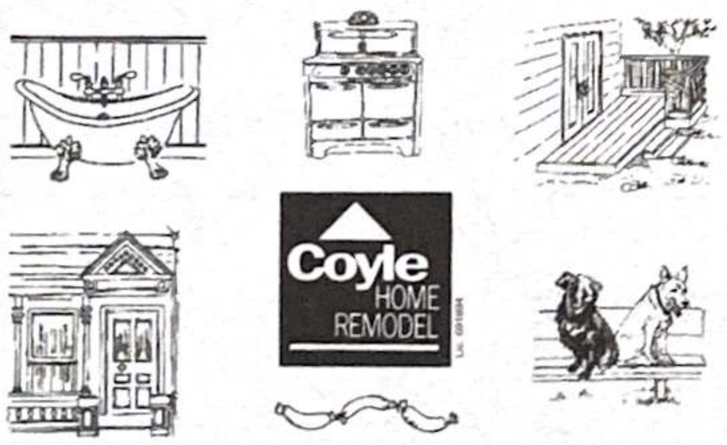
from page 3

have as much negative impact as the chart indicated. They thought the analysis should also consider sustainability as an important factor.

Responding to a question about the effect of the City's reduction of barriers to adding secondary units, Flashman said that the 100 or so units added under the "as is" scenario #5 primarily reflected the addition of such units, and that there was little data on how much the changes would trigger added units. An audience member noted that even with the changes, she had found it difficult to legalize her existing secondary unit, and thought the changes would make little difference. Another audience member commented that the most significant change was relaxing the requirements for off-street parking for secondary units.

The general feeling was that while the basic analytical method made sense, sustainability needed to be a criterion in the evaluation of alternatives. Participants also suggested that some potential impacts needed to be more closely scrutinized, and that more supporting data would be useful.

A future meeting will present a revised and expanded analysis.



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Letters to the Editor

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

College Avenue Safeway Store Neglects Its Plantings

Editor:

Now that the new Safeway store on College Avenue has had a chance to settle into the neighborhood, I have a concern about the way management is handling the store's landscaping. The plants in the five large pots in front of the store are all dead. It looks as if they've never been watered since the rains stopped in the spring. Even drought-resistant plants need some water. The other plantings don't look very well either.

It looks as if nobody at the store cares enough to spend 10 minutes a week to keep these plants alive. I'm afraid it puts me off shopping there more regularly because I wonder what else they're neglecting.

— Janet Winter

RCPC Chair Stuart Flashman Responds:

Almost four years ago, in December 2013, RCPC and two other community groups, Friends and Neighbors of College Avenue, representing Oakland residents and businesses near the proposed new Safeway, and Berkeleyans for Pedestrian-Oriented Development, representing nearby Berkeley residents, signed a Settlement Agreement with Safeway. In return for agreeing not to sue to challenge the development's approval, the groups extracted a series of promises about the project.

The City also attached numerous conditions of approval to the project. One of those conditions specifically bound Safeway to maintain, and if necessary replace, the landscaping it would be installing. Some of the Settlement Agreement's provisions, such as those relating to the project's configuration and Safeway's obligation to pay for residential parking permits for the nearby residential streets in Oakland and Berkeley, have been carried out. Others, including landscape maintenance, continue to be problematic.

The groups have sent letters to Safeway pointing out the violations, with copies to the City. Safeway has apparently ignored the letters. The City's efforts to enforce the conditions of approval have gotten only grudging and partial compliance. It probably didn't help that while the project was under construction, Safeway was bought out by private investment firment Cerberus Capital Management through its wholly-owned subsidiary, former Safeway competitor Albertsons. Albertsons' nearest offices are located, not in Pleasanton, but in Boise, Idaho.

As of now, the three community groups are pondering whether to sue Safeway, Albertsons, and Cerberus over the settlement agreement violations. That would be a big and expensive step. On the other hand, those corporations have paid little, if any, attention to fulfilling their remaining binding promises, and may not do so, unless compelled.

