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THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

VOL. 33 ■ NO. 6 ■ ISSUE NO. 355 ■ June 2, 2018 CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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

June Town Hall: NCPC-RCPC Joint Meeting

Thursday, June 14, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library
2nd Floor Meeting Room



Capt. Chris Bolton, Area 2 Commander, pictured when a Lieutenant in charge of OPD's Office of Inspector General.

New Oakland Police Department (OPD) Area 2 Commander Captain Chris Bolton headlines the annual joint town hall meeting of the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) beginning 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 14, at the Rockridge Branch Library.

RCPC opens the meeting with a discussion of safety concerns and possible solutions regarding cyclists riding on College Avenue sidewalks.

NCPC will then hear reports from the OPD Community Resource Officers (CRO), and a discussion of neighborhood issues and priorities for police follow-up. Captain Chris Bolton, new OPD Area 2 Commander, will introduce himself to the community, discuss his priorities for the district, and take questions from the audience.

— Karen Ivy, Secretary, NCPC, and Leonora Sea, Chair, RCPC

Ethics Commission Seeks Residents' Opinions of Election Involvement

Objective: "To make sure Oakland public officials and government decisionmaking processes operate in a fair...manner."

In a "Dear Oaklander" letter to Oakland residents and civic groups, the Oakland Public Ethics Commission (PEC) invited city residents to "weigh in" and reply to a survey with their feelings about Oakland's election campaign process and whether it allows effective decision-making and fosters citizen involvement.

"Can you effectively vet and choose which candidate to support for local elective office? Do you participate in candidate campaigns by donating or volunteering? What changes would you like to see in Oakland's political campaign system?" it asks. "Here's your

Oakland Ethics Commission, page 4

Meet RCPC's New Chair



I'm Leonora Sea, new chair of the Rockridge Community Planning Council, looking forward to getting to know you, and your joys and challenges living in Rockridge.

My goal is to grow and support RCPC as a forum for your ideas and concerns, and a resource to help the Rockridge community navigate the ins and outs of living in Oakland.

A little about me: I arrived as a new neighbor when I was two days old, born on Pill Hill. I played in Temescal Creek, drank Alaskan milkshakes at the old Dreyer's, and checked out books at the old Rockridge Library (now Bica). Marriage, family, and career took me to the Peninsula; I returned in 2004 to the house my family has owned since 1919.

I've always been community-minded. In high school, I wrote (bad) verse for posters for the first Earth Day. In San Mateo, I was a member of our neighborhood association. I served on the Education and the Management Committees of Sustainable San Mateo County, an organization devoted to improving life on the Peninsula for all residents.

Here in Rockridge, I became the lead for the DMV Neighbors Association in 2012, and have worked with the FROG Park Committee. For part of my professional career, I directed the California Urban Environmental Research and Education Center, which helped local community organizations tackle issues of environmental justice, land use, citizen engagement, and environmental health. In this position, I worked with legislators on the national, state, and local levels.

So I've kicked around quite a bit, learning how effective committed community organizations can be. I've learned

New Chair for RCPC, page 10

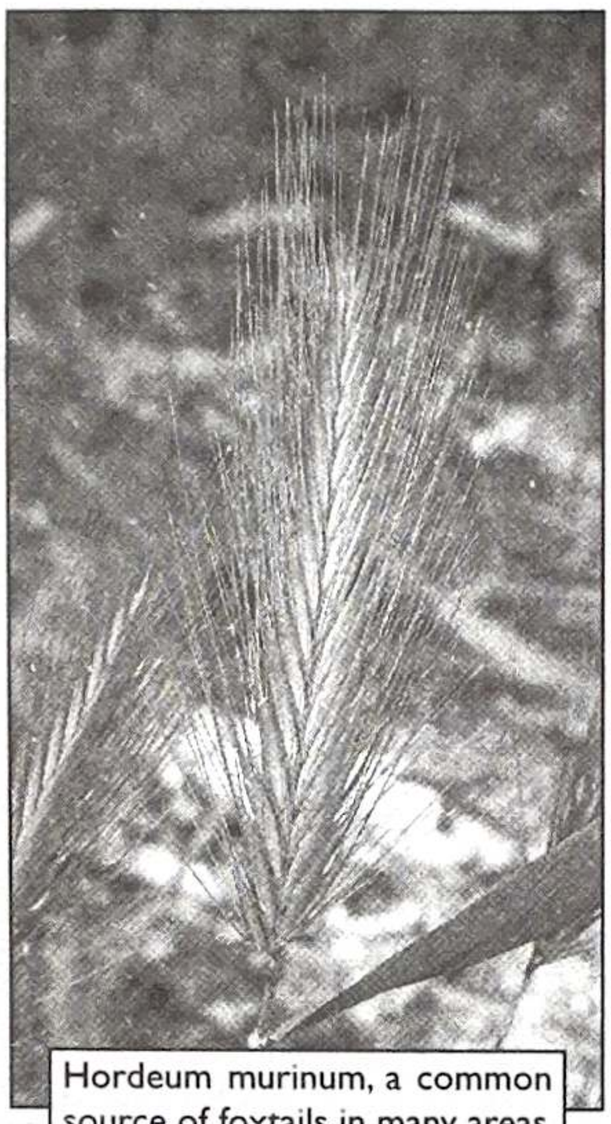
Foxtails Are Dangerous to Children and Pets; Please Help Get Rid of These Grasses

by Linda Zunas, Hardy Dog Park Group

Foxtails can be a health hazard for children as well as dogs, cats and other domestic animals. They have been growing all spring and are just now drying into their most dangerous form. Please take some time to remove foxtails from your yard to reduce this hazard.

Why Are They Dangerous?

These barbed grasses can easily be inhaled by animals or young children, or they can also enter the body through eyes, ears, or feet. The barbed seed head, once inhaled or embedded, is extremely difficult – and expensive – to remove. Left alone,the seed heads can cause infections, organ damage, and partial hearing or vision loss to humans and pets, depending on their entry point.



Hordeum murinum, a common source of foxtails in many areas. – Wikipedia

In the case of dogs, cats and other domestic animals, the foxtails can become irreversibly lodged in the animal's body after being picked up in its fur. The foxtail then can bore into the animal's body and migrate through muscular movements or, in the case of nostrils, air flow, and ultimately burrow through soft tissues and organs, causing infection, physical pain or disruption, and, in some cases, death. Hidden by the animal's fur, the foxtail's presence can easily go unnoticed

The foxtails can also work through clothing, particularly the fabric shoes and socks often worn by children, causing discomfort while walking.

How Can You Get Rid Of Them?

Foxtail grasses, classified as weeds, shed thousands of seeds that dry out and are wind-blown, spreading around the neighborhood. Many will sprout again the following year, compounding the importance of safe and complete removal each year.

The best way to remove foxtails is to first dig out the root bundle with a simple garden tool. Cutting or breaking off the seed stems is less effective and may need to be repeated several times. Many seeds may still be overlooked. Mowing the foxtail plant and leaving the clippings on the ground or sidewalk is the worst way to deal with the problem, as the seeds are easily spread by the wind.

Best Disposal Method for Harvested Foxtail Grasses

Place all foxtail remains in a plastic trash bag, seal it tightly, and place it in your brown Waste Management ***trash*** container. Composting foxtails merely adds the plant to future composting. In the trash, they will be removed from the seed cycle.

Questions?

Send a note to HardyDogPark@yahoo.com and we can point you to other resources.

We meet the first Saturday of each month from 9-10:30am, Rain or Shine! Please join us

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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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To subscribe to **The Rockridge News**, send your check for $20, payable to ***RCPC*** *with* ***"Rockridge News Subscription"*** *on the memo line.* Mail to the address below.

Contacting The Rockridge News

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:

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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 July issue is:
☛ July 7, 2018.
☛ Submission deadline: June 21.
Advertising rates are $26/column inch. 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 **June Land Use Committee meeting** is planned to meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 27, at the Rockridge Branch Library. **Please check the rockridge.org website the previous week for the agenda.**

