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Rockridge News

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New Bill by Senators Wiener & Skinner Would Transform Rockridge and the East Bay

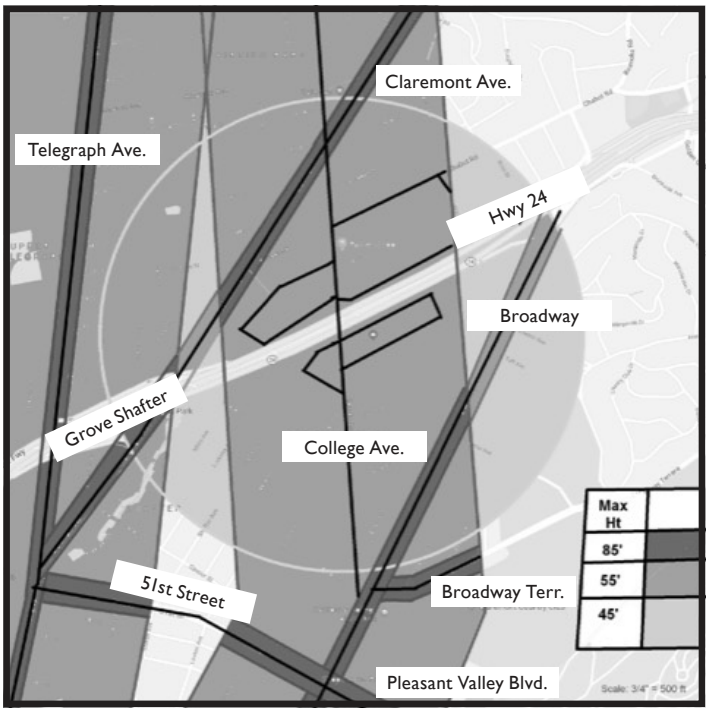
Much of Lower Rockridge Would Be Open to 5-Story Buildings; Off-Street Parking Requirements Gone

by Stuart Flashman, chair, RCPC

Following up on their success last year in passing SB 35 (see Land Use Committee Update article in the current issue, page 3), State Senators Scott Wiener (San Francisco/part of San Mateo County) and Nancy Skinner (Oakland/Berkeley) have introduced a new bill, SB 827, intended to address California's housing crisis.

The bill would create a "transit-rich housing bonus" that would apply to areas near transit stations or "high quality transit corridors" (bus service at least every 15 minutes during peak travel hours). In those areas, local zoning height limits would be replaced by height limits ranging from 45 to 85 feet (four to eight stories), all off-street parking requirements would be abolished, multi-family housing would automatically be allowed, and any design requirement that would interfere with building high-density housing would be overridden.

The bill would continue a trend in the Legislature over the past several years to Proposed Bill is Transformative, page 3



RCPC Board Elections Teed Up for April Members' Meeting

The Annual RCPC membership meeting and Board elections will be held Thursday, April 19, before and during the RCPC Town Hall meeting. Polls will open at 7 p.m. in the lobby adjacent to the library's second floor meeting room. **Rockridge residents interested in running for the Board must submit an expression of interest not later than February 15, 2018,** the deadline for the election article to appear in the March issue of The Rockridge News. Rockridge residents 18 years of age or older and living within RCPC boundaries (see: rockridge.org/content/rcpc-boundaries-map-view) can begin the process by contacting board chair Stuart Flashman at chair@rockridge.org to announce their interest.

Why I Joined the RCPC Board

— Alden Connor —

by Alden Connor

I moved to Rockridge in 2009, a few years before the old Safeway was torn down to make way for the new store. As a new homeowner, I took an interest in the future of the neighborhood, and I found the Rockridge news to be a reliable source of information regarding local issues. Through the Rockridge News, I also learned about RCPC and the work they were doing advocating on behalf of the neighborhood in negotiations with Safeway and the city of Oakland.

It took almost eight years, but at the beginning of 2017 I finally decided to run for a seat on the RCPC board. Although I had been considering the idea for a while, the political climate and election of 2016 gave me the push I needed to get more involved locally. Having learned more about the RCPC board over the years, I felt that this active and knowledgeable Why I Joined the RCPC Board, page 2


Alden Conner


Stuart Flashman


Andrew Masalin


Jesse Ortega


M C Haug


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Leonora Sea

Wide Variety of Topics Draws Full House of Neighbors to Town Hall

by Stuart Flashman, chair, RCPC

An overflow crowd filled the Rockridge Library's meeting room on the evening of January 24 to hear about a variety of topics, many related to transportation. The topics included: an update on a condominium project put forward by Signature Properties for a parking lot area at the Claremont Hotel and Resort, along with an expansion of the resort's membership by 200 families; the removal and replacement of trees around the Rockridge BART station that had been identified as hazards; placing mini-roundabouts along Shafter Avenue in conjunction with its repaving this spring; the location of Ford GoBike bike share stations around Rockridge, including one

Full House for Town Hall, page 12



Rockridge resident David Kessler, at left, facing audience, brings attendees at the RCPC January Town Hall up to date on a condominium project proposed for Claremont Hotel grounds by its owners. /D. Kinkead

Why I Joined the RCPC Board

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neighborhood group was the perfect opportunity to pursue a higher degree of civic engagement.