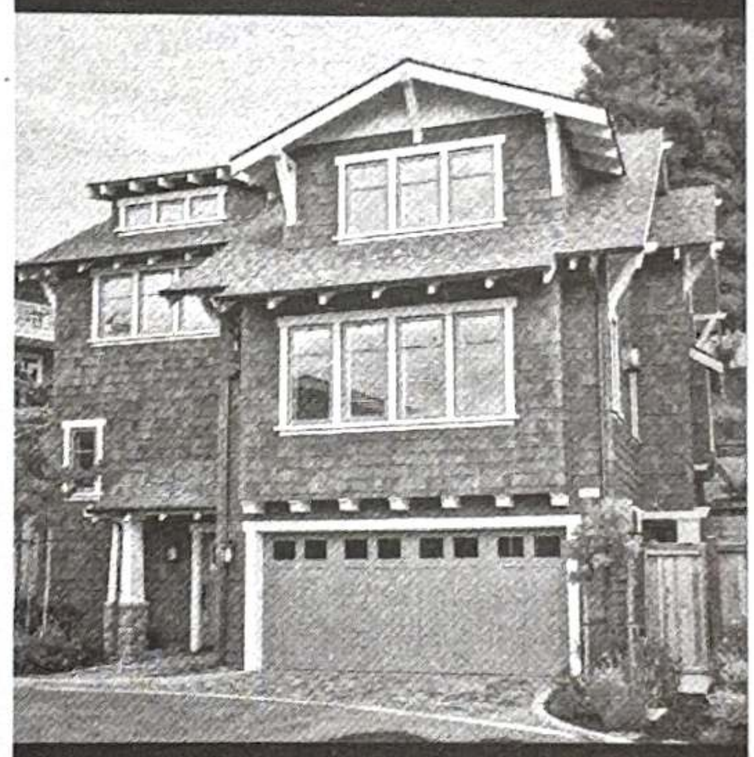
RCPC invites the community's thoughts. Email us at chair@rockridge.org or write to RCPC, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA, 94611.

— Stuart Flashman, RCPC Chair

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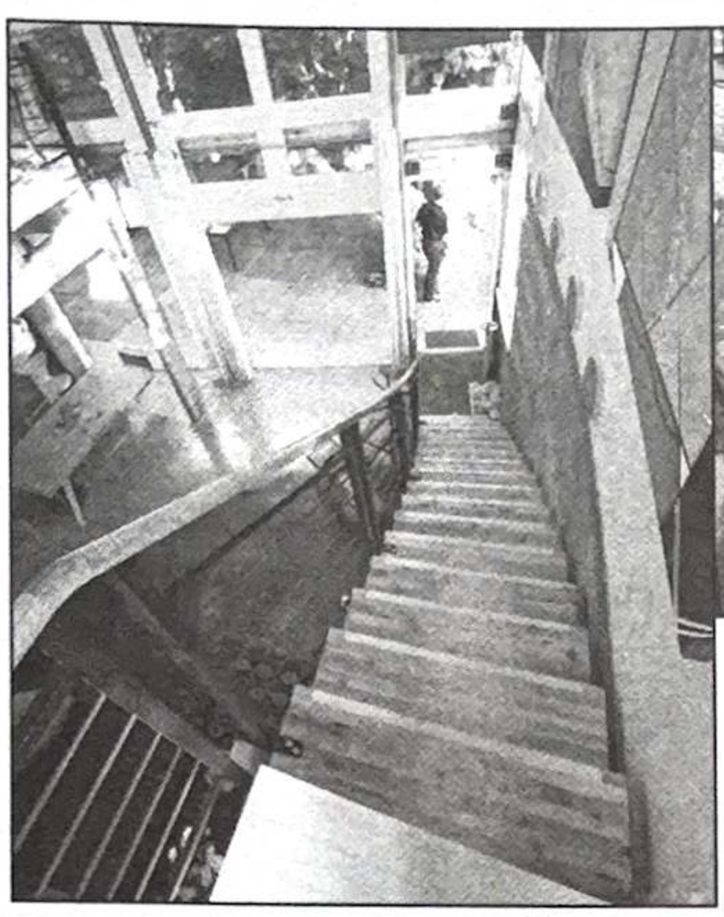
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Above: The English Aga range attracted a lot of attention at the Guy Hyde Chick House kitchen. /D. Kinkead
Left: Stairway to second floor and wide-open first-floor entry at the Kitchen Tour's Roll-Up House. /Alden Conner

Kitchen Tour Thanks

from page 2

layout of the brochure itself. The brochure presented inspiring descriptions of each kitchen along with the photographs, and for those we thank Annette Floystrup and Meredith Kaplan.

