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THE Rockridge News

VOL. 33 ■ NO. 8 ■ ISSUE NO. 356 ■ September 8, 2018 CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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

September Town Hall Meeting

☛ Local Transportation Issues: ☚

Getting From Here to There... In One Piece

7:30 to 9 p.m., Thursday, September 20: Rockridge Branch Library

Rental Scooters

- **What is the best way to ensure the safety of pedestrians – and scooter riders – and prevent sidewalk obstruction? Possible City regulations and how they would affect Rockridge.**
- ***Note:* See letter to the editor, page 8, and the link to city rules pertaining to scooters.**

Traffic Safety

- **Changes to Broadway and Lawton intersection**
- **Traffic concerns at 51st and Broadway.**
- **Telegraph Avenue Complete Streets plan.**

Bicycle Use and Safety

- **Reconfiguration of the GoBike bicycle station on the west side of College under the BART station.**
- **Bicycle safety on College Avenue.**

And: In October...

***Know Your Ballot*: Pros and Cons of November Ballot Measures; 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, October 4, Rockridge Library. Presented by the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Oakland; Co-Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council. LWV speakers will provide nonpartisan, unbiased information on all Oakland, regional, and State measures, and answer questions.**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Opportunity: A Last, Longing Goodbye to Summer...

Chabot Elementary Fall Carnival

The Chabot Elementary Fall Carnival has been a Rockridge tradition for years. This year's event will be **11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, October 14**, on the Chabot school campus, 6686 Chabot Road. The event is a fundraiser for Chabot Elementary School, and residents and neighbors are invited to join in the fun and festivities. As always, admission is free.



DONUTS ON A STRING/CHABOT SCHOOL

Enjoy a family lunch provided by the Chabot Dad's club, offering a new, expanded menu with vegetarian and gluten-free options in addition to their famous pulled pork sandwiches and hot dogs or pizza. Then, sat-

Chabot, page 10

Come One, Come All to Rockridge Out & About:

· Sunday, September 16

by Samee Roberts, Heart of the Town Events.org

The Rockridge District Association will welcome thousands from all over the region to shop, dine and explore its **12th Annual Rockridge Out & About street fair, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, September 16.** The free, family-oriented street fair features the annual Picnic with Market Hall, live jazz, Kinetic Arts Circus Tent, kid-friendly carnival, artisans, community booths



Out & About, page 10



Get Ready: Creek to Bay Day, September 15

Creek to Bay Day is Oakland's version of International Coastal Cleanup Day, a worldwide effort to make our planet's waterways cleaner and healthier. Closer to home, you can volunteer at the annual Temescal Creek and FROG Park cleanup **beginning 9 a.m Saturday, September 15.** Join with DMV Neighbors Association and the Friends of the

Creek to Bay Day, page 3

Op Ed

Poor Residential Permit Parking Enforcement Is a Structural Problem

by Jon Gabel, Former RCPC Board Member

Residential Permit Parking (RPP) zones have not been well-enforced by the City of Oakland for many years. City staff has been requesting additional parking enforcement officers and more modern technology, such as automated license plate readers. The message has been that a larger budget would produce better enforcement. However, it appears that the real issue is an inherent structural problem in the way RPP enforcement is carried out.

I stumbled upon this when I tried to have non-permitted vehicles cited for parking all day for months at a time near my house in RPP zone C. Even when I notified the City of the location and the make, color, and license plate information of offenders, the vehicles were not cited. I got some clues from conversations with enforcement officers. This led to questions for supervisory City staff. When they failed to respond, I filed a Public Information Request. The following information came from the response to that request.

According to Michael P. Ford, Interim Manager of the City's Parking & Mobility Division, Department of Transportation, City of Oakland, "Enforcement occurs approximately one hour after each shift begins and ends approximately one hour before each shift ends, with interruptions for breaks and meals." Those shifts and their hours are:

A) The 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. shift, which actually does RPP enforcement from 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

B) The 3 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. shift, which actually does RPP enforcement from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. (since the RPP limits apply only up to 6 p.m.). Because the shortest time allowed for parking without a permit in any RPP area is 2 hours, the B) shift cannot cite any RPP violations on its own. It can only issue citations if it has been informed that vehicles lacking permits parked earlier.

C) The 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. shift, which actually does RPP enforcement from 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

How does one shift notify another shift about non-permitted vehicles parked earlier? There are no written or computer-based records. The only inter-shift communication is verbal. In practice, this means virtually no communication between shifts.