RCPC has been a great experience so far, from getting to know the neighborhood better through working on the Kitchen Tour to engaging with the community at meetings and events such as Rockridge Out & About. I've learned about the history of Rockridge and how the RCPC has advocated on behalf of its residents over the last four decades, and I've gained a lot of knowledge about local issues and a new-found appreciation for zoning laws.

I am excited to have recently joined the Land Use Committee, which is currently working on a project to study and summarize the possible scenarios for increasing housing density in Rockridge in order to help Oakland keep up with state-mandated regional housing needs. This complex topic is critically important to the future of Rockridge, and I think it is important that the RCPC is investing the time and energy to understand the various options in minute detail. By summarizing our findings and publicly presenting them to the neighborhood, we hope to engage the entire Rockridge community in the process in order to advocate for housing policies that make sense for Rockridge and allow us to do our part to ease the local housing crisis.



The RCPC Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Courtney Welch to an open board position. Details of her background and her interest in RCPC will be reported in next month's Rockridge News.

Rockridge residents interested in running for a position on the Rockridge Board of Directors must submit an expression of interest not later than February 15, 2018. See story, page 1

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

The Rockridge News

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

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Jo Ellis.....Advertising & Community Calendar
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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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Newsletter Advertising/Deadline

Publication date of the March issue is:
- **March 3, 2018.**
- **Submission deadline: February 15.**

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, February 28, 7:30 p.m.**, at the Rockridge Branch Library upstairs meeting room. **Meeting details or plans may change!** Please check the **rockridge.org website** the week before to confirm meeting and agenda. Meetings are generally open to the public.

RCPC Land Use Committee Update – February 2018

The Land Use Committee met on January 24, 2018, with a quorum present. There were two items on the agenda.

Student Intern

The RCPC Board included in its 2018 budget $3,000 for a student intern to survey College Avenue and intersecting streets in Rockridge and determine building sizes and numbers of residential units along College Avenue at present. The purpose of the survey is to determine College Avenue's existing and potential residential capacity under its current CN-1 zoning. RCPC has advertised the position at local schools and has received two applications thus far. Any students interested in applying should send a letter of interest and resume to landuse@rockridge.org. The Board expects to fill the position by early March.

Rockridge Housing Study – Effects of Recent State Legislation

The committee heard about a package of bills enacted during the 2017 session of the California Legislature to address California's housing crisis. Some of the bills are relatively noncontroversial: For example, SB 3, a $4 billion bond measure will be on the November ballot and will provide funding for a variety of housing programs. Likewise, AB 1505 provides legal support for cities enacting inclusionary housing requirements (which mandate including at least a minimum percentage of affordable housing in all new housing developments), overturning a court decision that had found them illegal.

The most controversial bill was SB 35, authored by Senator Scott Weiner and co-authored by Senator Nancy Skinner. It raises the stakes on cities and counties meeting their Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) by allowing developers to have their projects approved with very little local discretion if the municipality didn't meet its RHNA goals the previous year. In Rockridge, for example, any plans to build a duplex that would have required a use permit would no longer require such a permit. Likewise, residential use would no longer require a use permit on the ground floor along College Avenue. The effect would somewhat densify Rockridge's current zoning.

The Committee also discussed a currently pending bill, also co-authored by Weiner and Skinner, that would automatically raise the height limits and eliminate off-street parking requirements near BART stations and along major bus lines like the 51 A and B. That bill is discussed in more depth in an article starting on page 1.

Proposed Bill is Transformative

from page 1

legislatively dictate local land use policy to achieve housing and other state-wide goals. For a look at the state-wide effects the bill would have, go to https://transitrichhousing.org/, which has a map of how it would affect cities throughout California. San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley would be the Bay Area cities most affected, but many parts of Los Angeles and San Diego would also be transformed. In all these cities, single-family homes and neighborhoods could largely become a thing of the past.

In Rockridge (see map, page 1), most of Lower Rockridge and Temescal would have height limits ranging from 85 feet, along the frontages of streets at least 45 feet across (e.g. Broadway, Claremont Avenue, etc.), to 55 feet, within 1/4 mile of the 51 and the 1 bus lines, to 45 feet, for areas within a 1/2 mile radius of the BART station. How much things would actually change would depend on how many property owners would decide to take advantage of the new height limits and relaxed requirements. Perhaps significantly, the bill does not, at present, require that any of the new housing be affordable, and it's unclear whether this transit-rich bonus could be coupled to the State's existing affordable housing density bonus of up to 35 percent. If so, even taller buildings could be built almost by right, so long as they included some affordable units, including 11-story buildings could go in on streets such as Broadway, Claremont and Telegraph Avenues. If passed in its present form, the bill could lead to a Rockridge that would look a lot like parts of Brooklyn.

The new Wiener/Skinner bill has not yet been heard in committee, but already Berkeley Mayor Jesse Areguin and some Los Angeles civic leaders have come out in opposition to it.

When were the streets in your neighborhood put in? Concrete proof may be just underfoot. (Watch your step.)