Thank you to Melanie Wallace of the Children's Support League's "Heart of the Home" tour this past spring, whose great ideas we shamelessly borrowed and who joined us as a docent at the Roll-Up House. Thanks also to Samee Roberts, who gave us helpful pointers on publicity, and shared some advertising placements with us. And a big thank-you to previous tour chairs Natalie Mehta and Jen Daskal, whose willingness to share past experience and advice was incredibly valuable.

The day of tour registration went smoothly thanks to RCPC board chair Stuart Flashman, current and former members of the RCPC board, and many friends of RCPC, who staffed the booth, sold tickets, and directed guests to the houses.

We are grateful to the late Kevin Faughnan, whose hard work at the beginning of the tour planning gave us a strong start. We wish he could have been here to enjoy it all with us.

— The indefatigable (though sometimes fatigued) 2017 Rockridge Kitchen Tour Committee: Ronnie Spitzer, Leonora Sea, Laura Schlichtmann, Eileen Ward

Your Help Sought

from page 1

residents, and its businesses.

To keep working on making Rockridge a better place to live, RCPC depends on the efforts of volunteers, people like you. Some volunteer on one or another RCPC committee such as land use and transportation and schools and parks. RCPC also cooperates with other Rockridge organizations, including the FROG Park Committee, Scenic Streets, Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL), the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (GRNCPC), and the Rockridge District Association (RDA), to keep Rockridge a safe and pleasant place for people to live, work, shop, and recreate.

Now, we ask for your help. Think about one thing you'd like to work on in Rockridge, and drop me a line at chair@rockridge.org (or, if you prefer, at our P.O. Box at 4123 Broadway, PMB 311), telling how you would like to help. At present, we particularly need more people on our land use and transportation committees; people to revitalize our schools and parks committees; and people to serve as liaisons with other Rockridge community organizations. Always, we need people to help write, edit and distribute The Rockridge News, and to help revamp our website – Rockridge.org. Perhaps most of all, we need committed people to serve on our board of directors, which keeps track of the committees and decides what RCPC's priorities will be.

If you appreciate Rockridge and RCPC's efforts, please volunteer your talent and time.

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October 19, 10:19 a.m.

Register to participate in The Great ShakeOut Annual Earthquake Drill at www.shakeout.org. For more information about Earthquakes and Preparedness visit the following websites:

Oakland Fire Department Emergency Preparedness Information
www.caloes.ca.gov/ www.ready.gov/ www.earthquake.usgs.gov/

CORE (Communities of Oakland Responding to Emergencies) Offers Life-Saving Training

Are you CORE trained? Need to refresh your knowledge? Help get everyone involved in CORE training.

Join with neighbors to form a CORE block group and arrange for 3 CORE training sessions.

For CORE I (Home and Family Preparedness) and CORE II (Neighborhood Preparedness and Response), neighbors meet at scheduled locations around the City; upon request, a group of around 15 residents can arrange for a CORE trainer to come to a location of their choice.

At CORE III, get advanced instruction at a fire department training facility where skills are taught to enable people to function as their own 1st responders in case of city-wide catastrophic events.

Click on https://oaklandcore.eventbrite.com to see the entire CORE Class Schedule for October through December.

There are three ways to register for a CORE class, workshop or event: Online at https://oaklandcore.eventbrite.com; email at core@oaklandnet.com; or call 238-6351.

Chabot Notice: The date for the **Chabot Elementary Fall Carnival** appearing in The Rockridge News September issue was incorrect. ***Do not plan to attend on October 18.*** The correct date was October 8. – *Ed.*



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Kids, Out & About



CCA Development

from page 3

suited to any of the potential buyers.

Meckel then introduced John Clawson of Equity Community Builders, and Mark Babsin of Emerald Fund, whose firms are partnering to redevelop the site. Equity Community Builders specializes in sustainable developments in the Bay Area and has a long history of working with nonprofits, and arts organizations in particular. Emerald Fund is a local developer that specializes in transit-oriented urban infill. Together they have retained four architectural firms, including a landscape architect, to develop plans for the site. They presented their major goals for the redevelopment, which are:

1) Respect and preserve the historic elements of the property;
2) Maintain the legacy of the arts;
3) Make an accessible public space; and
4) Address the Bay Area housing crisis.