RCPC Land Use Committee Update – May 2018

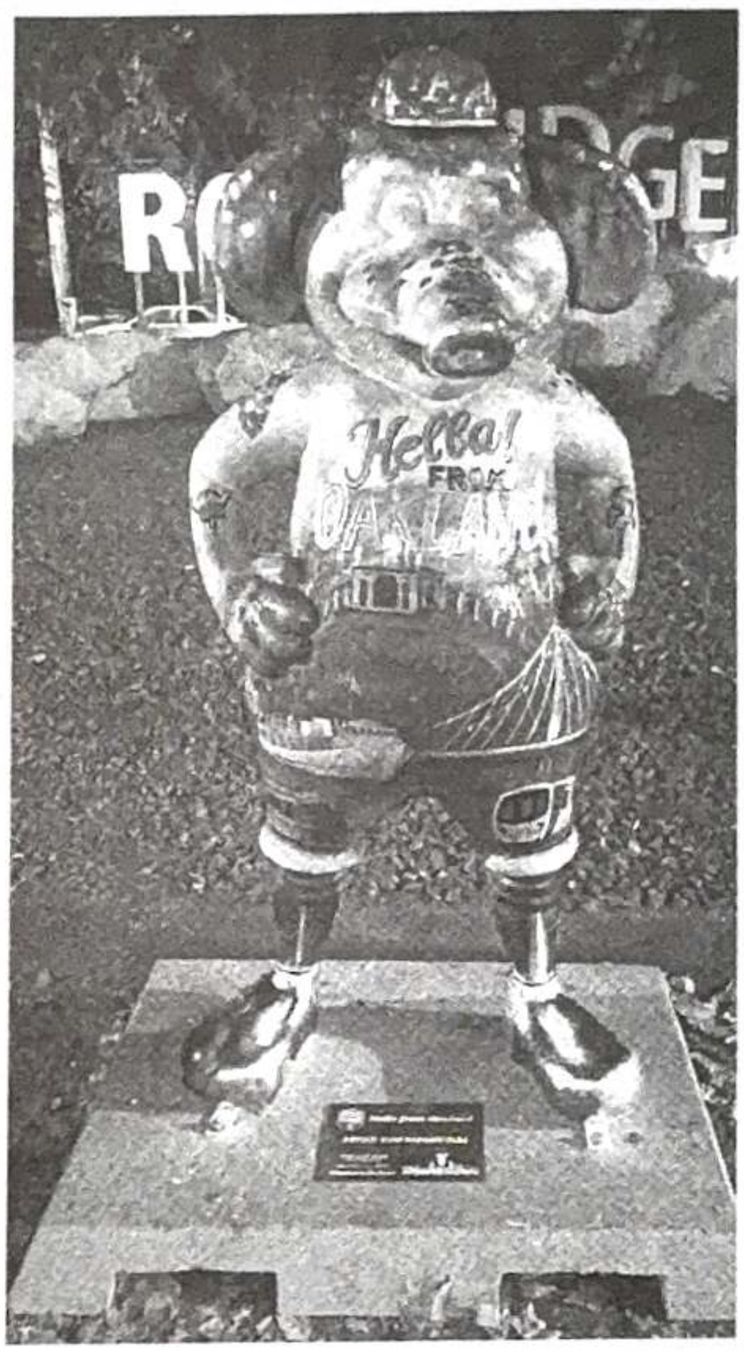
The June Land Use Committee meeting details are noted in the box above. The main agenda item will be a presentation by Dreyer's/Nestlé about **proposed changes to their retail ice cream store.**

The May 23 Land Use Committee meetting discussed the Rockridge Housing study.

RCPC's student intern completed her work on collecting information about existing uses along College Avenue. (See separate story on rockridge.org for details.) The results are contained in a spreadsheet that includes total developed square footage and total residential units for each parcel. Committee members discussed how to put the data into a more accessible and easily understood format – perhaps using a graphics approach. There was also discussion about next steps, which could include: re-evaluating the current five alternative scenarios and completing their analysis; getting credible estimates on how much total housing and affordable housing each scenario might produce; methods to get the information spread and discussed within the Rockridge community and, assuming some consensus is reached, with the City of Oakland.

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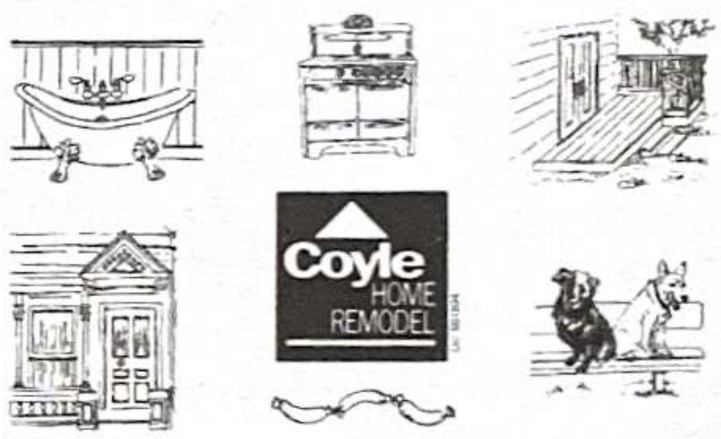
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The Oakland A's are commemorating 50 years in Oakland by placing replicas of mascot Stomper throughout the city. One ended up in front of the Rockridge sign at the BART Station.

/Judy Berne

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Rockridge Sales Are Hot In May

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
5/1/2018	4	2.5	5303 Lawton Ave	$1,890,000	$1,890,000	9	$2,170,000
5/3/2018	1	1	485 55Th St	$599,000	$599,000	15	$725,000
5/8/2018	4	1.5	5845 Ayala Ave	$1,450,000	$1,450,000	14	$1,925,000
5/9/2018	4	2.5	5448 Boyd Ave	$1,728,900	$1,728,900	14	$1,950,000
5/24/2018	4	3	5806 Lawton Ave	$1,975,000	$1,975,000	15	$2,425,000

Homes sold in May closed 20% over the asking price on average.

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Oakland Ethics Commission

from page 1

chance to offer your opinion on how we can change Oakland's campaign process to a system where residents can more easily participate and leverage their individual power in campaigns for City elective office."

The survey is available online in three languages:

English: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WVTVN5M

Spanish: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NVH5KSK

Chinese: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XD5JFGG

The survey was created in partnership between the City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission (PEC) and the UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy as part of the PEC's broader project to reform campaign finance laws in Oakland. For more information about the PEC and this project, see our website and project web page: https://www.oaklandca.gov/boards-and-commissions/public-ethics-commission.

City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Room 104
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 238-3593 / (510) 238-3315 (Fax)
Email: ethicscommission@oaklandnet.com

More Space for Oakland Tool Lending Library

The Friends group of the Temescal Branch Library has a plan to improve space for the Tool Lending Library by building a small modular outbuilding in the Library's back lot. It will relieve pressure on the Branch's current cramped site.

Details are evolving but The Friends will be raising funds as soon as they find a fiscal sponsor.

If you don't know about this neighborhood resource, know that more than 3,500 tools are available for loan to residents of Oakland and nearby cities for the price of a library card. And: Any California resident can get an Oakland Public Library card. Library cards are free and are available at all our locations. You must pick up your card in person (unless you are eligible for Extended Services).

Oakland Tech Mountain Bike Team Completes First Season of Competition

by Jana Good, Tech Parent Volunteer

5-4-3-2-1-GO!

With a rush, dozens of bikers push away from the starting line, peddling hard to gain a good position on the narrow trails. For the next six hours, waves of Varsity, JV, Sophomore and Freshman riders – boys and girls – will climb hills, cross streams, ride over rocks, and careen down steep trails as they compete to cross the finish line.

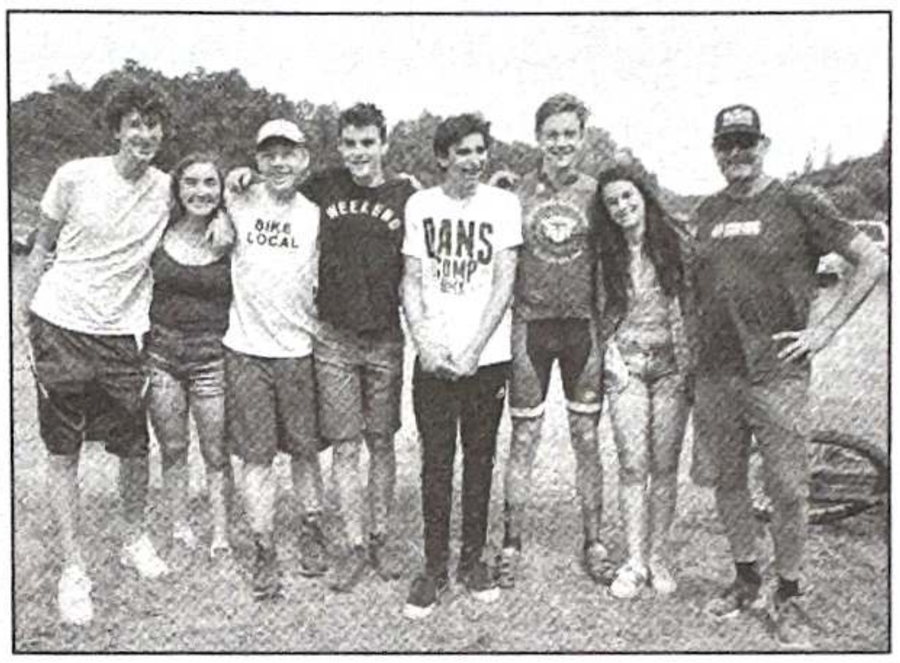
This year was the first season of competition for the Oakland Tech Mountain Bike team. Prior to 2018, Tech students competed as part of the Oakland Composite team, with schools from across Oakland. Now, with seven riders, Tech has qualified to compete as its own team in NICA, the National Interscholastic Cycling Association.

Over the past three months, Tech students have competed at courses from Fort Ord in Monterey to Six Sigma Ranch in Lake County. All students compete on the same course – typically a 5-6 mile loop – but riders complete a different number of laps depending on their level. For most students, completing the challenging 12-24 mile race is a big accomplishment.