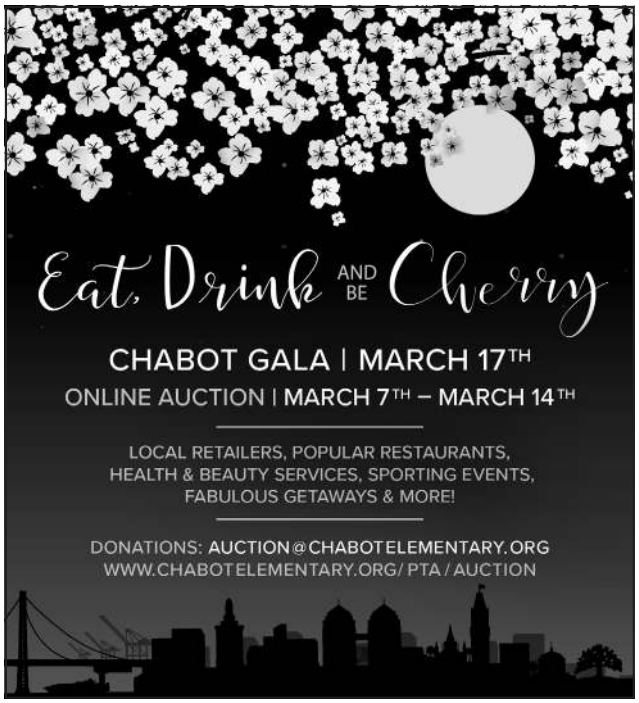
Chabot School Auction: Flocking Injects Fun into Fundraising

Every spring, the Chabot PTA hosts an annual auction to raise money to support enrichment programs and other vital student services that are not paid for by Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). These programs – music, science, art, technology, library, small group specialists and Kindergarten Spanish – are made possible by the generosity of parents, neighbors and local businesses who support the school's spring Auction and Gala.

This year's auction and gala theme is "Eat, Drink and Be Cherry." Our goal in 2018 is to raise more than $175,000.

The kickoff to the auction is the annual "flocking" event, where neighborhood yards are briefly taken over for 24 hours with festive lawn décor. It's a fun way to support the school and build awareness and excitement for the auction.

Last year, anyone who woke up to a flock of flamingos on their lawn – or saw birds perched in yards – was surprised and delighted. Flocking is an opportunity to surprise and delight your friends and neighbors, while supporting a worthwhile cause.



The flamingos have gone south to roost. Lawns this year will be "showered with flowers"; the décor is festive, fun and guaranteed to put a smile on your face.

Want to join in the fun? Sign-ups begin February 9 and will be available online this year. Flocking runs February 16 through March 7. Visit www.chabotelementary.org/pta/auction to learn more.

Chabot Auction Key Dates

- **Lawn Flocking:** Sales begin February 9. Flocking runs February 16-March 7
- **Online Auction:** March 7 – March 14
- **Spring Auction and Gala:** March 17, 5:30-10:30 p.m. at the Greek Ascension Community Center, 4700 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland. Dress is black tie optional. The facility is wheelchair-accessible and handicapped-accessible parking is available.

Chabot, Too: Annual Oakland Day Helps Student Connections

by Melissa Davis

Chabot Elementary School recently celebrated the second annual Oakland Day with workshops and presentations highlighting the City's diversity and its history, with the goal of helping students make connections to the past, present, and future of their home in Oakland.

Chabot Principal Jessica Cannon explained, "We started Oakland Day because we wanted Chabot students to understand that they were a part of something bigger than this one school and the immediate neighborhood. Over 40 percent of our students come from neighborhoods outside of Rockridge; it is important to us that our school speak to the experiences of all the residents of this wonderful city. Oakland has so many amazing and diverse stories that reflect the values we want our students to learn: perseverance, standing up for what you believe in, and working with others."

Held in November 2017, the second annual Oakland Day celebration opened with an assembly led by Principal Cannon and a performance by the Fruitvale History Project, which tells the story of how one neighborhood organized to create better conditions for the people living there. "Their story empowers our students to know that they have the ability to join with others and make a difference. It also celebrates the resilience of a part of Oakland that is home to some of our students and that others have never even visited," the principal said.

Chabot School: Oakland Day, page 13



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Masons Host Claremont Middle School Pancake Fundraiser

Save the Date: Rockridge Masons Host 9th Annual Middle School Pancake Breakfast on February 24.



The historic Rockridge Masonic Hall on College Avenue opens its doors to the public on Saturday, February 24, for its 9th Annual Pancake Breakfast benefiting Claremont Middle School.

This rollicking community event is generously hosted by the Oakland-Durant-Rockridge Masonic Lodge #188 in association with the Claremont Middle School Dads Club and the Claremont PTA. Proceeds from the breakfast support educational enrichment programs benefiting 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at our neighborhood public middle school, located beside the Rockridge BART station.

The Rockridge Masonic Hall at 5449 College Avenue is a prominent local landmark built in 1926 near the intersection of College and Kales. As in years past, Lodge members will fire up their griddles and serve a hearty morning repast including pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, fruit, coffee and tea. The event also will feature raffle prizes for each seating.