Clawson and Babsin presented tentative plans for the site, focusing on three primary aspects of the redevelopment. It would provide an arts community with affordable housing for artists, studios, and a publicly accessible "arts walk" area along Clifton Street east of Broadway. The south side of the property would include a pedestrian promenade with bay views, and below that would be an outdoor sculpture garden. Three historic buildings would be preserved, and new buildings to be added would be mixed-use with shops and market-rate housing. The artist housing of 37 1-bedroom affordable units would be built in collaboration with a nonprofit developer who would also own and operate the space now called Clifton Hall, presently used for CCA student housing.

Proposals are Preliminary

Emphasizing that their proposals are very preliminary, that no plans are drawn up, that the land is zoned for institutional use and the City would have to approve any requests for change, the developers said they plan to add 500-600 units of market-rate housing across multiple buildings on the main part of the property.

At future meetings, the process will move forward with further community outreach followed by designs that will be subject to an 18-24 month approval process, likely starting in mid-2018.

The Rockridge News will continue to publish updates on the status of this project as planning progresses.

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 November issue deadline is October 19. The November issue*** *will be out on November 4. 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

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN

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

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

Special Events:

- **TWIG: 'Tweens ages 9 to 12** are invited to get together for crafts, snacks, writing, reading, drawing, and chatting. Every 2nd Tues each month (10/10) 6:30-7:45pm.
- **Evening Craft Session: For all ages.** Tues,10/24, 7pm. Learn *Repujado* - Metal embossing with Rachel-Anne Palacios, and make your own *repujado milagro*. Create a traditional *ofrenda* and learn about *Dia de los Muertos* and **Latino Heritage Month**. Bring a picture of a loved one or another item for the *ofrenda*.

Pumpkins & Ghosts Story Time: Sat., 10/28, 10:30am Halloween stories, face painting, a photo booth, and everyone can decorate a trick-or-treat bag. **Can come in costume.**

- **Spooky Stories on Halloween Night:** Tues, 10/31, 7pm. If you're done with trick-or-treating, come to the library for stories in the dark. Best for ages **5 to 12.**

Young Writers National Novel Writing Month: People ages 9 to 12 are invited to write a novel in the month of November. We'll meet every Wednesday afternoon, 2:30-5pm, or stop by anytime. **Sign up & attend Opening Day session on Wed., 11/1** (especially if you want a sticker, pencil, & notebook). RSVP to Erica at esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org.

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.

Washi Tape Notebooks: To celebrate Teen Read Week and unleash your story, decorate notebooks with Washi tape, 10-11, 2:30pm.

- **Smash Tournament:** Call for all level of Wii U Smash Brawl players. Rockridge branch tournament on 10-18 at 3 pm.

FOR ADULTS

- **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 Rockridge Library over six evenings: 10/4, 10/5, 10/11, 10/12, 10/18, and 10/19; and one full Saturday,10/28. More information: Rochelle at rvenuto@oaklandlibrary.org, or 238-7453.
- **Ready, Set, Connect!** One on One computer help. Tuesdays 5:30-7:30pm and Saturdays 12-2. Call 597-5017 for appt.
- **eBook Help:** Work one-on-one with a librarian; get started using amazing collection of digital resources. Fridays, 2 -3:30pm. Make appt. 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.
- **Fall Gardening in Oakland:** Saturday, 10/14, 11am to noon. A Master Gardener will highlight outstanding plants for Alameda County and show us what to plant this fall. Includes planting demonstration.
- **Knitting Workshop and Meet-Up:** Saturday, 10/21, 3-4:30pm. Learn to knit or crochet. All levels welcome. **Supplies provided.**

NaNoWriMo: Come Write In!: Tuesdays in November, 6-8 PM. Take the NaNoWriMo challenge: Join us for National Writing Month meet-ups. **Check in each week for a raffle ticket.**

Art Exhibits:

Gallery and Lobby display case TBD: **call for info.**

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

East Bay Booksellers Readings/ Events

FREE and open to the public.