Aden Lounds, a sophomore, joined the team this season after watching her older sister, Emily, compete with Oakland Composite. "I wasn't sure I wanted to race," said Aden, "but I decided to give it a try and I'm surprised by how much I like it. The team and the other riders are so supportive and I feel a real sense of accomplishment when I finish."

Desmond Griffith and Finn Capurro-Durkee, both seniors, have competed for the past four years. "I'm really going to miss the team," said Finn. "Biking has been such a great part of my Tech experience."

"I've loved biking," added Desmond, "because it's helped me get in great physical shape. I've been surprised, though, by how it's also helped strengthen my mind.



Tech's Mountain Bike Team: Clyde Nichols, left, Aden Lounds, Luke Tracy-Patterson, Desmond Griffith, Arlo Hadley, Finn Capurro-Durkee, Rockridge resident Lanie Goldberg, Devin Lounds, coach. /Jana Good

Tech Bikes, page 14

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City Ditches 30's 'Hooverville' Ghost for Tuff Shed Housing



Oakland History on the Internet: View of "Pipe City," at the Estuary in Oakland, California. October 1932. M.L. Cohen, photographer. Gelatin silver print. Collection of Oakland Museum of California. Gift of Martin J. Cooney. "As hundreds of thousands of Americans lost their homes and farms, many began to live in makeshift housing in temporary villages named 'Hoovervilles' after the unpopular President Hoover. In Oakland, California, during the winter of 1932-33, some 200 homeless men took up residence in surplus sewer pipes in a storage yard on the waterfront at the foot of 19th Avenue. It became known as "Pipe City." (More information at https://bit.ly/1ZxJpRC)

by Don Kinkead with Jo Ellis

Oakland in the 1930s had "Pipe City"; Oakland in 2018 has Tent Cities: an assortment of clusters of unhoused people living in tents on city streets, in vacant lots and encampments under freeways.

When Pipe City was established, people in Oakland were struggling to survive in the midst of the Great Depression, a nationwide economic collapse. By contrast, today's Tent Cities are springing up during a time of unprecedented prosperity and growth.

With homelessness as part of the daily landscape, people are coming together to develop creative solutions. As the tents and the number of people living in them grow, public and private resources have emerged to assess the situation and find safer and healthier alternatives off the street.

One answer was to create living spaces on vacant land at 6th and Castro streets using Tuff Sheds, compact storage sheds converted to full-time occupancy for re-housing the

Tuff Sheds, page 11

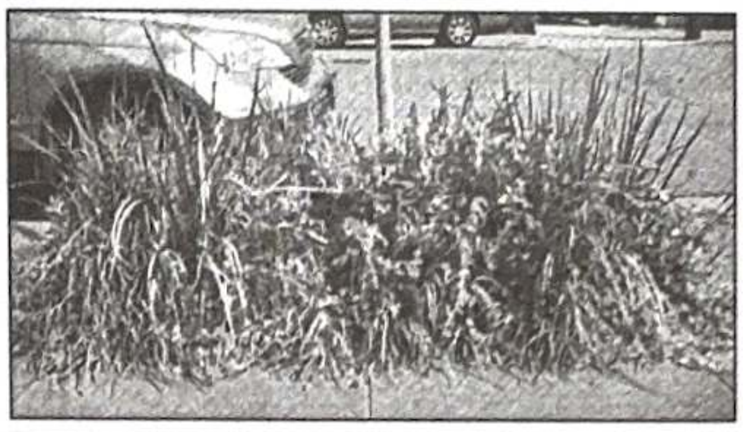


Scenic Streets of Oakland

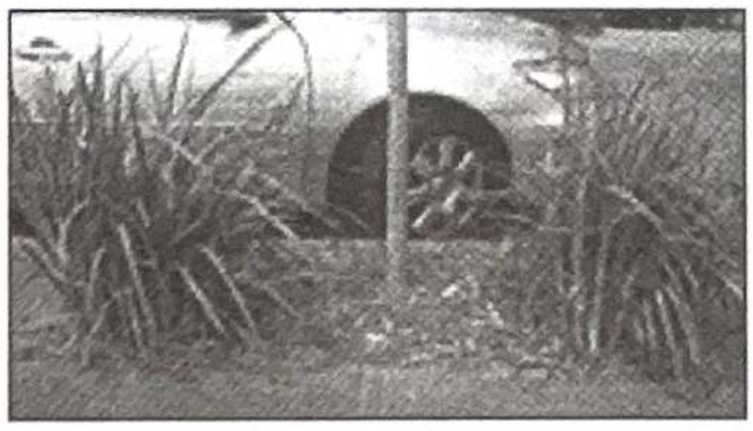
You're Invited!

Scenic Streets of Oakland Sets Workday: 9 a.m. Saturday, June 16

Your community needs you for a couple of hours on Saturday morning, June 16. It's the next Scenic Streets of Oakland work day when your neighbors get together to do our little bit to make the neighborhood nicer.



Help Transform This...



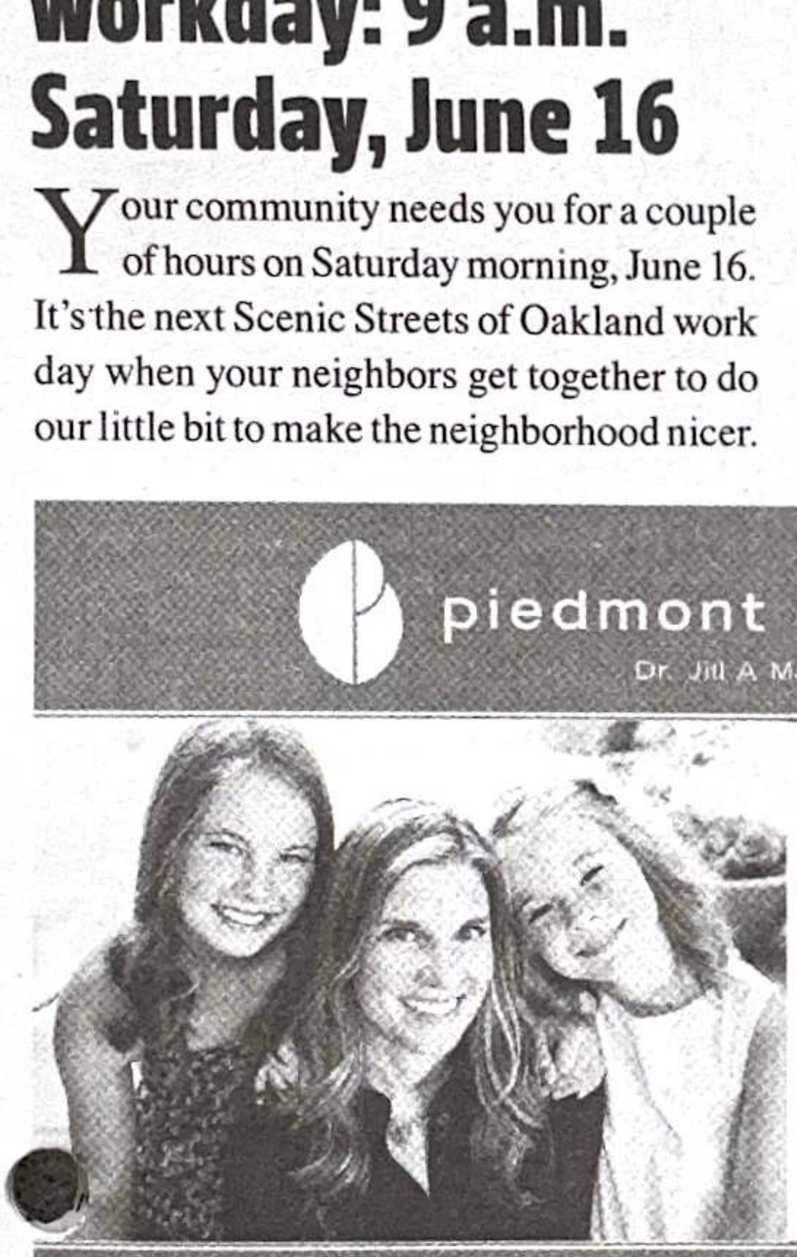
To This!

We hope to tackle the rampant weeds growing around a number of our street trees and, if time and energy permit, move some mulch and maybe do some planting.

All are welcome, including children with adult supervision. We'll meet on the east side of Claremont Avenue at the south end of Hardy Park at 9 a.m. Bring your favorite weeding tools (labeled as yours) and wear appropriate clothing. Since our priority will be weeding street plantings, a pad to kneel on would also be a good idea. Gloves and drinking water will be provided.

If you plan to attend, an RSVP to lee.scenicstreetsoakland@gmail.com would be appreciated but is not mandatory. If you can bring a wheelbarrow, please mention it in your RSVP.

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Eyes on Rockridge

ALL PHOTOS JUDITH DONER BERNE

Writers – Young and Older – Pursue 'Good Storytelling'

by Judith Doner Berne

Creative writing is alive and well in Rockridge.

A band of aspiring and/or published writers gathers every other Tuesday in the living room of Adele Mendelson's Rockridge home to exchange one another's feedback on their work.