Reserve your pancakes online for $10 per person via the school web site at www.claremontms.org. There is no service charge for online reservations, and the site accepts major credit cards, debit cards or PayPal.

Note: There will be three scheduled pancake breakfast seatings, at 8 a.m, 9:15 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. All reservations are time specific, so be sure to select the seating time you prefer. If available, tickets sold at the door will be $12 each. Children under 5 years old eat for free and do not need a ticket.

Tickets may also be purchased with cash or check from the Claremont Dads Club. For information, contact Dads Club Chair Morris Dye at webmaster@claremontms.org.

Oakland Tech Auction a Party for the Community

Tickets on sale now for the March 3 fundraiser and gala

Community members are invited to take part in Oakland Tech High School's auction and gala to be held Saturday, March 3, beginning at 6 p.m. at the California Ballroom, 1736 Franklin Street, downtown Oakland.

Guests will enjoy barbecue from Everett & Jones and desserts from Nothing Bundt Cakes and will be invited to take part in the bidding at the silent auction as well as the live auction. A DJ will be on hand to get people moving beyond the bidding.



With a student population of nearly 2,000, the Oakland Tech student body reflects Oakland's diversity. Thirty-one percent of students are white, 29 percent are African-American, 22 percent are Asian and 14 percent are Latino.

About 47 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch.

Oakland Tech Auction, page 10

More school fundraising news: See page 11 for College Preparatory School's monster book sale.





Eyes on Rockridge

Fond Memories, Family Ties, Activities Help Ease Transition to Assisted Living

by Judith Doner Berne

I met Pete Schneider one sunny day last summer as he was walking by my house and asked to rest for a moment on the rock wall that keeps our garden from spilling out onto the sidewalk.

It turned out this tall, erect, 85-year-old gentleman was a new neighbor. He is one of the 131 residents who have moved into the Merrill Gardens at Rockridge assisted living facility since it opened last spring at 51st and Broadway.

We chatted for a few minutes, during which Schneider told me that he had worked on the Golden Gate Bridge. As I started to dig in my purse for a pencil and paper to write down his name and contact information, he handed me his business card. It read "Pete Schneider, Retired."

On the first Saturday in January, we sat in the large windowed Merrill Gardens living room, next to a gas log fire. He had indeed worked on the Golden Gate Bridge but, of course, not when it opened in 1937. He was the contractor who installed the epoxy asphalt paving in 1987 – the bridge's 50th anniversary year. And when he retired, it was as a Golden Gate Bridge staff engineer.

But "I did walk on it on the day it opened," Schneider told me. "I was five years old. I remember hearing the cannons that they fired off." He and his wife Charliss, who died in 2016, also attended the 50th anniversary celebration. "It just happened to coincide with the re-paving."

They took BART into San Francisco, and when they got off "there were hundreds of people and just one bus," he said. "So we walked all the way to the bridge. It was one of the greatest walks we ever had."

The two met in the Sixties through a later version of using a matchmaker and an earlier version of what has morphed into computer dating. An ad in the Pink Section of the Chronicle said that for $5, applicants would receive a questionnaire to complete, the answers to which would generate ten names of "potential friends," Schneider said.

"Charliss was just perfect," he said. "Alzheimer's was her demise." He was able to care for her at home during the seven years she was ill. "I hired people to look after her when I went out. She was a good patient."

It was six months after he was widowed that Schneider sold his house in Montclair and moved to Merrill Gardens. "I had looked at half a dozen places," he said. "You don't have to cook and you don't have to clean up and you don't burden your children." His one-bedroom apartment on an upper floor has an expansive view – as did his former hillside home. He particularly likes the food.

But, as you might imagine, it has been an adjustment. As a healthy senior it has been hard, he said, to see people on walkers and in wheelchairs and to learn, occasionally, that a new neighbor has died.

"Most people are like me – they have a local friend or relative," he said, of his fellow residents. He has a daughter in Fort Bragg and a son in Los Altos, where he considered relocating, except "my grandchildren both moved to Oakland and work in San Francisco." His son comes into town once or twice a week. It also helps that Schneider is familiar with Rockridge, having frequented local restaurants – particularly Marica, Oliveto, Barney's Hamburgers, and Zachary's Pizza – over the years.

Many residents also have Schneider's Berkeley roots. He attended John Muir Grammar School, Willard Junior High

Easing Transitions, page 7

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Easing Transitions

from page 6

and Berkeley High School where he played varsity basketball. He went on to graduate from UC Berkeley. "I got my bachelor's degree in civil engineering. That was enough in those days," he said. "Now my education is out the window."

He said he was surprised at the relative ease of making new friends, particularly because "I used to be an introvert." He has found people to walk with and go with to the movies. He gave his car to his daughter and "I like walking to the new shopping center (The Ridge, just across the street), walking up College Avenue and I figured out the buses to get up to Piedmont Avenue."

A former pick-up basketball player and a golfer, Schneider regularly joins the hour-long morning exercise class in the facility's gym. And, he plays bridge a couple of times a week with "two or three sharp individuals. I can keep up with them." For some years, he had a sailboat that he docked at Point Richmond. He also considers himself somewhat of a wine expert.