Assuming perfect enforcement (i.e., that any vehicle parking in an RPP zone is noted and ticketed immediately when its time is up), a lack of communication between shifts means vehicles monitored by the A) and B) shifts could park from 12:30 p.m. until 10 a.m. the next day in a 2-hour RPP zone; or could park from 10:30 a.m. until noon the next day in a 4-hour RPP zone without any risk of being cited.

Again, assuming perfect enforcement and no communication with other shifts, vehicles under observation by the all-day shift C) could park from 2:30 p.m. until noon the next day in a 2-hour RPP zone; or from 12:30 p.m. until 2 p.m. the next day in a 4-hour RPP zone. Of course, enforcement isn't perfect, so non-permitted vehicles park even longer than this with little risk.

▸ RPP Monitoring Falls Short, page 12

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Library program details/hours: Calendar, page 15

THE Rockridge News

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

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Don Kinkead.....Graphics & Layout

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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:

Editor: editor@rockridge.org;
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The Rockridge News, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611

Articles submitted for publication may be emailed to the editor or sent to the address 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 October issue is:

☛ **October 6, 2018.**
☛ **Submission deadline: September 13.**

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

Lacking enough new information to make a productive meeting, there was no Land Use Committee meeting in August. The next meeting is **Wednesday, September 26, 7:30 p.m.** See agenda below. Land Use Committee meetings are held in the Rockridge Branch Library upstairs meeting room. Check the calendar at rockridge.org the prior week to confirm time, place and agenda.

RCPC Land Use Committee Update/Agenda – September 2018

Agenda: Reuse Plan for the California College of the Arts (CCA) Oakland Campus, East side of Broadway between the north end of Shops at the Ridge (aka, Rockridge Shopping Center) and Broadway Terrace.

Discussion: A year ago, the California College of the Arts announced it planned to move its campus entirely to San Francisco. Currently, first- and second-year students spend part of their time at the school's historic Oakland campus, located along the east side of Broadway adjacent to Rockridge. Plans for reuse of the Oakland campus were made public at RCPC's September 2017 Land Use Committee meeting, and then were presented formally to the Rockridge community at the RCPC October 2017 Town Hall. At both meetings, audiences offered a generous amount of comments and suggestions to CCA and the development team it brought in to plan the reuse of the site.

Now, CCA and its development team are ready to present revised and updated plans for the Oakland campus reuse. An initial presentation will be given at the September 26, 2018, Land Use Committee meeting, which will, as usual, be open to the public. A more complete and formal presentation will follow at RCPC's November 2018 Town Hall (November 15, 7:30 p.m.). Please plan to attend one or both meetings to hear what is planned for the reuse of this important historic, scenic, and strategic resource for North Oakland.



For years, volunteers have turned out annually to celebrate Creek to Bay Day, Oakland's version of International Coastal Cleanup Day. The group pictured at left helped make the day a success in 2012. You are invited to join your friends and neighbors once again and contribute to a cleaner Oakland and, in particular, a cleaner Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt.