And, Rockridge is the new East Bay Area home of Writopia Lab, a non-profit organization headquartered in New York City. Its stated mission: "To foster joy, literacy and critical thinking in children and teens from all backgrounds through creative writing."

Retired teachers Mendelson and Bob Pressnail, software developer Tony Pierce, Realtor Ruth Goldstone, structural engineer Jesus Sierra and new mom Patti Maciesz call themselves the Rockridge Writers and are super-serious about their craft, as I found out when I attended one of their sessions back in early April.

Several of them originally met at The Writer's Salon in Berkeley, Mendelson told me. But after finding themselves in the same classes, they decided "we could just meet on our own." And that's what they've been doing for the past seven or so years, while adding other area writers.

"Our mission was to do short stories," Mendelson said. "A couple people have gotten into novels. Memoirs are fine." She also writes poetry and had readied a poem for this night's critique. Two or three writers per session bring in their work, after emailing it ahead to the others.

As four of the regulars, laptops in hand, assembled around a wine- and snack-laden coffee table, each took a turn to read from their work. Positive feedback was given first, which this night included "This is really good story telling." "It's terrifically imaginative and funny." "This is very well constructed." "I just love this sentence..."

Thoughtful criticism followed: "I'm not a fan of the final paragraph. It kind of dilutes the piece." "I see almost two distinct poems here." "I would like a little more development and character and a little more length."

"I think it's hard to have perspective on your own work," said Goldstone, who has completed the first draft of a novel and joined the group via a notice in The Rockridge News. Goldstone, who earned an MFA in fiction from San Francisco State University, finds the group's feedback "always really helpful. Their questions help me bring out the theme." And when she's critiquing her fellow writers' work, "I can see the parallels in the (writing) process. I can see we are struggling with the same thing."

For Sierra, who recently had a piece published in *Endangered Species, Enduring Values: An Anthology of San Francisco Area Writers of Color*, "The most important



← "It's been a very stable population," says Adele Mendelson, of the crew of writers that meets regularly at her Rockridge home. But they also are open to newcomers.

Good Storytelling, page 7

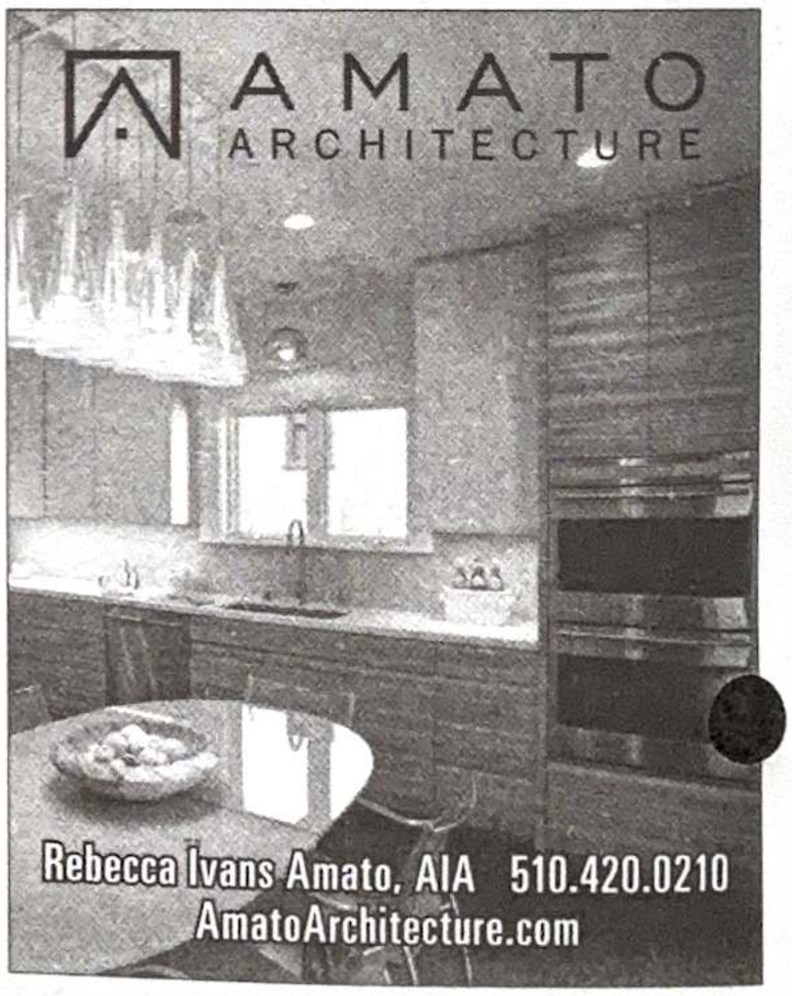


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Good Storytelling

from page 6

piece for me is to hear from folks what they think the story 'is about.'" When he gives feedback, "It teaches me how to better evaluate and critique my own work. I also learn from others, maybe a particular story structure or approach. I learn as much, if not more, from reading their work as I do from hearing their comments on my own."

Pierce, a Rockridge resident, finds "advice and ideas that come out of other people's experience and expertise" are invaluable to his writing. And "commenting on other writers' works forces me to structure and articulate what I think about their piece, which helps me do the same for my own work. Also, it's gratifying when something I say helps the writer improve their piece."

In another example of the local creative writing interest, young writers gather six days a week in a sunlit meeting room at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church. They are led either by Mikaela Dunitz or by a published author hired for the Writopia Lab she introduced to the East Bay in 2017.

Dunitz, who has a master's in English education from Columbia University, chose Rockridge for its central location. It is close to many schools in the area and convenient to BART and other public transit. "I liked the hybrid/residential vibe and hoped this would mean Writopia would be accessible to a wide community of young writers." She also lives just over the Rockridge border in south Berkeley. "We started with 8- to 18-year-olds, but then a seven-year-old wanted in, then a six-year-old," she said. Classes, grouped by age and limited to seven students, begin by playing games that typically teach narrative and are designed to help them generate material. "The idea is to meet the kids where they're at and help them achieve their own goals."

Fees are on an honor-based sliding scale with half of the students receiving some financial aid and 20 percent getting full tuition. "We never turn anyone away," Dunitz said.

On this Friday afternoon, three seventh graders – Joey, Mingus and Claudio – and two ninth graders – Sydney and Percy – sit around the large marble table, busy writing stories on their laptops.

After an hour or so, and following a choice of Annie's bagged snacks, Dunitz asked, "Can we hear some stories?" As with the Rockridge Writers, "things that we like" preceded "questions we have."

Comments included: "You do dialogue really well." "I liked the description of his emotions. I could really feel them." "That's a high-class metaphor." "This guy really knows his geometry."



"They love to write; that's what they want to do," says Mikaela Dunitz, of the teens and children enrolled in her Writopia Lab creative writing workshops.

"Do not be nice to me. Criticize me," urged one young writer, preceding the "questions." Suggestions revolved around fleshing out what was written that day.

Percy, an Oakland Tech freshman from Rockridge, is one of the program's initial students and now also helps out with the 7- and 8-year-olds who meet on Monday afternoons. There, she said, "We're trying to do 'graphic noveling.' They're lively and they enjoy being here as much as we do."

"I always wrote at home," she said, maybe influenced by her dad, an Oakland firefighter who is also a published author. So, does she want to be a writer as well? "It's not sustainable as a career," she said, "but on the side." Her goal: "to be a teacher."

"This is such a lovely group," Dunitz told me, after they had filed out, either walking to nearby homes or picked up by a parent. "They are just so positive. It's a great way to end the week."

Full disclosure: I found out about Writopia Lab through my grandson who is part of the Friday group. And, in both the adult and teen groups, I was the only one using paper (reporter's notebook) and pen.

For information on Rockridge Writers, please call Ruth Goldstone, 510/418-7191 or email her at eastbayprop@gmail.com. To find out more about Writopia Lab, call 415/805-8615 or go to Writopialab.org and click on San Francisco Bay Area. Their week-long, half-day summer camps start June 11. After-school sessions resume in the fall. To contact me, email judyberne@att.net.

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Rockridge Neighbors Reach Out to Garfield Elementary School

by Margaret Wahlberg

Garfield Elementary School in the San Antonio neighborhood of East Oakland is one of the largest and most diverse schools in Oakland. Many of its 650 students are recent immigrants from countries around the world. Many of these children have had harsh experiences of war, poverty and hunger.

In meeting the needs of its students, Garfield staff are confronted by numerous and unique challenges. Many newcomers to the school speak no English. In fact, 18 different languages are spoken at Garfield. There is no PTA, so the school must pay for an internet translating service, which enables parents and teachers to communicate.

Garfield's list of needs is long. With recent budget cuts, basic supplies such as pencils, paper and teaching aids are often paid for by the teachers. The school's printers, important for copying lessons and handouts for the children, are frequently out of order. As a Title One School over 90 percent of Garfield's students receive free school lunches; at-risk children receive three meals a day.

Garfield's staff face these challenges with a devotion to their students that is truly inspiring. The students' academic success is their highest priority. Garfield is giving the gift of education to a community that, in turn, is grateful to receive it.