It's the classic story, Schneider explains, of a hobby turning into a business. While still working as a paving contractor, he



"I move around; I don't want to isolate myself," says Pete Schneider, a resident of the new Merrill Gardens at Rockridge at Broadway and 51st street.

responded to an ad in the New Yorker (he seems big on answering ads) for a start-up kit on making your own wine. He and a friend went on to buy more equipment and make more wine. "I would go and buy the grapes they had late in the day from a farmer's market," and then they started selling grapes to other wine makers. "We had wine-making and grape-stomping parties."

So, "I'm kind of the wine guy here," he said. "I really love French wines." Over the holidays, he and his neighbors enjoyed elaborate buffets – lobster tail and prime rib – and, happily, were served French champagne as 2017 passed into 2018.

"Pete always puts others before himself," said Megan Plan, community relations director at the Rockridge Merrill Gardens. "He's in charge of nominations for Employee of the Month. He's been doing a great job. He's a great fit for our community."

When he moved in, Schneider asked what the average stay was at a Merrill Gardens assisted living facility – there are 30 of them – and was told about five and a half years. "I think I'll make it," he said. "I've had a good life."

To comment on this column or to suggest stories for the next, please email judyberne@att.net.

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If you are a book lover, be sure to visit the College Preparatory School's 24th annual Book Fair, on Saturday February 10 and Sunday February 11. The sale takes place at the school, 6100 Broadway, Oakland: Saturday 10-4; Sunday 10-1, with a bargain $5/bag sale at noon Sunday. Details, page 11.



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The Library Is Free-ish

Sarah Washburn, boardmember, Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL)

I've been thinking a lot about how much the Rockridge Library provides our community. In January, there were family story times, a writer's support and critique group, an adult knitting group, teen craft activities, tutor-led homework clubs, a podcaster meetup, preschool story times, an all-day adult writers' workshop on how to get published, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) workshop led by the Bay Area Discovery Museum, toddler story times, a documentary film screening on the origins of slavery hosted by the film's co-producer, Lawyers in the Library, a teen advisory group meeting, and a mindfulness workshop, all in the first 31 days of the year!

Libraries do so much. And most everything we as visitors enjoy at the library is free-ish.

To bring home the "-ish" part, some libraries promote the value of their services and programs by providing a receipt, listing what visitors SAVE when they check out materials. These brilliant due date slips detail each item's monetary value with the total savings at the bottom of the printed receipt. While the materials and services you enjoy at public libraries are free to the public, these receipts showcase what "free" actually means.

Imagine what your library receipt might look like: three books ($60), two DVDs ($30), a toddler story time led by a professional ($15), a 30-minute lawyer visit at the library ($75). While these are all my estimates, you can imagine how an annual bill of all the events and materials your family benefited from adds up quickly.



An example of the "receipt" being offered by libraries to emphasize the value to patrons of library resources.

Of course the library isn't really free. Our librarians and staff receive salaries, the materials have price tags – all costs that the City and taxpayers fund. But what if you could pay it forward? What would it look like to do a bit to pay that imaginary (but very real) bill?

Well, actually you can. Here are a few suggestions:

- **Volunteer your expertise.**

Perhaps you're a yoga instructor, or a talented genealogist, or a social media whiz who knows something about building a brand, or a painter, or a gardener. If you're interested in sharing your gifts with the Rockridge Branch Library, email outreach@rockridgefriends.org

- **Vote in support of future library measures**

Show your support at the ballot box. Voting for library funding is a key part of ensuring the library continues to provide the services we all love and depend on.

- **Make a tax-deductible donation to the Friends of the Rockridge Library**

It's as easy as visiting www.RockridgeFriends.org. This volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit collaborates with librarians and staff to fund materials and programs not covered by the City of Oakland budget.

This year, consider your imaginary library receipt and think about how you can pay it forward. And if you haven't visited the Rockridge Branch Library lately, stop in and check it out. It offers a wealth of resources.

Ed. Note: See library events and contact information in the Community Calendar, page 15.

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Beware: Canine Flu is Spreading Through the Bay Area

by Linda Zunas, Hardy Dog Park

Did you know your dog can get the flu? Two strains of Canine Flu have been spreading north across the Bay Area this year, according to newscasts. The good news is: you can protect your pooch.

The flu spreads through contact with infected dogs, but some dogs may not show symptoms for 5-7 days. The best advice is to stay away from areas where dogs congregate, such as dog parks, boarding facilities, and "pee mail" spots along your favorite walking routes. As much as we love seeing you at the Hardy Dog Park, we want your pups to be healthy, and understand if we don't see you as much right now.

There is a canine vaccine more effective than the human flu vaccine this year. It runs $20-$40, and requires two shots, about three weeks apart for full effectiveness. Consult your vet about the vaccine for your dog.

Worried your dog may have the flu? Keep him or her away from other dogs and make an appointment with your vet. Symptoms include coughing, runny nose, fever, lethargy, and a reduced appetite.

