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Rockridge News

VOL. 32 ■ NO. 10 ■ ISSUE NO. 349 ■ November 4, 2017 CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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Traffic Jams and Clouds of Dust Herald Final B'way Paving

Letter to the Editor

A Constant Cloud of Dust

Editor: We are excited for the road diet on Broadway between College and Highway 24, but the construction this week was poorly planned, carelessly noticed, and executed in a manner that unnecessarily put kids' health at risk.

I am a parent of two small kids who go to one of the preschools on Broadway. That stretch of Broadway has multiple day cares and preschools serving infants and toddlers. RMS, where my kids go, has 6 classrooms of about 20 kids each – around 120 kids under 5 years old in this one location. This week [October 22-28], Broadway was a constant dust cloud that resulted in our kids' preschool canceling outdoor playtime for the entire week despite the fact that the weather was beautiful. Their playground and outside toys are covered in a thick layer of fine dirt that now the teachers will have to clean before kids can play again.

The teachers said they had no warning and didn't know that this was about to Big Dust Cloud, page 13

Editor's Note: this letter was representative of several received by RCPC on this topic. RCPC will check with the City about the circumstances and may publish a follow-up article in December.



Long trucks and tight turns blocked upper Broadway traffic during a big paving job on Friday, October 27. /Don Kinkead

October Town Hall – Big Plans for CCA Re-Use; Zilch for 'Ridge Shops' Phase 2

by Stuart Flashman, RCPC chair

The Rockridge Community Planning Council's (RCPC) October Town Hall meeting was a "twofer": presentations about two adjacent but not connected sets of development plans along Broadway at the eastern boundary of Rockridge. One, the re-use of the California College of the Arts (CCA) Oakland campus; the other, the stalled Phase 2 of the "Shops at the Ridge" project.

CCA Site Development

With CCA planning to move its program entirely to San Francisco within the next couple of years, the audience heard about what's being planned for the re-use of its 4-acre site, located just east of Broadway and just north of the Shops at the Ridge shopping center site.

David Meckel, Director of Campus Planning for CCA, gave the bulk of the presentation, with assistance from John Clawson of Equity Community Builders and Mark Babson of Emerald Fund, the two developers CCA has partnered with to plan the re-use. CCA has been at the site, originally the Treadwell Estate, since 1926 and has built numerous additional college buildings beyond the original mansion and carriage house, both of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The most recently built college building is Clifton Hall, a student dormitory at the corner of

Town Hall Reports, page 12

Mobile Mayor Brings City Hall to Oakland Residents: Nov 18

Update: Time Change

As reported in the October issue of The Rockridge News, a Mobile Mayor event is scheduled for Rockridge on Saturday, November 18, at the Rockridge BART Plaza from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. (Note: The time has changed from that reported in the October newsletter.)

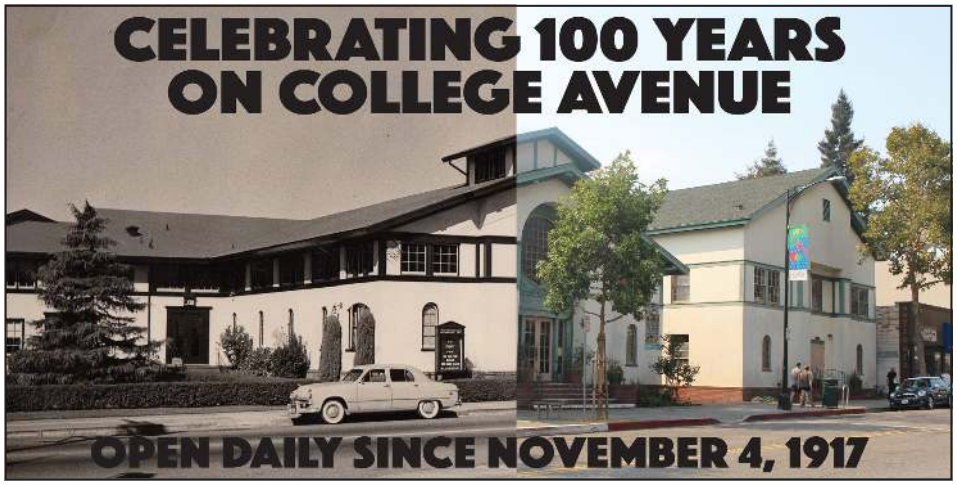
You are invited to stop by and discuss city topics of interest in a one-on-one meeting with Mayor Libby Schaaf. In addition, City staff will be available to attend to concerns relating to illegal dumping, housing and other city and neighborhood issues; Adopt-a-Spot staff will be present for on-site registration; and the East Bay SPCA will be present to provide pet adoption services.

The next Mobile Mayor event is scheduled for December 9 at Clinton Square Park, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (12th Street and 6th Avenue).

Learn more about Mobile Mayor and view past events at the Mobile Mayor website at https://sites.google.com/view/oaklandmobilemayor/home.

Questions? Email;
OaklandMobileMayor@gmail.com

Knigi Glee, Marketing Implementation Manager of Community Engagement | Office of Mayor Libby Schaaf. Mobile: 704/804.2864 | KnigiGlee@gmail.com.



Join Us: Community Thanksgiving Day Meal at College Avenue Presbyterian Church

by Pastor Monte McClain

I find myself bombarded with the deluge of terrible news: hurricanes, the violence in Las Vegas, the fires in the Wine Country, our housing crisis, the threat of nuclear war. Thanks to technology and my smartphone addiction, the pictures are too present and too vivid. The endless news cycle is completely overwhelming.