To help support Garfield Elementary School, Rockridge resident and Garfield volunteer Jody Stevens inspired her friends and neighbors to create the fundraising group, Rockridge for Garfield. Jody spearheaded a fundraising event held May 20 at the home of Rockridge residents Dom DiMento and Craig Lyall. More than one hundred guests enjoyed an afternoon that included a silent auction and refreshments in a beautiful garden.



Founder of "Rockridge for Garfield" and volunteer at Garfield Elementary Jody Stevens with some of her students. /Chris Wahlberg

Speakers at the gathering included Alicia Arenas, Garfield Elementary Principal; David Silver, Director of Education with the office of Mayor Libby Schaaf; and Aimee Eng, President of the Oakland School Board, representing District 2. Also present were Noel Gallo, District 5 Councilmember, and Sheila Jordan, former Alameda County Education Superintendent.

The groups fundraising goal was surpassed and our community was encouraged in its support of the school.

To view a short video produced by Rockridge for Garfield, visit: https://youtu.be/iltRepAuPFo

Learn more about Garfield Elementary School at the school's homepage: https://www.ousd.org/Page/2242

Online tax-deductible donations may be made at: http://bit.ly/GivetoGarfield

Rockridge for Garfield thanks friends, neighbors and the following merchants, businesses and artists for their generous donations: À Côté; Greer Alley Landscape Design; Barrow Salon; Belotti's; Ben 'n Nick's; Berkeley Studio Personal Trainers; Greg Blide Tennis Lessons; Noah Camene Hair Stylist; Cole Hardware; Margaret Dorfman; East Bay Booksellers; Eddie's Liquors; Jule's Thin Crust Pizza; Maxine Hong Kingston; Maison d'Etre; Oliveto; Piedmont Theater; Mel Ramos; Rick and Ann's; Rockridge Café; Rockridge Day Spa; Tootsie's; Trader Joe's; Village Market; Maggie Wihnyk Jewelry; Wood Tavern; and Zachary's Pizza.

New on College Avenue

Redfield Cider Bar and Bottle Shop will open at 5817 College Avenue. The City approved the business' application for the former site of See Jane Run. The RCPC Board had voted not to oppose the application, and submitted a letter (at the applicant's request) to that effect.



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RIDE 4 A REASON 2018

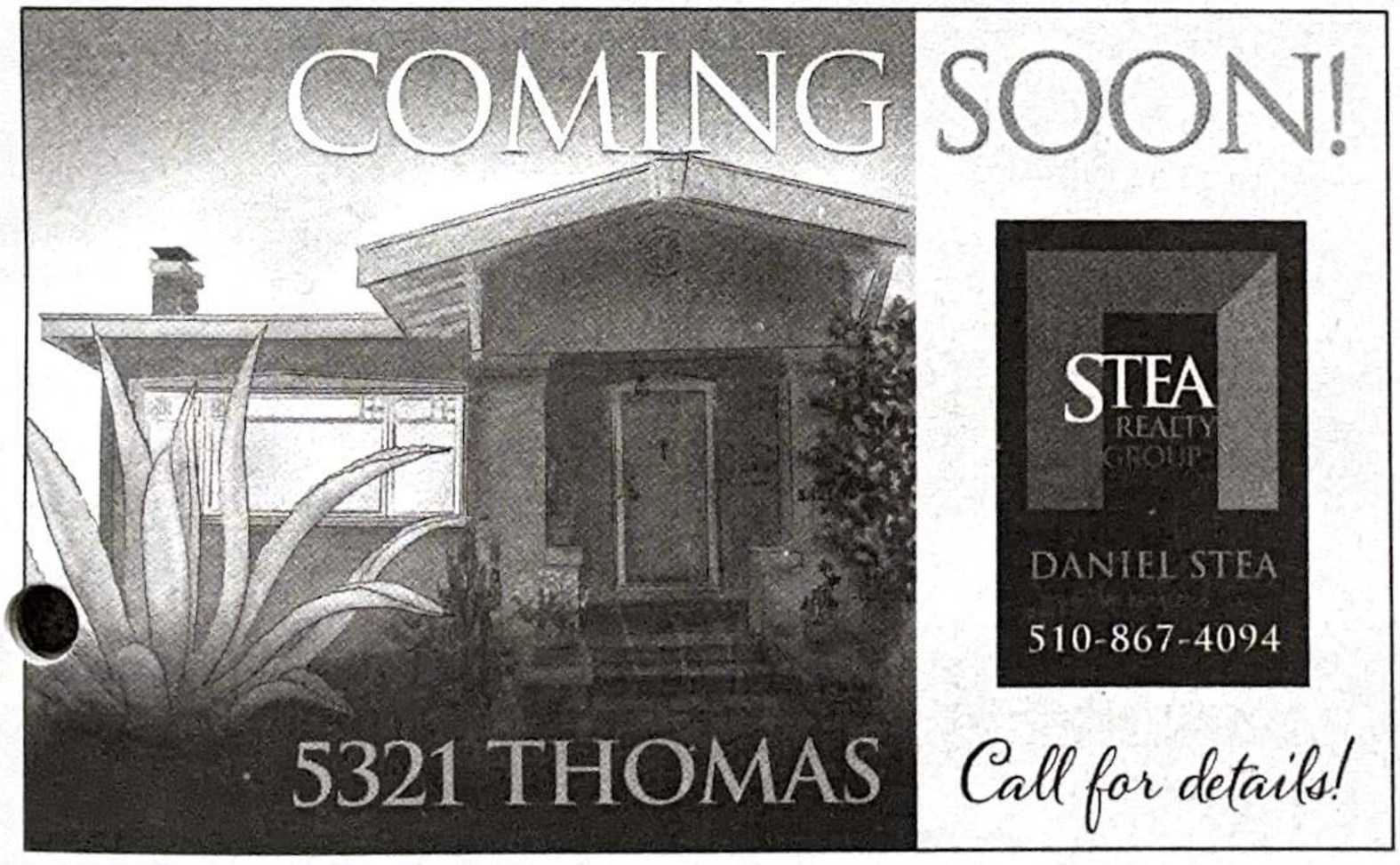






On Saturday, April 28, more than 275 cyclists rode from Oakland Technical High School on Broadway to the Capitol in Sacramento for the 10th annual Ride for a Reason (R4R). The ride is an annual community-building, fundraising, political-action, endurance athletic event. The idea for the ride began with a handful of parents of children in public schools dismayed by deep budget cuts to public education and by California's ranking at 41st among states in school funding. Moved to protest on behalf of their kids, four riders pedaled to Sacramento bearing a petition for increased school funding. Ten years later, California still ranks 41st among states in per-pupil funding. Ride for a Reason raises money for eight Oakland public schools, and advocates to elected representatives for better funding for all California schools. This year, the event raised more than $145,000, divided equally among the eight schools: Emerson Elementary, Claremont, Edna Brewer, Roosevelt, and Westlake Middle Schools; Oakland International, Skyline, and Oakland Technical High Schools. The schools allocate the funds for student services such as library books, art and music education, computers, science equipment, projects for special education classes, psychological counseling services, and extra instruction hours for students reading below grade level. Over the 10 years of Ride for a Reason, the event has contributed close to $1,000,000 to these local public schools.

R4R depends on its volunteers. Ride for a Reason organizers – which include parents and staff members from all of the schools – are planning for a bigger ride in 2019, and could use more help. If you're into cycling, public education, political advocacy, or philanthropy, you can help. We particularly need support in communications, organizing gear and graphic arts. Contact Andrew Stern at asternr4r@gmail.com and visit http://r4rschools.com to get involved.



New Chair for RCPC

from page 1

the importance of listening – I think I'm a good listener by now. Great ideas bubble up from respectful and creative conversations, and my desire for RCPC is that it facilitates those conversations through Town Halls and other channels.

RCPC can claim a lot of credit for positive change in Rockridge, beginning with recovery from the devastation caused by construction of the Highway 24 freeway. I'm enthusiastic about how RCPC facilitates projects that benefit our own community, through initiatives like the Kevin Faughnan Memorial Community Grants.

I've been a Rockridge Kitchen Tour committee member twice now, once as co-chair, and I appreciate how the event can be a successful fundraiser and a wonderful Rockridge-wide party at the same time.

Thank you to my predecessors on the RCPC Board and previous chairs. Special thanks to Stuart Flashman, immediate past chair, who has spent the last three years tirelessly working for Rockridge. I'm honored to follow you, Stu.

I'm ready to listen to you. If you have ideas or concerns, reach me at chair@rockridge.org, or stop me on the street to chat; I'm the short one with the braid.

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. ***Unsigned or anonymous letters will not be published.*** 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 the Status of the Temporary GoBike Location Under BART?

Editor:

I live in Rockridge and have been wondering how long it is going to take the bikeshare program to relocate the installation. The signs posted at the station are saying it is a temporary location. Can you give me an update?