Join us the first Saturday of every month from 9-10:30 a.m. to help clean our park. Clean up is even more important in the winter months when our usage goes up because of the rain. Thanks to all who continue to donate time and materials to the park.

Note: Hardy Dog Park has a web page: www.hardydogpark.org

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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.

What is happening With The Safe Routes to Transit Project?

Editor:

When do you foresee the city beginning the work on the safe routes to transit project that was supposed to begin May 2017 and was to bring street level improvements to Rockridge? Will it include repaving College and Keith?

— Piero Rocco

Dear Mr. Rocco:

Thank you for your letter. We checked with the City and, according to Victoria Eisen, project consultant, "There was an unexpected five-month delay in getting approval from the funding agency to begin design. The project will include repaving College Avenue but not Keith."

D. Kinkead, Editor

Oakland Tech Auction

from page 10

Event Theme: "Celebrating Unity and Community"

"Tech is our local high school," said Elizabeth Falkner, parent of an Oakland Tech senior and a longtime Rockridge resident. "We pull students from all over the city, but this is really Rockridge's high school. I think it's very important for the community to support the local school that is doing a lot for students."

The auction is Oakland Tech's biggest fundraiser, with money raised used to pay for tutoring, classroom supplies, field trips, teacher grants, student projects and athletic programs.

This year, with its theme of "celebrating unity and community," Tech's auction aims to raise $100,000. The auction committee hopes to offset the roughly $400,000 in cuts Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) has said it will have to make at the school, as part of district-wide fiscal belt tightening.

The community and local businesses have been generous with gift certificates, said Falkner. The auction has a wide array of offerings, including restaurant gift certificates, vacation homes, manicures and other local services.

Bidders can also try to win tickets to the Warriors, San Jose Earthquakes, the A's and the Giants. And for culture buffs, there are symphonies, theater and museum passes to bid on.

Some of the auction items are unique, such as a catered boat ride on San Francisco Bay for 12 people, complete with captain and crew.

There will also be a "raise the paddle" for people to contribute specifically for science and art supplies.

Ways for Community Members to Take Part

First, there is still time to contribute something to the auction: Contact auction@oaklandtech.com

From February 19 until February 27, the auction will be online for anyone to bid on items. Sign up for the online auction at oaklandtech.schoolauction.net.

Attend the Auction

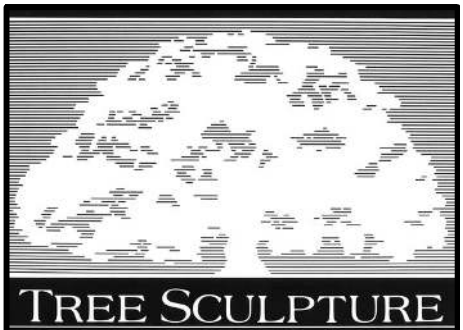
Tickets are $40 in advance and $45 at the door. Oakland Tech teachers are invited to attend for free.

At the event, raffle tickets will be sold for a wine cellar that last year had more than 100 bottles. To buy event tickets and raffle tickets, go to oaklandtech.schoolauction.net.

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Market nuggets
> Unemployment is at an all time low in the San Francisco region
> Housing supply has declined again year over year
> Rockridge home prices remain stable to increasing
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College Preparatory School: Annual Giant Used Book Sale

If you are a book lover, don't miss The College Preparatory School's 24th annual Book Fair when thousands of books are offered for children, teens and adults, with many recent and high-quality works, some media (CDs, DVDs, audio books, some LPs) and all at great prices: $1-2 for paperback, $2-3 for hardcover. A few special or oversized books are priced slightly higher, mysteries even lower.

The sale takes place at the Buttner Auditorium on the College Preparatory School grounds, 6100 Broadway, Oakland, on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is a bargain $5/bag sale at noon on Sunday. Parking is free on the school parking lot.

There is truly something for everyone at this sale: books to entertain, books to inspire, fiction from contemporary to classic, and non-fiction of all genres, sorted by category. Come early for best selections, and return for the Sunday bag sale. Don't miss this opportunity to stock up on great reading.

Cash and check only – we are unable to process credit cards.

For questions, contact bookfair@college-prep.org.



Buyers at a College Preparatory School book sale can select months worth of reading and/or listening pleasure from an auditorium's spread of choices.

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Rockridge January Sales Improve Over Last Year

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
1/19/2018	2	1	5832 Lawton Ave	$1,465,000	$1,465,000	0	$1,465,000
1/26/2018	2	2	5351 Belgrave Place #3B	$895,000	$895,000	13	$1,300,000

There is currently a 30 day supply of inventory.

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Full House for Town Hall

from page 2

recently placed in front of the Firestorm tile mural at the Rockridge BART station; .

Proposed Claremont Hotel Condominiums

David Kessler, a resident spearheading neighborhood opposition to the Claremont project, started the evening with a short presentation, which can be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3lIZbSCKPY&feature=youtu.be. Kessler said that the project would include 43 market-rate condominiums, and that neighbors were concerned with traffic impacts on two-lane Tunnel Road, as well as the disruption to a designated historic site. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been in preparation for over a year, but with no word of when it will issue.