While I recognize my privilege in terms of safety, a home, and enough to eat, I feel the trauma plaguing much of our culture and nation. Some talk of burnout or compassion fatigue, pointing to the challenge we face to have the courage to hope and heal. Whatever path we choose must be a reality-based, muscular response that involves all of our being, not just a depersonalized swipe or dehumanizing click.

The holiday season beginning this month and going through the new year is one in which our altruism is awakened or renewed. We're more willing to lend a hand. We're more eager to help our neighbors. We're more ready to give of our money and time. The opportunities for helping others within our own city are legion; many also exist right here in North Oakland. One of those opportunities is the annual free Thanksgiving Community Meal at College Avenue Presbyterian Church.


/Courtesy of CAPC

This year, College Avenue Presbyterian Church hosts its annual Thanksgiving Day Community Meal on November 23 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at 5951 College Avenue. The meal is a joint project of our Rockridge Community, involving congregational members, local merchants and residents. It is an opportunity to respond as a community to the needs of those struggling with hunger, solitude and joblessness. The meal generally serves

➧ **Community Meal, page 14**

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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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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:
☛ **December 2, 2017.**
☛ **Submission deadline: November 16, 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, November 29, 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge Branch Library upstairs meeting room. **Note date change!** 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 – November 2017

Redfield Cider Bar and Bottle Shop
(5815/5817 College Avenue)

Mike Reis, one of the principals of the enterprise, presented the plans for this proposed bar/bottle shop, which would be located at the former site of See Jane Run. The use would require a minor use permit from the City and a Type 42 license (beer, wine & cider on-site/off-site consumption) from the State Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. No application has yet been submitted to the City.

The proposal would combine a bar/tasting room focused on premium quality ciders (alcoholic), but also serving beers and wines, along with light food to accompany it (e.g., cheeses, olives, salted nuts). There would also be some nonalcoholic beverages available. There are no plans to sell distilled spirits. The store would also sell bottled ciders, beers, and wines. Hours are projected to be noon – 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and noon to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. (Last call would be half an hour before closing time.) They do not plan to have any live music and expect any recorded music would be low-key.

Comments received by the committee included some favoring and some opposing the application. Those favoring felt it would be a welcome addition to College Avenue and would diversify the offerings available. Those opposing either felt that there were already too many venues serving alcohol on the street and the site should be reserved for a purely retail use, or expressed concerns about potential parking, trash, and noise problems.

After discussion, the committee voted to recommend that RCPC not oppose the proposal. The Board will consider the proposal at its November 29 meeting.

Proposal for 4-Story Mixed-Use Building (File Pln17269)
5353 College Avenue (Location of Better Homes Realty)

This proposal was reviewed informally by the committee several months earlier; however, the committee lacked a quorum at that meeting so no recommendation has been made to the Board. The project would construct a 3-story building with commercial space and parking on the street floor and nine market-rate apartments above. The one-story craftsman bungalow now occupying the site would be raised up Proposed Building Change, page 13

NCPC Report | November 2017

Spate of Car Break-ins Hits Rockridge & Vicinity

Car break-in specialists made a busy night of it in Rockridge and environs on Thursday evening, October 19.

According to Chris Jackson, Operations Manager for the Rockridge District Association (RDA), a total of 11 automobiles were broken into that night on College Avenue and in Piedmont and Temescal. In Rockridge, two of those break-ins occurred in the city parking lot next to the Rockridge Branch Library, and an additional three vehicles parked on College Avenue near the library. Library staff members leaving a training program at the library retrieved two purses and a backpack they found rifled and abandoned near the library entrance, turning them in to Jackson for safekeeping. He was later able to return NCPC Report, page 14

The NCPC does not meet in November. The next meeting is December 14. Email the NCPC at chair@rockridgencpc.com if you have items you'd like to add to the NCPC agenda.





Jingle Your Bells in Rockridge this Holiday Season!

Whether looking to deck your halls or jingle your bells, Rockridge is the place to be with so many merchants gearing up for a festive, something-for-everyone 2017 holiday season.

Fifteen Rockridge brick & mortar businesses are participating in **Plaid Friday Weekend November 24 – 26** in association with Oakland Grown, Townsquared, East Bay Express and the City of Oakland.

In addition, the **Rockridge District Association** (RDA) is planning a host of activities to celebrate the season; all the more reason to make Rockridge your holiday home base.

Plaid Friday Weekend – November 24 - 26

The national Plaid Friday movement was founded right here in Oakland. The plaid theme represents the weaving together of



Oakland's creative and diverse community of small business owners and their shops and products to create a strong and beautiful fabric. Plaid Friday is an inspired shopping alternative to the big box "Black Friday" experience. It is designed to promote the social and economic benefits of spending your time and dollars with independently owned businesses on the busiest shopping day of the year – and all season long.