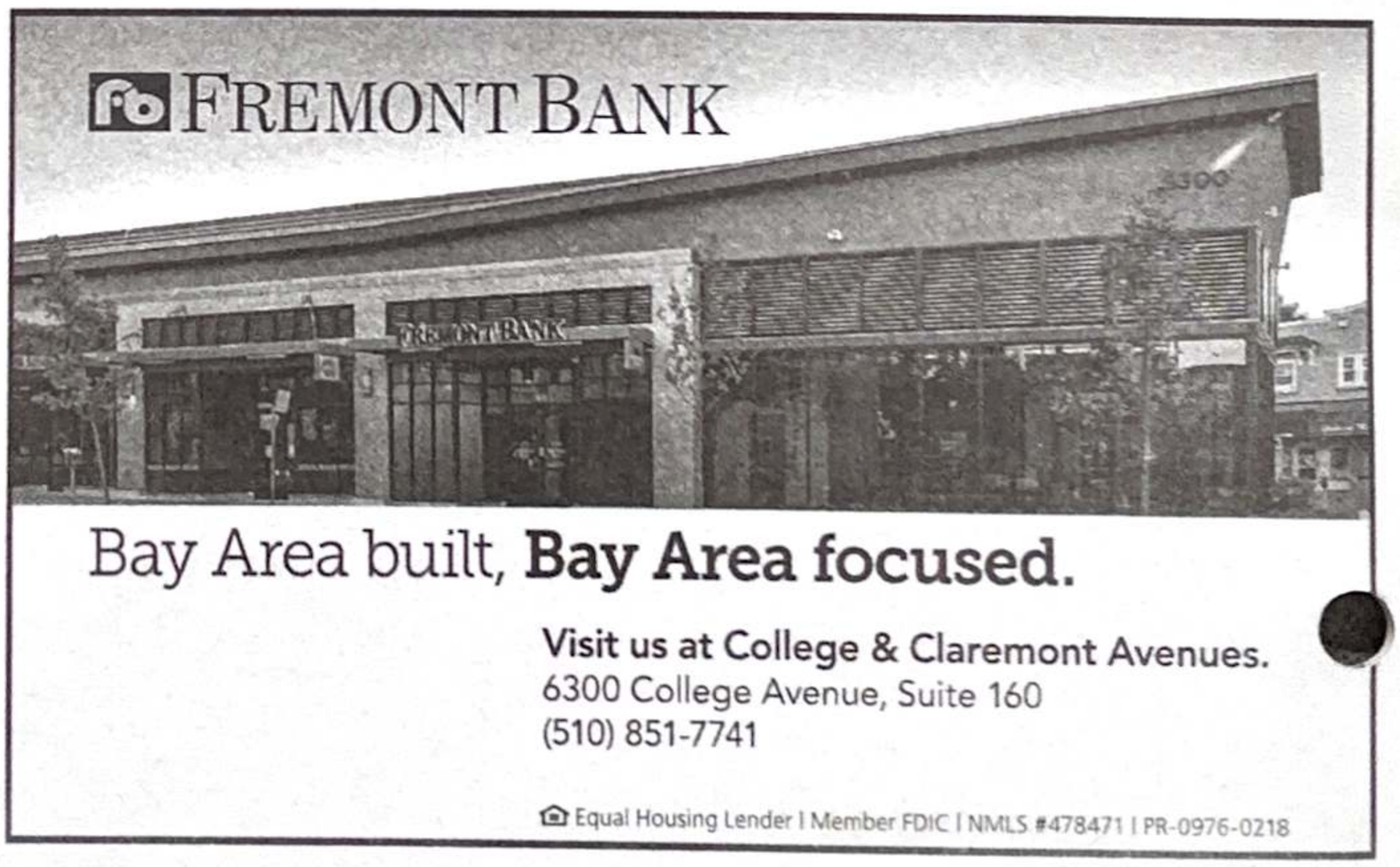
— Ray Craun

Editor's Reply:

Mr. Craun: The Rockridge News forwarded your question to Jean Walsh, Director of External Relations for Motivate, the operator of Ford GoBike. She replied: "We are still working with BART and the City of Oakland to evaluate alternate configurations for the current location, as well as alternate sites near the BART station.







Tuff Sheds

From page 5

unhoused. Recently, Mayor Libby Schaaf announced the opening of a second Tuff Shed shelter village at 27th and Northgate. The following press release tells the story: "Located adjacent to one of Oakland's largest homeless encampments, the Tuff Shed site is on Caltrans property, and leased to the City for one year with an option for a second year.

"Like the first site at 6th and Castro streets housing 40 residents in 20 structures, the new shelter site will allow residents to receive basic services as they work with on-site case managers to transition into temporary and permanent housing facilities. So far, the first site has moved 8 of its 51 participants into housing since it opened six months ago; and 15 of them have found jobs.

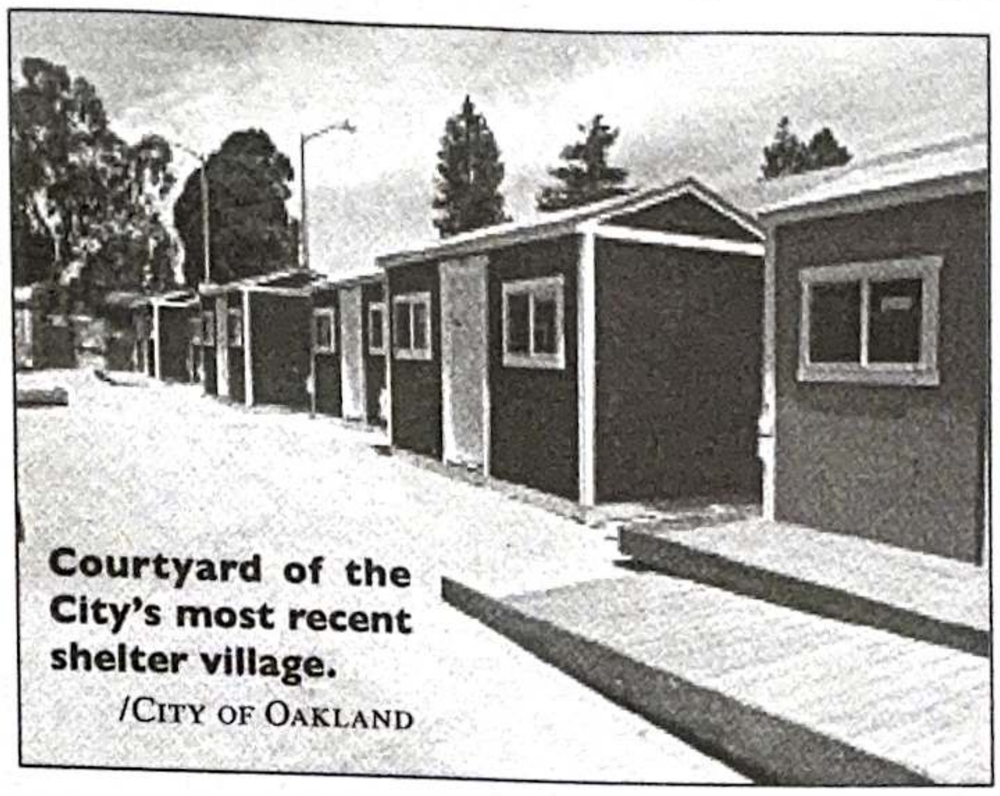
"Both sites afford a consistency not found in the encampments: a hard roof to sleep under every night; a community network of friends and consistent resources; and a supportive staff of case managers to connect residents to vital needs such as acquiring California ID, securing benefits, seeking employment, and ultimately getting housed.

"The new site has an improved cabin layout, an extra window, added insulation, more storage space for personal items, a more secure door with a deadbolt, and low-voltage electricity to each cabin for lamps and phone charging. A curtain can be erected inside the 120-square-foot shed to give each of the two inhabitants privacy.

"There are smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, toilets, wash stations, an area for visitors, ramps for people with disabilities, old shipping containers for property storage, and lounging chairs and a big canopy for a gathering place. The site will also have security and a social worker.

"Service providers, including Operation Dignity, Bay Area Community Services and Lava Mae (a mobile-shower provider), will provide ongoing support at the site.

"Thanks to all the charitable partners and private funders who have contributed monetary and in-kind support to enable building the second site."



Courtyard of the City's most recent shelter village.
/City of Oakland

Oakland Tackles Illegal Dumping

Oakland's Department of Public Works reports that illegal dumping in Oakland has increased 100 percent over the last five years. Many cities across California, the department said, also report an increase in illegal dumping.

That illegal dumping is a citywide problem is illustrated on a graphic report at https://bit.ly/2IV7OOX detailing the distribution of illegal dumping reports and sites cleaned up by Public Works. Illegal dumping is against the Oakland Municipal Code – OMC 12.04.070 – and CA Street and Hwy Code: § 5610.

In response, the City has established a Reward for Reporting Illegal Dumping Program that provides rewards to witnesses who identify people dumping in Oakland neighborhoods. Witnesses who report critical information to catch illegal dumpers can receive up to half of all penalties collected in successful enforcement actions based on the witness's reports. The program is intended to encourage the public to help identify and put a stop to perpetrators' illegal behavior.

It is harmful to our communities because it is blight. It is a hazard to the public and tends to attract other criminal activities.