Remove and Replace Plan for Aged Trees at BART Station

BART, represented by Richard Fuentes, came next, to talk about the need to remove over a dozen large trees on BART's Rockridge Station property. He said an arborist's evaluation last fall found the trees were not in good health, could drop limbs on cars and people, and needed to be removed. (One redwood tree next to Forest Street was actually already dead.) The removal process started in early January, and at this point all the trees, eucalyptus and Monterey pines, have been removed. BART, recognizing that the trees both beautify the area and screen the station from the view of nearby neighbors, is planning replacements, and is looking for public feedback on how best to do that. Copies of the BART presentation and a factsheet are available on the BART.gov website as well as on https://rockridge.org where a copy of this article is posted. Feedback can be sent via e-mail to rfuente@bart.gov.

City Project Plans Several Mini-Roundabouts for a Section of Shafter Avenue

Sarah Fine, a planner in Oakland's newly established Department of Transportation (AKA OakDOT), discussed plans to set up several mini-roundabouts along Shafter Avenue when the street is repaved this spring. She said the impetus for the project came from Shafter being a bicycle boulevard – a street intended to favor bicyclists, but is also a major route used by automobiles to get to BART, Market Hall, and College Avenue.

The roundabouts, along with the existing speedbumps, are intended to slow traffic on both Shafter and its intersecting streets, and make it safer for bicyclists. She said polling of residents along Shafter found they favored the idea. Also, a number of people had volunteered to care for the landscaping to be installed, even though irrigation was not being included in the roundabouts' design. The department had proposed to remove stop signs from Shafter at the roundabouts, while keeping them on the intersecting streets. Audience members, however, commented, based on experience in other states and countries, that having yield signs on all the streets entering a roundabout was a better idea. Fine took that idea under advisement.

Local Ford GoBike Bike Share Station Placements Create Concerns

The last (and most controversial) presentation was given by Kerby Olsen of OakDOT about the Ford GoBike bike share stations popping up around Rockridge, mostly on College Avenue. Particularly contentious was one newly placed in front of the firestorm tile mural commemorating the 1991 Oakland/Berkeley firestorm, which destroyed over 3,000 homes and apartments, including many in Upper Rockridge, and killed 25 people. Some in the audience, especially those who were Rockridge residents during the firestorm, felt the station's location was disrespectful to the memorial, although others suggested it might draw more attention to the memorial. There was, however, a general feeling that more care should have been taken to get community feedback before finalizing the placement locations.

In addition to the BART location concerns, some residents along Shafter complained about having a station placed directly in front of a residence without even prior consultation with the owners.

The presentation included slides showing a number of alternative sites around the BART station, and Olsen said that OakDOT had now agreed to make the present location temporary, and promised that there would be a walk-through, open to the public, to view and discuss the various alternatives before a final siting decision was made.

Those interested in attending a walk-through and discussion of the alternative sites should sign up for the Rockridge e-news, which will send notice of the tour, by sending an e-mail to info@rockridge.org. Copies of all the Town Hall presentations have been posted on the https://rockridge.org website.



I found it at the Farmer's Market

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Chabot School: Oakland Day

from page 4

More than 20 workshops were available to students who chose those that suited their personal interests. Highlights included a poetry workshop with Oakland poet Matthew Zapruder, a social justice workshop with Abundant Beginnings, fabric painting with textile designer Koko Toshima Larson, and an exploration into music from the Arab world with musician Faisel Zedan. Additional workshops included mapmaking, piñata creation, sculpture, and hip-hop dancing. The afternoon culminated with a performance by the Claremont Middle School Jazz Band and concluded with a keynote speech by Mayor Libby Schaff.

Chabot PTA President Courtney Jones spoke of her hope for the outcome of Oakland Day: "As a proud Oakland native, I hope that Oakland Day will show the children that there is so much history in our city, such as the founding of Dreyer's Ice Cream here in 1928, or how Children's Fairyland gave inspiration to Walt Disney for Disneyland, or how Oakland was the headquarters of the Black Panther Party. I hope that our Oakland Day celebration gave the children a sense of pride about their community as well as a hunger to learn more about the city and what it has to offer."

Open only to students, staff, faculty, and registered volunteers of Chabot Elementary School, Oakland Day's interactive workshops were curated to engage students of all ages in hands-on, inquiry-based learning. See photos below.



Photos: Kristie Krishnan (kids with banner)
Kelly Whalen (little girl with sign)
Kristie Krishnan (hands with Oakland Day bracelet)
Kelly Whalen (woman making juice with kids)
Kelly Whalen (man playing instrument with kids)
Kelly Whalen (the mayor with kids)

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We Have Routes!

As Business Manager of The Rockridge News, every once in a while I get a note from one of our Block Captains or District Captains that reminds me of what generous neighbors Rockridge residents are.

The latest note is from Don Javete who writes that his wife Carol volunteered to deliver the newsletter in 1986 when it was founded. After Carol died, in 2010, Don took over the route and has been delivering to his block of Belgrave ever since. Thank you, Don, for the over 30 years you and Carol have devoted to delivering our the newsletter to your block. Now, Don needs to find someone to take over his route. Will that someone be you?