Commercial business districts and individual merchants, restaurants, bars, service providers, artists, and artisans in Rockridge and throughout Oakland are participating with lively entertainment, holiday decor, sales, extended hours, special events, pop-ups, gift wrapping, and free parking. Info: www.oaklandgrown.org

Rockridge Plaid Friday Weekend Participating Businesses:

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Additional Rockridge District Association 2017 Holiday Activities

Saturday, 11/25

1 - 3 p.m.: **Santa at BART** Plaza plus children's activities and games, all part of Plaid Friday Weekend

Saturday, 12/9

1 p.m.: the Tap Dancing Christmas Trees at BART Plaza

2 - 4 p.m.: **Photos with Santa**

4 - 6 p.m.: Strolling Carolers

More info: www.rockridgedistrict.com



/Photos D. Kinkead

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Mini Changes, Major Fun: Mini-Roundabouts Coming Soon to Shafter

by Oakland Department of Transportation Staff

When a street gets repaved, it's a magical time. The stripes are bright, the crosswalks are crisp, and the street is so, so smooth.

At the Oakland Department of Transportation, or OakDOT, we're excited about delivering more repaved streets with funding from the recently-passed Measure KK, which will provide $350 million for infrastructure repairs over the next ten years. As we ramp up our capacity to deliver these needed state-of-good-repair fixes, we also think it's the right time to make sure our streets are as safe and inviting as they can be for people walking, biking, and driving.

That's why we've been looking closely at Shafter Avenue between Forest and 51st Streets. This segment is scheduled for repaving next summer, so we're developing our plans now.

We think Shafter is due for a traffic calming upgrade, and we're planning to implement mini-roundabouts at three locations on the street: Cavour, Clifton, and Hudson.

Because of the bicycle route designation, we think Shafter is a great place for mini-roundabouts. Mini-roundabouts are raised, circular concrete islands placed in the middle of neighborhood intersections. These safety treatments can make the street safer for everyone by encouraging lower vehicle speeds. Mini-roundabouts can also serve as a mini-garden in the middle of your street, further beautifying the neighborhood.

We got our inspiration from the mini-roundabouts in Berkeley and in Seattle, where neighbors work together to add charming and delightful personal touches, such as painted birdhouses. A study by the City of Seattle DOT found that Seattle's mini-roundabouts also compel drivers to slow down when approaching intersections.

We want to be sure we're talking with neighbors wherever we do projects, so we recently sent a survey to residents along Shafter and on intersecting blocks where we're considering the project. We heard back from many of you, and most respondents agreed; planted mini-roundabouts make sense on Shafter. Here's what some neighbors told us:



Planted Mini-Roundabout in Seattle/Dongho Chang, Seattle Dept. of Transportation.

- "I *love* the idea of the planted roundabouts. I have seen them in Berkeley and they look great. Plus, they substantially slow down traffic that otherwise blasts through the stop signs."
- "You definitely need roundabouts. No one stops at stop signs around here anymore."
- "Roundabouts seem to me like a happier way to moderate traffic speed, and planted roundabouts would help make the neighborhood more attractive."

We also polled residents about the speed humps, which have been on Shafter for more than a decade, and about whether we should add more. Most of the residents we heard from were unsure about additional speed humps. Many expressed frustrations

Shafter Roundabouts, page 13



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10/05/2017	2	2	5343 Broadway Terrace	$485,000	$485,000	13	$640,000
10/06/2017	4	3	6116 N Rockridge Blvd	$1,550,000	$1,550,000	14	$1,900,000
10/10/2017	3	2	321 Glendale Avenue	$1,095,000	$1,095,000	14	$1,620,000
10/11/2017	2	2	250 Whitmore St	$499,000	$499,000	15	$580,000
10/20/2017	3	3	5697 Keith Ave	$1,095,000	$1,095,000	14	$1,525,000

Homes sold in October closed 33% over the asking price on average.

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Eyes on Rockridge

Local Physical Therapist Tackles a Book On Total Knee Replacement (and More)

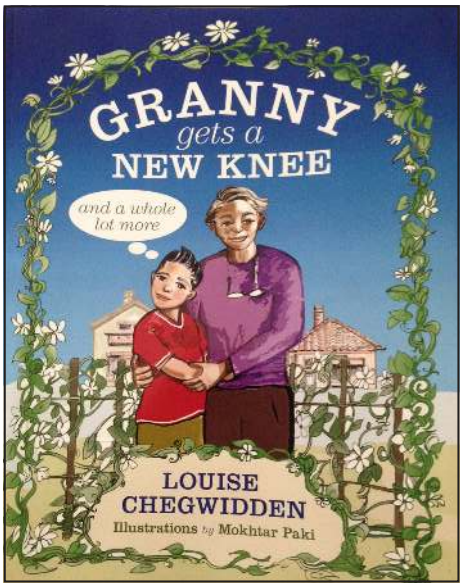
by Judith Doner Berne

A week or so before my knee replacement surgery last November, a friend passed on to me a book given to her before her own operation. Titled *Granny Gets a New Knee (and a whole lot more)*, it's somewhat of a picture-book, written and self-published by Temescal resident Louise Chegwidden and illustrated by Berkeley artist and teacher Mokhtar Paki in 2014.

Chegwidden, a physical therapist for 36 years, teaches a weekly drop-in Feldenkrais movement class at the Jeffrey Bihr Studio in Rockridge. "Simply put," she said, "the Feldenkrais method is body learning through focused attention to differences in sensation as we move." She moves like the former dancer she is.

You might recognize her name from the local theater scene. When the South Africa-born, Australia-raised Chegwidden suffered a neck injury from dancing, she took up acting and has appeared in roles at Berkeley Rep, TheatreWorks and Shotgun Players. She met her husband, former Berkeley Rep education director Cliff Mayotte, "when he cast me at the Marin Shakespeare Company." (He is now the education program director at Voice of Witness, a non-profit organization that uses oral history to illuminate human rights crises).