Creek to Bay Day

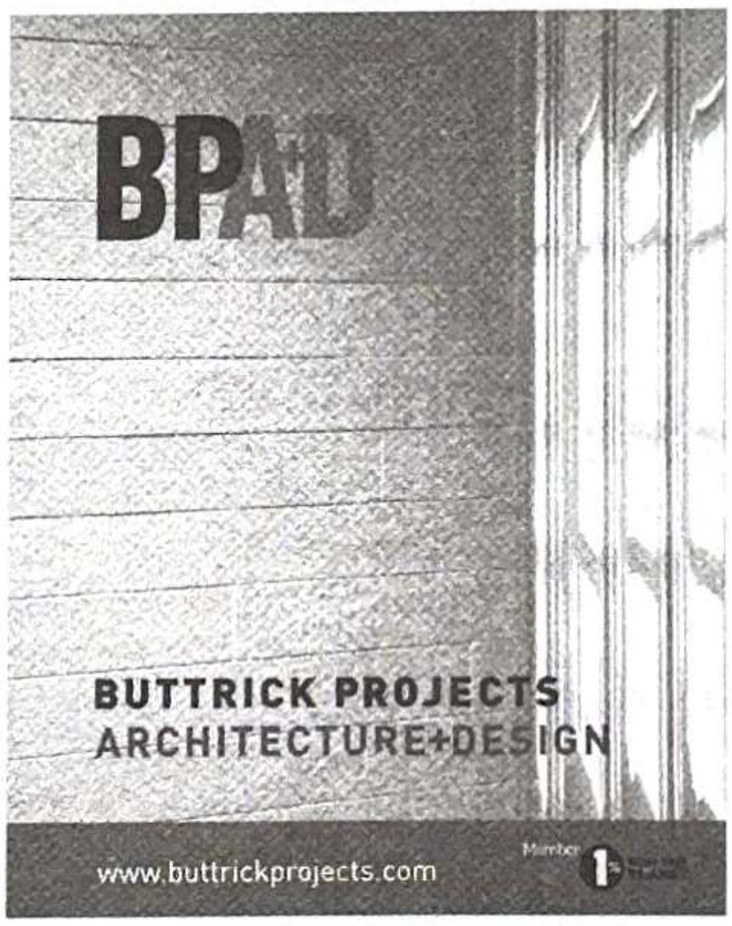
from page 1

Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt to clean our Rockridge neighborhood park. Much of the litter discarded on land ends up in our waterways, so when we clear trash and debris, our park looks better, and litter is kept out of the creek, bay, and oceans. This year, the annual College Preparatory School (CPS) Park Service Day will also participate on Creek to Bay Day. CPS students helped with the 2001 initial build of the play structure; this year they will re-seal the play structures and replenish the soft surface material underneath. Their yearly efforts keep the structures safe and attractive for children.

Other volunteer tasks include trash pickup, weeding, pruning, raking and sweeping. Families and groups are welcome. Students needing school service hours credit will receive a signed letter verifying participation. Tools and gloves provided, or bring your own, well-marked as yours. Find sign-in tables at Cavour and Redondo, for creek and path maintenance between Clifton and Clarke, and at Big Frog, for pond and greenbelt maintenance above Clifton. Coffee and snacks available for volunteers.

More info: contact Leonora Sea, DMV Neighbors Association, LeonoraSea@comcast.net, or FROG, info@frogpark.org.







Longest Serving Rockridge Library Staffer Retires

by Alona Rivord, Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL)

When Senior Library Assistant Alan Howe started working for the Oakland Public Library in 1990, he had no idea that his part-time job would blossom into a rewarding 28-year-long career. Given his deep love for books and his dedication to meeting the needs of others, it was a natural fit for Howe, who had studied at seminary and served for eight years as a pastor.

His history with the Rockridge Branch dates back to the days when there was no dedicated library building on College Avenue; only a lowly trailer.

"There are times I miss that trailer," Howe said during a recent conversation reflecting on his retirement. "It was small and manageable and we had air conditioning!"

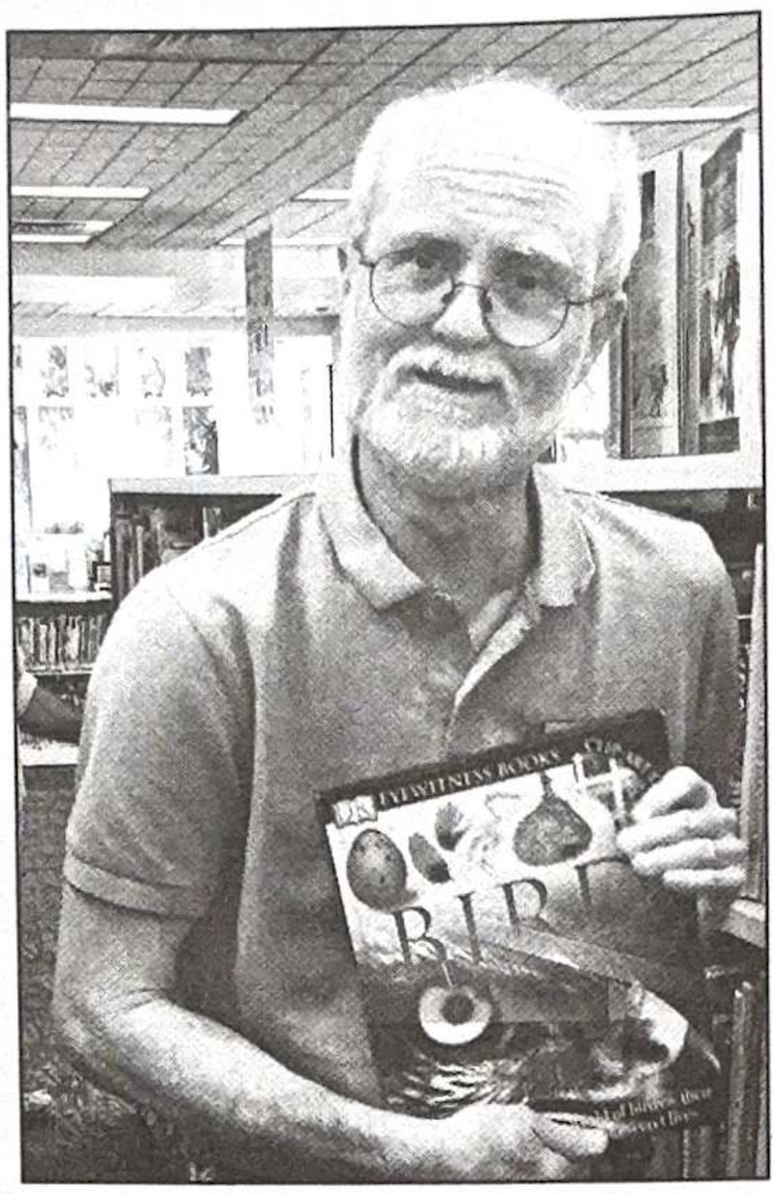
Such remarks can be expected from Howe, who can, at times, assume a cranky persona. He likes to compare himself to Eeyore from the Winnie-the-Pooh books.