I would also like to thank Pete Fraser and Judy Della Santina for their long service to their neighbors on Rockridge Boulevard South. We are losing them both and hope to find replacements soon.

Route 08G,H: Both sides of Belgrave from Broadway Terrace to Carlton

Route 06D: Both sides of Rockridge Blvd. South from 6101 to 6184.

Route 06E: 6007-6095 Rockridge Blvd. South

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

I found it at the Farmer's Market



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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

District 1 Councilman Dan Kalb

Drop-in Community Office Hours: Temescal Farmers' Market, **5300 Claremont Ave. (off Teleg.) at DMV parking lot.** 3rd Sunday each month,10:30am-12:30pm. Times/locations of other office hrs. or more info: mmharris@oakland.net or www.dankalb.net/contactdan.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN

- **Family Story Time:** Stories/songs/rhymes (for all ages); Saturdays, 10:30am; (not on 1/6).
- **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:

- **Valentines Making Workshop:** Sat 2/11, 11:30am-1:30pm. All materials provided, but may bring colorful scraps of paper. Make a valentine for everyone. All ages welcome: best for ages 4 to 10.
- **Saturday Crafternoon:** Sat, 3/10, 3:30-4:30pm. Drop in for a hands-on nature-based craft - a woven tree craft from Russia.

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 (during school days).
- **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 (during school days).
- **Book Page Roses:** We will use the pages from discarded books to make paper roses (can be gifts for Valentine's Day). All supply provided. 2/7 at 2pm.

NBA Video Game Tournament: Compete in NBA18 PS4 tournament. Space is limited: registration required. 2/9 at 3:30 pm.

FOR ADULTS

- **Ready, Set, Connect!** One on One computer help. Tuesdays 5:30-7:30pm and Saturdays 11am to 1pm. Call 597-5017 for appt.
- **eBook Help:** Work one-on-one with a librarian to download eBooks; get started using amazing collection of digital resources. Fridays, 2 -3:30pm. Make appt. online or call 597-5017.
- **Writers Support/Critique Group: All Welcome.** 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). 3rd 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.
- **From Age-ing to Sage-ing:** Grow whole, not old. **Janet Piggins,** LCSW, introduces the philosophy of Sage-ing, which offers a roadmap for living a vital and engaged second half of life. Sat, 2/3, 10:30am -12pm.
- **Making Sense of Medicare:** Sat, 2/24, 10:30 am. Get latest updates on Medicare presented by Health, Long Term Care, Disability and Life Insurance Specialist, **Denise Lombard**.
- **Podcast Meet-up:** Tues, 2/27, 6pm. Learn about podcasting: share ideas and resources.

Art Exhibits; upstairs gallery

F**eb: Oakland Arts Association:** painting and photography.

Mar: Jonathan Taylor and Friends: photography and 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: Tuesdays, 2/13 and 2/20.

East Bay Booksellers Book/Poetry Readings and Events

FREE and open to the public.

- Wed, 2/7, 7pm. **James Syhabout:** *Hawker Fare: Stories & Recipes from a Refugee Chef's Isan Thai & Lao Roots.*
- Thurs, 2/8, 7pm. **Novelist James Janko** *(The Clubhouse Thief)* and poet **Judy Halebsky** *(Tree Line)* discuss their recent works; joined in conversation with **Ellen Greenblatt.**
- Fri, 2/9, 7pm. Social and environmental justice leader **Carl C. Anthony:** *The Earth, The City, and the Hidden Narrative of Race*.
- Tues, 2/13, 7pm. **Freud's Bar** (talks by local Bay Area psychoanalysts/psychologists, aimed at students ages 16-25, while enjoying drinks and snacks). Meeting topic: **"From Freud's House to Our House: Experiencing the Uncanny,"** presented by **Laurie Case, PhD.**
- Fri, 2/16, 7pm. Two translators, **David Coulter:** *(The Novel of the Tupinamba Indian)*, and **Jim Brook: (A Blaze in a Desert: Selected Poems),** discuss their craft and recent projects.
- Sun, 2/18, 3pm. **Poetry Flash:** a celebration of the book **Know Me Here: An Anthology of Poetry By Women,** edited by **Katherine Hastings,** with readings by many of the contributors.
- Tues, 2/20, 7pm. Memoir by **Francisco Cantú:** *The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches From the Border.* In conversation with **Lauren Markham.**
- Fri, 2/23, 7pm. Readings from *The Writers Studio at 30* by local writers **Cécile Barlier, Lorraine Babb,** and **Mark Peterson.**

Tues, 2/27, 7pm. **Akwaeke Emezi:** *Freshwater.*

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

Square Dance in North Oakland

Music by The Squirrelly String Band. Calling by **Jordan Ruyle.** 1st Fridays each month, 8 – 10pm. All levels welcome; 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

5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way: 597-5085

Mon. – Fri., 9am to 4:30pm.

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

- **AARP Tax Help: FREE** for people with middle-and-low incomes; special attention to those 60 and older. Feb 8 through April 12. **Make appointment now.**
- **Lawyer in the Center:** Third Wednesdays; 20 minute slots. **Call the center to make an appointment during business hours.**

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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