Meanwhile, as a hospital home health physical therapist, Chegwidden's day job was to help patients through their first days following knee (and hip) surgery. That's when she saw first-hand their lack of preparation and, in many cases, the lack of a support system.



Granny Gets A New Knee is available through independent book stores and Amazon.

But, "in observing many in the African American community who went through the surgery, it was clear they knew how to support each other," she told me. "I saw other people who didn't have that kind of support and how depressed they were. And, at that time, people weren't getting the support from hospitals."

Still, for seven years, the first draft of a book on how to help people get the most out of Total Knee Replacement (TKR) surgery and get off painkillers faster sat in a drawer under her computer. It included how to set up a support system, a list of equipment, what to expect in the hospital and at home, plus the exercises she recommends. "It was sound," she said, "but not appealing; full of practical information, but lifeless."

Then she read the award-winning *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. "In writing the book, the author brought together the science story and the human story," Chegwidden said. "A light bulb went off in my mind," giving her the idea of creating a fictional story and combining it with the practical information she had already compiled.

So, we meet Granny, who needs a new knee. Through dialogue, mostly with family members, we learn of the

Total Knee, page 7

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Total Knee

from page 6

pain, preparation, exercises, support and recovery she experiences.

Although each character is fictitious – "a composite of people I have met and worked with" – Chegwidden's next door neighbor Martha Morris inspired the Granny character, despite the fact that she hasn't had knee surgery. "She is the matriarch of her extended family and a model for me in building community," Chegwidden said.

Much of Granny's interaction is with her 11-year-old grandson Jerome, who is about the same age as Chegwidden's son, Julian, when she began the book. (Julian is now a sophomore at Oakland Tech and a member of its varsity crew. Chegwidden volunteers her time to lead a weekly Feldenkrais movement class for both Tech's men's and women's varsity crews.)

She was just finishing up the book when Leslie Hites, a Rockridge mother of six and grandmother of 14, contacted her for therapy six weeks before her own TKR surgery date.

Hites, founder and head of school at the tri-lingual Montessori Renaissance International School, had been having problems with her knee ever since she tore her ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) in a ski accident some years back. The repair and subsequent physical therapy didn't meet her expectations.

It was particularly galling because one important reason she and her cardiologist husband had moved to Rockridge twenty-plus years ago was its walkability. "Mobility is something we all treasure," she said.



Louise Chegwidden (right) was able to test the theories in her book on getting the most out of total knee replacement when Leslie Hites came to her for pre-surgery help. /Judith Doner Berne

"When I called up Louise, the timing was rather unreal." Hites received the mental and physical preparation she needed. And it allowed Chegwidden "to test for the first time my theory that preparing people before surgery, then following them with consistent care in this way, would be beneficial."

"I did notice a tremendous difference going into surgery," Hites said. And both she and Chegwidden told me how impressed the hospital staff was at how well Hites was able to move about immediately after the operation.

Hites took three months off from work, during which she continued — and continues to this day — with Chegwidden's sessions. "It helped me right through. I never went to any (traditional) physical therapy. She basically finished up the book through my case." Although it's been four years since her surgery, "from time to time I go back and read it. It's a staple for me to go on from there."

"I wish I had had the book before my (knee replacement) surgery," said Anne Hightower, a former Rockridge resident who now lives in Temescal and takes Chegwidden's class.

"The book is wonderful," echoed Kristi MacLeod, who grew up in Rockridge, had a double knee replacement and is now learning ballroom dancing. She attends Chegwidden's Rockridge class "to break the habits I had over my lifetime."

For my own knee replacement, the book was a helpful reference. However, by the time I received it, I had developed a strong relationship with my surgeon, and found the hospital's pre-operation seminar, before and after pamphlets, and home and group physical therapy to be informative and supportive. I also had counsel from a friend who had the surgery ahead of me as well as tremendous support from friends and family.

Last Thanksgiving, I was a couple of weeks into recovery. One daughter flew in from Chicago (apple crisp and pumpkin pie) to join local daughter (sweet potatoes and cranberry sauce) and son-in-law (turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes) who, with my husband and grandson, created our feast and the love surrounding it.

This year, I'm grateful that I can do much more than hobble to the table and eat.

Happy Thanksgiving, Rockridge.

As always, your comments and suggestions for other columns about Rockridge people and happenings are most welcome. Please email judyberne@att.net.

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More College Avenue Trick-Or-Treaters



/Photos Ronnie Spitzer

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Scenic Streets of Oakland

Scenic Streets Makes Things Look Better

by Lee Patterson

Scenic Streets of Oakland held a successful work event in September. Lots of mulch was spread next to the Claremont/24 on-ramp. Speaking of lots, a lot more mulch spreading is needed. You can easily see what's necessary as you drive up the on-ramp.



If you'd like to participate in making things look a bit better, contact Lee Patterson at lee.scenicstreets@gmail.com.

Hardy Dog Park Group Celebrates One Year of Caring for Our Park

by Linda Zunas

Our Hardy Dog Park Group held its first cleanup November 5, 2016, and has hosted cleanups on the first Saturday of every month since then. We will celebrate our one-year anniversary on November 4 with another cleanup (and some coffee and sweets) from 9-10:30 a.m., and with the installation of a sturdy hand-made bench kindly donated by local dog owner Esmeralda.