/Greg Linhares, City of Oakland

Public Works seeks your help:

- Report illegal dumpers via SeeClickFix: https://en.seeclickfix.com/oakland.
- Remove illegal dumping as soon as you can. Oakland Public Works picks up trash and illegal dumping 365 days a year, and crews respond to community service requests within three days
- Adopt a Spot: Join others in keeping Oakland clean and beautiful: https://bit.ly/2IUwxTp

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Five Years of Crime Statistics

by Karen Ivy, NCPC Secretary

Five years. That's how long I've been keeping statistics of crime in Rockridge. I realized recently that while I've been publishing lists of reported crimes, and while I've been keeping a tally of how many crimes were reported in each of the four general categories I track, I haven't looked at overall monthly trends. I recently added monthly totals to my master spreadsheet, and calculated for each year the maximum, minimum, and average number of monthly crime totals. Tabulated below are the numbers, with months in which the maximum and minimum number of crimes were reported.

Year	Average Crimes Per Month	Maximum Crimes Per Month, and Month	Minimum Crimes Per Month, and Month
2014	74	103, Dec.	61, June
2015	83	109, April	58, Sept.
2016	70	95, Nov.	49, March
2017	84	105, Feb.	72, Oct.
2018 – April	55	64, March	45, April

The crime numbers in this analysis are ***only*** **crimes reported** to the Oakland Police. If you didn't report it, we don't know about it.

The real question is: What kinds of crime? The NCPC crime statistics group crime reports into four categories. These aren't official police categories, but are developed by the NCPC for convenience. Official statistics group crimes by the penal code sections that they violate.

NCPC Categories:

- Crimes against the person: Robberies, assaults, domestic violence
- Property crimes: Thefts, burglaries, and shoplifting
- Auto-related property crimes: Car thefts and break-ins
- Quality of life crimes: Vandalism including graffiti, littering, public drunkenness, disorderly behavior.

This report will concentrate on **beat 12Y** (outlined in red on the map at https://bit.ly/2J5NT2Q) because that's where most of the crimes happen. Beat 13X continues to experience far fewer crimes in all categories.

We are most concerned about crimes against the person. Here are the numbers since 2014:

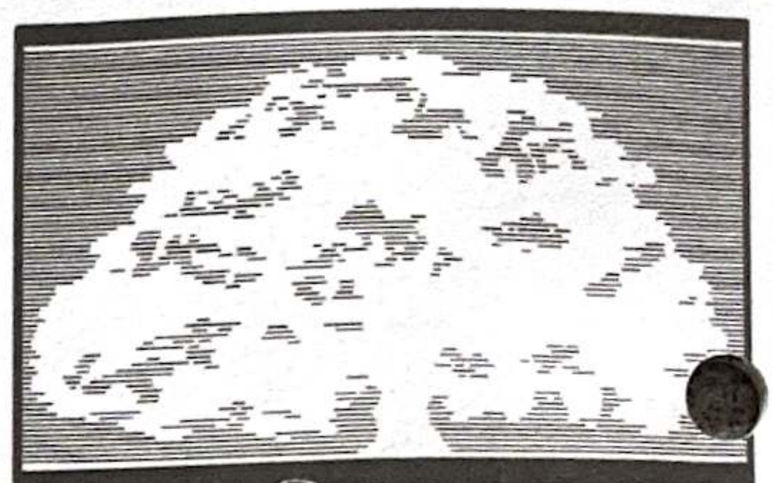
Crimes Against the Person, Beat 12Y			
Year	Average crimes per month	Maximum crimes per month, and month	Minimum crimes per month, and month
2014	6.5	11, April	3, May and June
2015	7.1	12, Aug.	3, Dec.
2016	7.8	13, Nov.	3, March
2017	8.1	12, Jan. and May	3, June
2018 – April	7.3	10, March	5, April

You can see that on average, between 6.5 and 8.1 crimes against the person are committed in beat 12Y every month over the last 4.5 years. Beat 13X's numbers in this category vary between 1 and 2 per month, except for 2017 where they had a maximum of 3 in June.

To clarify a point that can be confusing: If someone grabs your phone out of your hand and runs off with it, or points a weapon at you and demands it, that's robbery. If you leave your phone on the table outside the restaurant while you go inside for something, and someone grabs your phone and runs off with it, that's theft. It's only robbery if the victim is directly involved. Property crimes of all kinds are the major type of crime committed in Rockridge. In 2014, general property crime and auto-related crimes averaged about the same monthly frequency: around 20 incidents per month. Since then, auto-related property crime has been ahead of the general type, averaging between 3 and 12 incidents per month higher than general property crime.

Five Years, page 13

Darin J. Worm
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Five Years, from page 12

Auto-Related Property Crime, Beat 12Y			
Year	Average crimes per month	Maximum crimes per month, and month	Minimum crimes per month, and month
2014	19.8	35, Oct.	10, June
2015	28	45, April	19, Aug.
2016	26.5	47, Oct.	12, Jan.
2017	32.3	44, Jan. and June	19, Aug.
2018 – April	16.5	22, March	13, Feb.

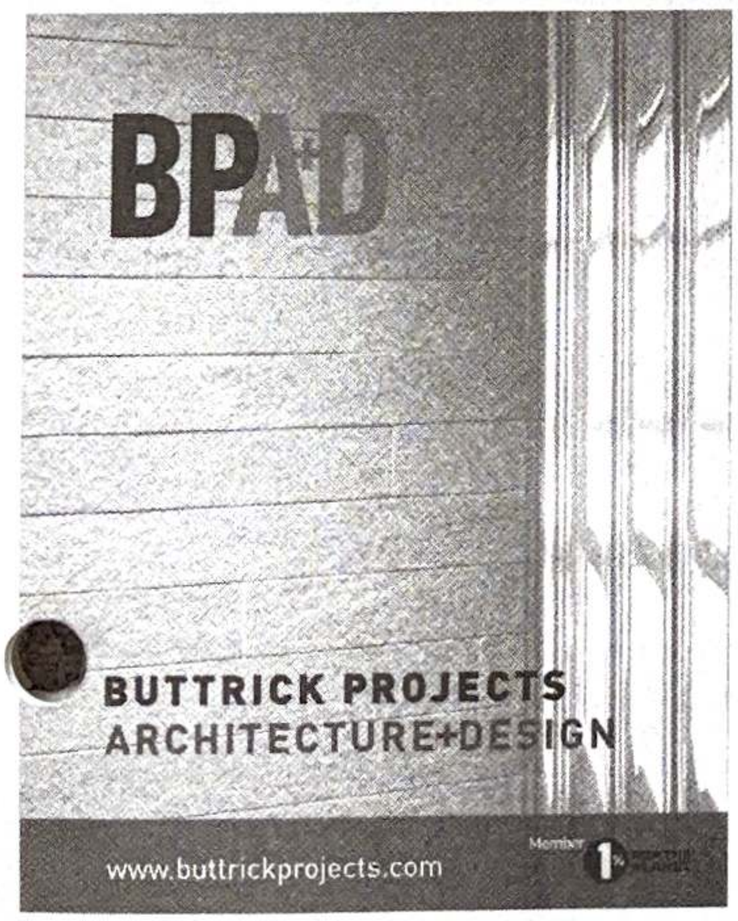
For comparison: in beat 13X, in this entire period, neither kind of property crime ever averaged more than 8 incidents per month, and the highest monthly maximum in either type of property crime was 15, in January 2014. It was auto-related crime.

It's clear that 2014 and 2017 were big years for Rockridge crime. Quality of life crimes never averaged much more than 10 incidents per month, sometimes much less.

Quality of Life Crime, Beat 12Y			
Year	Average crimes per month	Maximum crimes per month, and month	Minimum crimes per month, and month
2014	9.9	20, Dec.	5, Sept.
2015	6.1	11, Nov.	4, Jan., March, and Sept.
2016	6.4	11, Nov.	0, Jan.
2017	10.3	14, July and Aug.	5, June
2018 – April	7.3	9, Jan. and March	4, April

Considering the counts recorded thus far and that the worst months are likely yet to come for 2018, there is potential for this year to set a new record for most quality of life crimes."

In beat 13X during this period, the average number of reported quality of life crimes was never over 2 per month; the maximum number that occurred in any one month was 4. In many months, none at all were reported. Three months in 2014 (March, April, and November) each had four reported quality of life crimes in beat 13X.





Tech Bikes

from page 4

I've learned a lot from biking."

Students practice several times a week, spinning indoors at CruFit when it's raining or hitting the trails in Redwood Regional Park. For kids without bikes, NICA provides loaner bikes. The team is petitioning now to get PE credit like other sports at Tech.

Devin Lounds started as a coach for the Oakland Composite team three years ago and now coaches the Tech team.

"It's been a pleasure coaching and mentoring these awesome student athletes. Mountain biking is a great way to spend time in nature, and teaches lessons around hard work, self-sufficiency and preparation that will pay off in college and beyond."

"Being on the biking team has been a great experience," added sophomore Lanie Goldberg. "The trails can seem a little daunting, but then I'm always amazed at what I'm able to do once I get on my bike."