- Wed, 10/11, 6:30pm. **Freud's Bar** (monthly talks given by local Bay Area psychoanalysts, aimed at students ages 16-25, while enjoying drinks and snacks). **"What were they thinking?!"** — Freud's Insights into Group Psychology. Presented by Analyst **Charles P. Fis`her, M.D.**
- Sat, 10/14, 3pm. **Jessica Reid Sliwerski; Mika Song** (Illustrator): *Cancer Hates Kisses* (picture book for 5-8).
- Sun, 10/15, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Sharon Doubiago** and **Doreen Stock.**
- Mon, 10/16, 7pm. **Barbara Ann Radnofsky:** *A Citizen's Guide to Impeachment.*
- Tues, 10/17, 7pm. **Hernán Diaz:** *In the Distance;* In conversation with **Aaron Bady.**
- Wed, 10/18, 7pm. **Dashka Slater:** *The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives.* In conversation with journalist/poet **Al Letson.**
- Sat, 10/28, 7pm. **Blaise Hemingway** and **Jesse Reffsin** with illustrators **Chris Sasaki** and **Jeff Turley:** *Ghost.*
- Sun, 10/29, 3pm. **Erika Mailman:** *The Murderer's Maid: A Lizzie Borden Novel.*

East Bay Booksellers, 5433 College Ave. More info abt. the authors, books and other events: 653-9965 or www.ebbooksellers.com.

Wisteria Ways House Concert

Voci Angelica Trio: An international band with members from three continents. World folk and traditional to classical. **Jodi Hitzhusen** and **Meena Malik,** voice/percussion, and **Aristides Rivas,** cello. Saturday Oct 28, 8pm. House opens 7:30 (inside venue, not wheelchair accessible). $15-20 donation for musicians (cash only at the door). 383 61st Street. Reservations: info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

Free Outdoor Classes/Activities: REI

Includes Yoga tailored to outdoor activities; planning for hiking and backpacking trips; California camping basics including gear and equipment, local activities, great regional resources and areas to camp; bicycle repair; and more. Go to https://www.rei.com/stores/berkeley.html

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.

- **Sign Interest Sheet now** at reception desk for ALL ABOARD FOR YOSEMITE trip planned for May 8 thru 10, 2018. **Information Session, October 17.**
- **Medicare Open Enrollment Seminar:** Important information you need to know when choosing or changing your Medicare Plan. Presented by HICAP. Tuesday, October 24, 10:45am -12 noon.

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.

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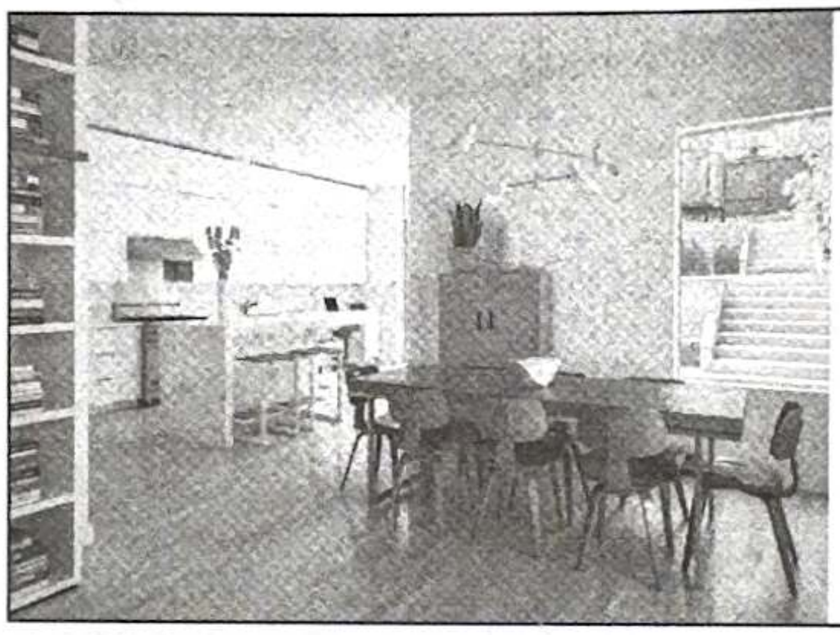
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