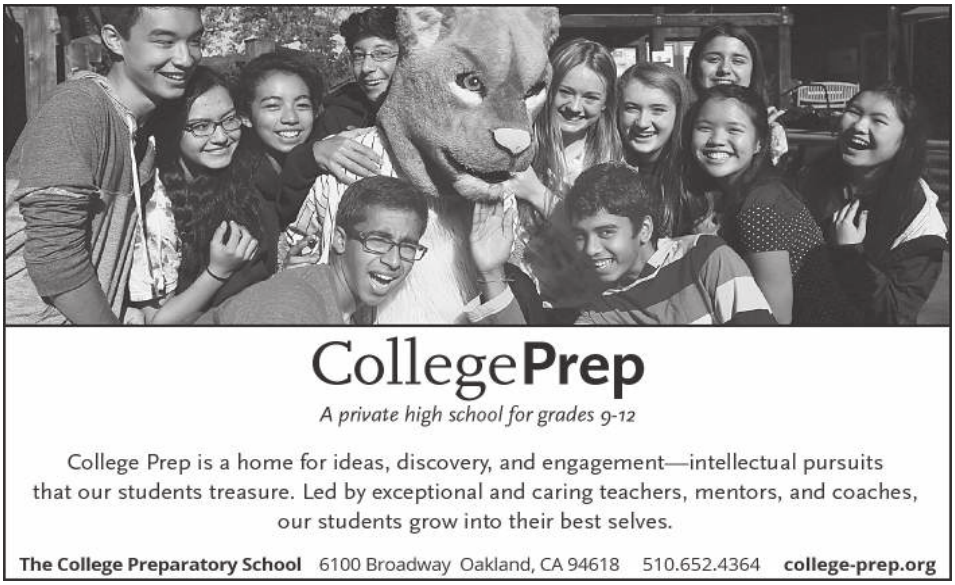
Thank you for continuing to donate clean newspaper bags: our dogs and their owners are grateful. If you would like to get involved, or simply follow along with our activities, please join our email list or check out our web site: HardyDogPark.org



As a part of the first anniversary celebration of the Hardy Dog Park Group's work to ensure there is a comfortable space for dogs to run and play and for their guardians to gather to talk about their dogs, we dedicate and install the bench handmade by local dog supporter Esmeralda. Coffee, sweets, and a bit of cleanup round out the celebraton. /Linda Zunas










Music Director Michael Morgan

The Oakland Symphony Holiday Concert Brings Communities Together

by Evan Marks, Interim Marketing Director

On December 10, over two hundred assembled voices from the Oakland Symphony Chorus, Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, and Mt. Eden High School Concert Choir will join the Oakland Symphony on the Paramount Theatre stage for "Let Us Break Bread Together." The concert is a uniquely Oakland tradition, with music ranging from holiday favorites to R&B and soul. This year's concert pays tribute to Prince and Leonard Cohen and features local artists Linda Tillery, Kugelplex, Ellen Hoffman, and Vocal Rush. Our local Rockridge artists are also well represented, with Karen Ivy, Becky Bob-Waksberg, and Paula Aparicio in the chorus, and violinist Carla Picchi and Craig McAmis on trombone in the orchestra.

The concert aims to bring together people from diverse communities and backgrounds both onstage and in the audience. "It's really about bringing people together across various artificial lines whether they are socioeconomic or racial or religious. You can unify a community around a symphony orchestra because there is a variety of things that we play….", says Music Director Michael Morgan.

The Oakland Symphony's unique niche in the community has always been a focus for Morgan. "It has been interesting figuring out, with the musicians – how do you keep an orchestra interesting in an area where there are so many orchestras? What's actually interesting is finding our niche, our place in the repertoire, our function for audiences," says Morgan.

Learn more about the concert season and director Morgan's unique approach to programming. Purchase tickets to "Let Us Break Bread Together" at www.oaklandsymphony.org, or call 444-0802. /Photo courtesy Oakland Symphony

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Cole: Coffee and Community Made Whole Again

by Mary Catherine Haug

All of Cole Coffee is up and running again with the completion of its café expansion at College Avenue and 63rd Street. Owners Mike Murphy and Desiree Salas-Murphy say that the work took about as long as expected, but for many faithful customers it was an eternity. Although the original bean-and-espresso shop and outdoor seating along 63rd Street were still busy, food and pour-over options were unavailable for about 8 months, from February until Sept. 25, much too long for many dedicated patrons. After all, Cole has been a Rockridge mainstay for good coffee and conversation for 28 years.

Cole began in 1989 as Royal Coffee in the "C is for Cookie" tiny shop at 307 63rd Street, just down from College. The Royal Coffee owners, importers of green coffee beans, decided to have a retail shop and partnered with their cousins, roasters McLaughlin Coffee. They arranged for outdoor seating along the 63rd Street sidewalk, and the conversations with coffee began.

Mike says, somewhat in jest, that he started with Royal in 1990 as a janitor and barista, becoming manager in 1992. In 1997, Royal opened the Café in the College corner storefront, formerly shops for women's clothing and eyeglasses.