The team would love to see more Tech kids on bikes, so they are encouraging kids who like to ride – or even they are not sure – to consider trying it out. There will be fun rides in the fall, which is a great first step. Contact the following for more info: Jana Good at janagood18@gmail.com or Bobbi Lounds at bblounds@yahoo.com.

Free Walking Tours Offer Glimpse of Downtown Oakland's History and Ongoing Renaissance

Downtown Oakland's continuing renaissance has captured national media attention, with Uptown emerging as a premier arts and entertainment destination. Local residents and visitors can glimpse both today's happening scene and landmarks from Oakland's past during the 2018 Oakland Tours season.

Free 90-minute walking tours of downtown Oakland are offered every Wednesday and Saturday from now through October. The twice weekly guided tours showcase the city's changing skyline, landmarks, churches and high-rises.

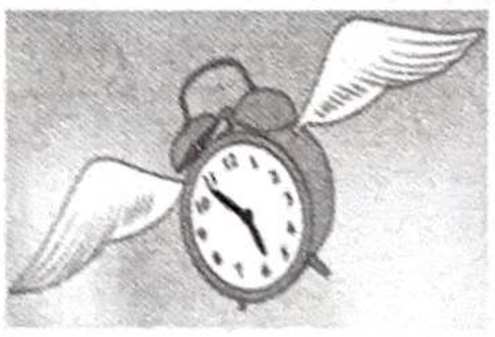
The six-month-long tour season ensures ample opportunity to take in each of the eight different tour itineraries. Each tour begins at 10 a.m. from various starting locations depending on the itinerary. Reservations are recommended: leave a message on the Tours' 24-hour hotline: 510/238-3234 or via email to aallen@oaklandnet.com. The tour brochure, itinerary descriptions, dates and starting locations are available at oaklandnet.com/walkingtours.

Tour 1 – Old Oakland

This tour explores the 1870s business district where carefully restored brick commercial buildings now house offices, galleries and eateries. The historic district is a visible reminder of Oakland's designation in 1869 as the Western Terminus of the Transcontinental Railroad. The tour starts in front of Ratto's Market & Deli, 821 Washington Street. Tour 1 will be offered June 23, July 21, August 1, September 29 and October 27.

Tour 2 – City Center
Tour 3 – Uptown to the Lake
Tour 4 – Preservation Park
Tour 5 – Oakland Chinatown
Tour 6 – Jack London Waterfront
Tour 7 – Churches and Temples
Tour 8 – New Era/New Politics

Sign up for emailed tour notices: https://bit.ly/2JeVEnb



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***The newsletter's July issue deadline is June 21. The July issue** will be out on **July 7.** For information: Email Susan Montauk via* **smontauk@gmail.com**

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Introduction to Foundation Training
For back pain, posture and athletic performance. Learn simple, challenging exercises for strength and flexibility. Decompress your spine, activate low back, glutes, hamstrings. June 16, Rockridge. Search Foundation Training at Eventbrite.com

Community Calendar Too

Temescal Farmers' Market

Open Sundays, 9am to 1pm (all year). Sample the goods; meet the growers. **Live music. Bring reusable bags.** 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Telegraph) at DMV parking lot.

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, [illegible]4611. 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

*****Stop by to get a brochure listing events during the Summer Reading Program which begins Sat, June 9 and runs thru Aug 4. Kids from birth to age 14 get prizes when they read (or are read aloud to) a little every day in our annual children's reading program.**

- **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.**

[illegible]ECIAL EVENTS:

- Tuesdays at 6:30pm:
  - ★ **6/12: Circus of Smiles.**
  - ★ **6/19: Alphabet Rockers.**
  - ★ **6/26: Magic Dan.**
  - ★ **7/10: Insect Discovery Lab.**
- **Caterpillar Puppets**: Thurs, 6/28, 10:30am
- **Chess Club:** Every Tues, 3:30pm.
- **Afternoon Crafts:** Every Thurs, 3:30pm
- **Paws to Read with BARK:** Children ages 5 to 9 read aloud to Natasha, a certified therapy dog who loves listening to stories. Increase reading confidence, skill, and enjoyment. 2nd Wed, each month, 3pm. Sign up at Children's Reference Desk.

FOR TEENS

*****Teen Summer Passport Program:** (ages 12 to18) win prizes by exploring Bay Area Hot Spots, writing book and movie reviews, or attending library programs. **Sign up at oaklandlibrary.org/summer between June 9 and August 4.**

- **Rockridge 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.
- **Game & Craft Days:** Hang out, make new friends, and play video games. Every Wed, 2 to 4pm. We will also make simple crafts [illegible]uring the summer.
- **[illegible]et a Henna Tattoo:** To celebrate the beginning of summer; June 6, 2pm.

FOR ADULTS

*****Adult Summer Reading:** June 9 – Aug 4. Read, write reviews, attend library programs/more. Enter to win raffle prizes. Details at the library and online.

- **eBook Help**: Work one-on-one with a librarian to download eBooks. 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.
- **Lawyer 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.
- **Knitting Meet-Up**: Third Sat. each month, 3pm. Bring your project to inspire or get advice. Beginners learn to knit and crochet. **All levels welcome**.
- **Oakland In Transition:** Watercolorist **Wendy Soneson** discusses her paintings; attempts to capture the clashing of needs and cultures in our rapidly changing city. Sat, 6/09, 11am.
- **Bike Commuting Basics,** Presented by **Bike East Bay**: Learn to outfit your bike, adjust a helmet, avoid common crashes, get a green light at traffic signals; make bike trips fun. Presented by **Bike East Bay**. Sat., 6/16, 11am.

Gallery:

June**: Wendy Soneson;** watercolors.

July: **Bethany Garland-Wood:** collection of geometrically infused works.

LIBRARY HOURS

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.
Wed, Thurs & Sat: 10am to 5:30pm.
Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sun and Mon; also, Wed, July 4th.

Book Reading at Market Hall

Elizabeth Minchilli presents her new cookbook**:** *Eating My Way Through Italy: Heading Off the Main Roads to Discover the Hidden Treasures of the Italian Table.* Conversations and tastings. Thurs, June 7, 3 to 5pm. Market Hall Foods at Rockridge Market Hall, 5655 College Ave. More info: rockridgemarkethall.com or 250-6001.

East Bay Booksellers Book/Poetry Readings

FREE and open to the public.

- Wed, 6/6, 7pm. **Charlie LeDuff:** *Sh*tshow!: The Country's Collapsing...and the Ratings Are Great.*
- Thurs, 6/6, 7pm. **Maya Dusenbery:** *Doing Harm: The Truth About How Bad Medicine and Lazy Science Leave Women Dismissed, Misdiagnosed, and Sick.* In conversation with **Courtney Martin.**
- Tues, 6/12, 7pm. **Peter Rubin:** *Future Presence: How Virtual Reality Is Changing Human Connection, Intimacy, and the Limits of Ordinary Life.*
- Wed, 6/13, 7pm. **Jason Novak:** illustrated book, *Et Tu, Brute: The Deaths of the Roman Emperors.*
- Fri, 6/15, 7pm. **Tommy Orange:** *There There.* In conversation with **R. O. Kwon.**
- Sun, 6/24, 3pm. Poetry Flash with **Kim Addonizio, Donna Masini,** and **Brittany Perham.**
- Wed, 6/27, 7pm. Local author **Laura McLively:** *The Berkeley Bowl Cookbook: Recipes Inspired by the Extraordinary Produce of California's Most Iconic Market.*
- Tues, 7/10, 7pm. Bay Area writer **Zoe Samudi:** *As Black as Resistance: Finding the Conditions for Liberation.*

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

Rockridge Artists/ East Bay Open Studios

Meet the artists and view their works: **Marsha Balian** (mixed media) www.marshabalian.com and **Katie McCann** (collage), beetleblosoom.com. Sat. and Sun, June 9 and 10, 11am to 6pm at 5495 Kales Ave. (Not wheelchair accessible). Refreshments provided. More info about East Bay Open Studios 2018 at EastBayOpenStudios.com.

Call for Volunteers at Chabot Space and Science Center

RSVP for Volunteer Orientation on Sat., June 23,10am to 2pm. Astronomy and science come alive for children and families through new and fun interactive experiences and hands-on demonstrations. Design, build, and test your own inventions with other Chabot volunteers and staff. Volunteers work 8 hours per month and for at least one year. For more information on our program and to RSVP for orientation, visit http://www.chabotspace.org/adult-volunteers.htm or contact the Volunteer Department at volunteers@chabotspace.org.

North Oakland Senior Center

5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way

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.

- **Cane-Do Self Defense Class**. Learn how to use your cane for more than stability! Thursday's 9:30 – 10:30am. $5 (first class free). Pre-register now in the office or call 597-5085.
- **Lawyer in the Center**: 3rd Wednesdays 9 to 11:40am. **By appointment only**. Sign up at reception desk.
- **A Trip to the Alameda County Fair:** Fri, June 22. Meet in NOSC lobby at 9:45am. Cost $5 for NOSC members. (Not a member yet; join now.)

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.

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