Mike bought the business from the Royal importers in August 2005. Needing to change the business name, he chose "Cole" in memory of his brother Mathew Cole Murphy, who had introduced him to Rockridge and was actually responsible for getting him to Royal Coffee. Mat had attended CCAC and lived in Oakland in the '80s. When Mike would come from San Luis Obispo to visit, Mat shared his own enthusiasm for La Farine and that fantastic Royal coffee. Mike followed his brother's lead and moved to Oakland in 1989, taking a job at Magnani Poultry (then nearby on College). He was spotted there by the Royal owners who offered him a job at their coffee shop and a chance to be involved with a product that he already greatly admired. The rest is recent history.



Cole Coffee: Open for Business /Don Kinkead

Not only did Mike find his life's calling at Royal, he also found his wife and business partner there. In 1995, he met a budding fashion designer named Desiree Salas, and their friendship blossomed into marriage in 2002. (A number of other marriages and partnerships have been made at the Royal/Cole location over the years of coffee and conversation.)

Last year, faced with the need for an extensive retrofit of the building, Mike and Desiree's landlord offered them the opportunity to expand the café into the adjacent storefront (formerly Lucero Hair Salon). The substantial project required breaking through a supporting wall and reworking the entry stairs for the apartments above.

The architectural firm Anderson Schwartz (who also designed the Golden Squirrel at College and Harwood) planned the new Cole space. Desiree says she and Mike wanted a look similar to that of cafés they enjoyed when visiting in Brooklyn. Desiree was able to apply some of her own design skills and ideas in working with their designer, Kadi Franson.

The new warm and modern café space is light and airy with more than double the area of the former shop, and includes 26 seats — up from the previous 10 — a larger kitchen and pour-over counter, and two restrooms.

With the larger kitchen, they have been able to expand their menu to include breakfast items, more salad – even avocado toast.

Despite Peet's and Philz, coffee chains now located nearby, Cole is still seen as a special place for many Rockridge residents (and motorcyclists). It has never been an internet café; there is no wi-fi. Desiree and Mike's goal continues to be a community meeting place where people can relax and meet each other, and have interesting conversations over good coffee and, now, more fresh, seasonal food.



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Town Hall Reports

from page 1

Clifton Street and Broadway at the northern end of the campus.

Meckel stressed that the plans he presented are quite preliminary. He said CCA has hired an Oakland public relations firm, Craig Communications (510/433-0277, http://craig-communications.com), to help it reach out to the East Bay community for comments and recommendations on the re-use plans.

As of now, those plans focus on four goals:

1. Preserving CCA's history and continuing to maintain an arts focus on the site, including affordable artist housing.
2. Preserving the historic buildings and landscaping on the site.
3. Providing a significant amount of new housing to help address the Bay Area's housing shortage.
4. Creating a publicly accessible place that showcases the site's historic, artistic, and scenic resources.

The plans currently envisage four components:

1. An "art walk" along Clifton Street that would include artist housing and studio spaces.
2. A sculpture garden including the historic landscaping and the Treadwell mansion.
3. A promenade that would lead through the campus area in a north-south direction and be flanked by new housing (as much as 500-600 units).
4. An overlook area at the southern end of the campus with breathtaking views of Oakland and the East Bay.

Clawson noted that the site would need to be rezoned since it is currently zoned for institutional use, and that there would be an extensive public review and environmental study process before any plans could be approved by the City. He estimated that would take as much as 2-3 years, which would dovetail with the College's plans for completing its move to San Francisco.

Phase 2, "Shops at the Ridge"

The second half of the program featured a presentation by Darin Ranelletti, Deputy Director of Oakland's planning and building department. Ranelletti was invited to discuss the current status of Phase 2 of the Shops at the Ridge project from the City's perspective – particularly the old Chase Bank building at the corner of Broadway and Pleasant Valley Avenue, the demolition of which was halted last winter by the discovery of asbestos contamination.

Ranelletti explained that plans for redevelopment and expansion of the site, formerly called the Rockridge Shopping Center, had been developed over more than five years, with much community input. Those plans, originally put forward by Safeway and now being implemented by TRC, Inc., a Southern California developer, called for two phases. The first phase, including a new Safeway, a new Chase Bank building, and two one-story retail buildings, was completed more than a year ago. Phase 2 was to follow shortly.

After completion of Phase I, demolition of the remaining old bank buildings, including Chase Bank, began in preparation for constructing Phase 2, which would include two- and three-story retail buildings with structured parking and a shopping street. At that point, asbestos was discovered mixed in the concrete of the roof deck of the Chase Building. While asbestos is highly toxic in the air, Ranelletti emphasized that in its current state, fixed in the building's concrete, the asbestos poses no hazard. However, removal of this asbestos would be much more complicated, time-consuming, and expensive than removing the more common asbestos-containing insulation, flooring, or ceiling tiles. As a result, TRC put Phase 2 on hold while it re-evaluates its plans. Ranelletti said that TRC was also concerned that, with the changing retail environment, the amount of large-scale retail proposed in Phase 2 might no longer make sense.

Ranelletti was very clear that the City was not happy about the site being left in its current condition. He said that if the project remained stalled, the City could and would begin levying fines for maintaining a public nuisance and could eventually sue TRC to force the Chase Building's safe demolition. He commented, however, that it would be far preferable to get TRC to finish revising its plans and complete Phase 2.

In answer to questions from the audience, he noted the City, and many in the community, have long supported including housing in the project, but the property's owner (not TRC but an absentee corporate owner with an out-of-state mailbox address) has consistently refused to consider any residential use on the site.

The full Town Hall was captured on video, and a link to the full video (available on YouTube) has been posted on the Rockridge.org website.





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Thanksgiving Day Meal, College Avenue Presbyterian Church, November 23: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Proposed Building Change

from page 3

and serve as an owner-occupied penthouse residence, for a total height of 50 feet. A minor variance would be required to exceed the 35-foot height limit under CN-1 zoning. The application has now been formally filed with the City, and is assigned to planner Moe Hackett, 510/238-3973, mhackett@oaklandnet.com.

Comments on the project may be submitted by phone, e-mail or U.S. Mail. For the latter, address correspondence to: Bureau of Planning-Zoning, 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland 94612. Comments must be received by November 13, 2017.

Shafter Roundabouts

from page 5

with current speed humps being too steep and causing loud scraping noises as cars bottomed out passing over them. We're taking this into consideration and will be evaluating whether we can address the angle of the existing speed humps to decrease these types of incidents.

We are happy to hear suggestions from residents concerning the need for safety treatments and a smoother street to make walking, biking, and riding safer and more delightful for everyone.

If you have thoughts about the mini-roundabouts, and especially if you and your neighbors would like to adopt the mini-gardens, see box at right to contact us.

You Can Help With Roundabout Planning

We are still gathering feedback about the project and would love your input. If you haven't taken the survey, check it out at http://bit.ly/2w6So3c.

Feel free to drop us a line. Contact: Sarah Fine, Senior Transportation Planner, at sfine@oaklandnet.com

As always, we encourage everyone to report potholes and other infrastructure needs through any of these methods:

Call: 510/615-5566

Email: callcenter@oaklandnet.com

Mobile app: SeeClickFix

For more information about OakDOT, please visit https://beta.oaklandca.gov/services/transportation

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Big Dust Cloud

from page 1

happen. If they had known ahead of time, they could have moved all outdoor toys to basement storage and covered the play structures.

My kids have asthma and their breathing has been unusually bad this week. My husband is in development and construction so we know that Oakland has standards for construction impacts on neighbors. Dropping our kids off and picking them up this week, we could barely see across the street and we, who usually walk or bike our kids to school, were uncomfortable crossing due to the air quality, so drove instead. Sure, there was an occasional truck wetting the dirt to keep dust down, but for the most part it was dry ground and a big dust cloud.

I think there should have been more consideration of the number of day care and preschools in planning for this construction, and more noticing so our teachers could have prepared, but instead, it seems the contractor did less than what would normally be expected for dust control and air quality based on Oakland's Standard Conditions of Approval for construction.

— Name withheld by request


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Community Meal

from page 2

between 200-300 people with a multitude of volunteers gathered in the shared desire to make this event possible. The meal is open and free for everyone.

Donations of money and food are gratefully accepted. It's because of such donations that the meal takes place.

You can also give of your time. Help is needed beginning Tuesday, November 21, and Wednesday, November 22 to prepare, set up and decorate the church gym for the meal. Significant help is also needed the day of the event to set up, cook, serve and also clean up. (The latter requires the most work and often is the one the fewest people want to do.)

To sign up for a volunteer slot or to make a donation via PayPal, go to the Thanksgiving Meal page on the church website at www.capcoakland.org/thanksgiving-meal, or the church office site at capc1@sbcglobal.net or call 510/658-3665.

Looking? Check out Rockridge!

NCPC Report

from page 3

two purses to the owners. As far as is known, the backpack is still in the Police Department's property room.

Later, two attendees leaving the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) Town Hall meeting came across a man loudly and profanely berating "this city." His car had been broken into and a briefcase and laptop left on the back seat were gone. His companion, a woman from Australia, agreed that Oakland was awful. 911 was not responding as she attempted to report the theft. Her frustration was not alleviated by the suggestion that a better response would be to file a report using forms available on OPD's website.

Posting on NextDoor in September, OPD noted that "the department has recently seen an increase in auto burglaries" and offered the following prevention tips:

Suggested Car Burglary Prevention Tips:

- Never leave anything in public view in your vehicle. For example: phones, laptops, cords/adaptors, bags/backpacks, clothing, food items, money/coins, packages, and personal mail.
- Ensure all windows are closed and doors are locked.
- Use anti-theft devices to secure steering wheel or brake pedal; they do deter auto break-ins.
- Activate the alarm when you leave the vehicle.
- Never leave keys in ignition or car running; even if you're running a quick errand.
- Try to park in well-lit and/or populated areas.

If you are a victim of crime and need to make a report:

- If the crime has already occurred, suspect(s) have left the scene, and/or there is no suspect information, we encourage you to make an online report at https://tinyurl.com/online-crime-report.
- You can also call the Oakland Police Department non-emergency number at 510/777-3333.
- If the suspect is still on the scene, remain in a safe location and call 9-1-1 or
- 510/777-3211.



RN classifieds

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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 December issue deadline is November 16. The December issue*** *will be out on December 2.*
For information: **smontauk@gmail.com**

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Artist Maryly Snow's Exhibit "*Saving Nature and Other Mysteries*"

Art framed and ready to hang. Rockridge Library, Upstairs. Oct 29-Nov. 29. Reception Tues Nov. 21, 6-8 pm. Artist present every Tuesday in November to answer questions 5:30-6:30 pm. www.snowstudios.com.

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:

- **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 come by any time. RSVP to Erica at esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org.
- **Active Indoor Games:** Saturday, 11/18, 10am-12pm. Kids ages 2 to 7 with LOTS of energy are invited to run around inside the library. We'll have a variety of activities. Adults can play along or sit in the bleachers.
- **Felting Craft:** Make a cuddly or scratchy creature out of felt – for yourself or gift. First 3 Saturdays in December; (starting12/2); 2:30-4pm. All ages welcome. Best for kids ages 7 & up who can handle sharp objects.
- **TWIG: 'Tweens ages 9 to 12** are invited to get together for crafts, snacks, writing, reading, drawing, and chatting. Every 2nd Tues each month 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.
- **Sharpie Dyed Tile Coasters:** Dye your artistic tile with Sharpie, 11/8, 2pm.
- **How to Draw Manga and Comics Workshop:** Learn to create characters and draw your own comics: 11/15, 2pm.
- **Make a Holiday Bookmark:** to celebrate upcoming winter holidays: 12/6, 2pm.

FOR ADULTS

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

- **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 (OK to 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.

Art Exhibits:

Gallery

Nov: Maryly Snow: *Saving Nature and Other Mysteries;* etchings, assemblages, and more. Artist will be on-site to discuss her work Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30pm. Reception: Tuesday, 11/21, 6-8 pm.

Dec: Kathy Goss: *Glimpse of Nature*; Watercolors.

LIBRARY HOURS

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sun and Mon. Also: Sat,11/11 and Thurs - Fri, 11/23-11/24.

East Bay Booksellers Readings/Events

FREE and open to the public.

- Sun, 11/5, 3pm. **Sarah Adler-Milstein** and **Scott Nova:** *Sewing Hope: How One Factory Challenges the Apparel Industry's Sweatshops*.
- Tue, 11/ 7, 7pm. **Jessie Chaffee:** *Florence in Ecstasy* and **Geoff Nicholson:** *The Miranda;* in conversation with **Russell Gray.**
- Wed, 11/6, 6:30pm. **Freud's Bar** (monthly talks given by local Bay Area psychoanalysts, aimed at students ages 16-25, while enjoying drinks and snacks). Meeting topic: **"Am I awake or asleep? Dreaming our everyday life,"** presented by Michael Donner, Ph.D.
- Thurs,11/9, 7pm. **Anne Helen Petersen:** *Too Fat, Too Slutty, Too Loud: The Rise and Reign of the Unruly Woman;* in conversation with **Lili Loofbourow.**
- Sun, 11/12, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Jack Marshall** and **Dennis Nurkse.**
- Tues, 11/14, 7pm. **Mark Bray:** *ANTIFA: The Anti-Fascist Handbook.* **Note: No photography or video allowed at this event.**
- Thurs, 11/16, 7pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Randall Mann** and **Barbara Jane Reyes**.
- Tues, 11/21, 7pm. **Malcolm Harris:** *Kids These Days: Human Capital & The Making of Millennials.*

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

Oakland Symphony Concert

Expressions of "Love and Loss" through Mozart's 40th; Rossini's Stabat Mater; and Jonah Gallagher's tribute to a friend lost too soon. Fri, Nov.17, 8pm. Paramount Theatre, 2025 B'way. More info and tickets at 444-0802 or oaklandsymphony.org.

Jazz at the Chimes

Featuring the **Resonance Jazz Ensemble:** octet performing jazz standards, pop tunes and classical favorites. Sun., Nov 19, 2pm. Tickets $15: in advance at http://resonancejazz.brownpapertickets.com/ or at the door (cash only) beginning 12:30pm (doors open 1:30) Refreshments and reception follows. Honors the artistry of Bay Area jazz musicians. Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. **Wheelchair accessible. Free parking.** More info: http://www.resonancejazz.com; www.jazzatthechimes.com; chimesjazz@gmail.com or 654-0123.

Square Dance in North Oakland

Music by The Squirrelly String Band. **Calling by Jordan Ruyle.** 1st Fridays each month, 8 – 10pm. All levels welcome; all dances taught on the spot. $5-10 sliding scale donation. The Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. Info: squirrellystringband.com.

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.

- **HEALTHY LIVING FOR SENIORS:** discover how to eat healthy and keep physically active. Tues, Nov. 14, 10:30am –12pm.
- **OAKLAND's 26TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY DINNER; Nov 21**. Reserve your seat on the free shuttle from NOSC to The Marriott.
- **ALL ABOARD FOR YOSEMITE trip** planned for May 8 thru 10, 2018. Registration opens Monday, Dec. 4th, with deposit of $150 per person.

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. More info at 597-5085.

Temescal Farmers' Market

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

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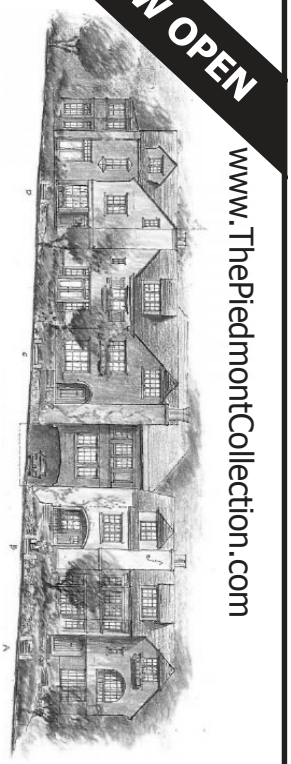
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If you're thinking of selling your Rockridge home, maybe even in Spring 2018, you're likely to have questions.

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