"He is self-effacing," said Children's Librarian Erica Siskind, who has worked with Howe for 22 years. "He is a soft-hearted person who is sweet with people. He is respectful and empathetic to his colleagues and the public."

Howe's favorite role at the library has been at the reference desk doing what he calls "detective work" for patrons.

"People come with all kinds of questions. Some of them very simple, some of them more difficult to find," Howe said. "Giving somebody the information they need and knowing that they are pleased with it – that is probably one of the best things about the job. I regret sometimes when I haven't been able to provide the service some people need. Then, as soon as they leave, the light bulb goes on. Sometimes I'll chase after them; sometimes they're already gone," said Howe.

"He is one of those library staff that is dogged," Siskind said. "If he gets a question from a patron he is going to stick with it until he gets an answer."



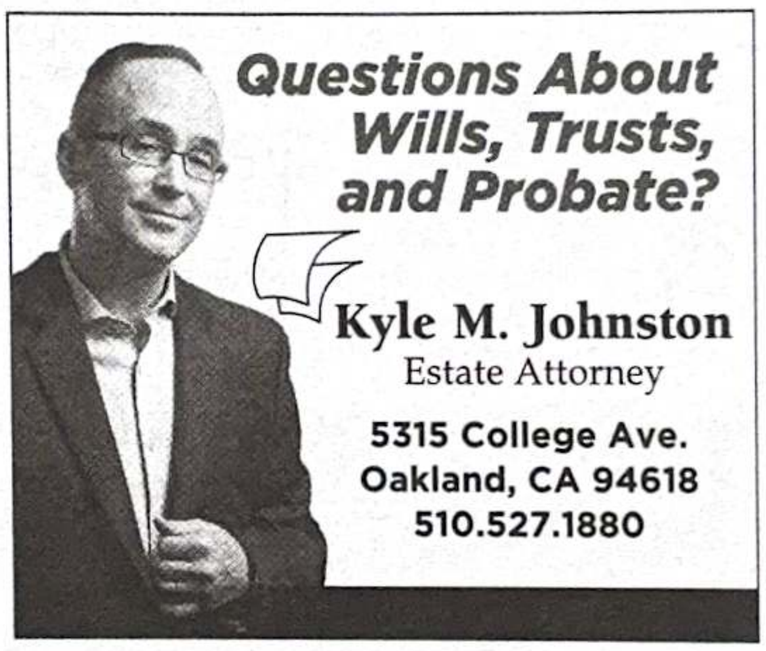
While diligent and detail-oriented, Howe is certainly not serious all the time. Brand staff members have enjoyed his clever p and humorous T-shirts, which show off his lighter side. One shirt reads: "Google can give you 100,000 answers, a librarian can give you the right one."

"I would say, '*help* you to find the right one,'" Howe said.

Despite his scholarly appearance, Howe also has a reputation for being fearless. He once chased an alleged laptop thief into the street, which led to recovery of the patron's computer. Another time, he de-escalated an assault while biking to work. Howe also once rescued two squirrels that became trapped in a branch drainpipe.

Rockridge Librarian Retires, page 14

A magazine cover reveals future birding plans of retiring Senior Library Assistant Alan Howe. /FORL



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Market Hall, BART Team up to Replace Shafter Street Trees

by Roberta Klugman

Have you seen the row of newly planted trees along Shafter Avenue across from Market Hall? These are the result of a collaboration between BART and Market Hall that began in 2017 after BART commissioned a hazard tree assessment by arborists of the International Society of Arboriculture. The assessment recommended the removal of 16 red ironbark eucalyptus trees along Shafter and Keith Avenues.

BART originally planned to have new trees planted by late spring, 2018. However, the transit agency found it would only be able to plant very small trees on an uncertain timeline. The Wilson family, owners of Market Hall, contacted BART when they learned the eucalyptus trees were being removed, and BART suggested they partner to replant larger trees along Shafter.

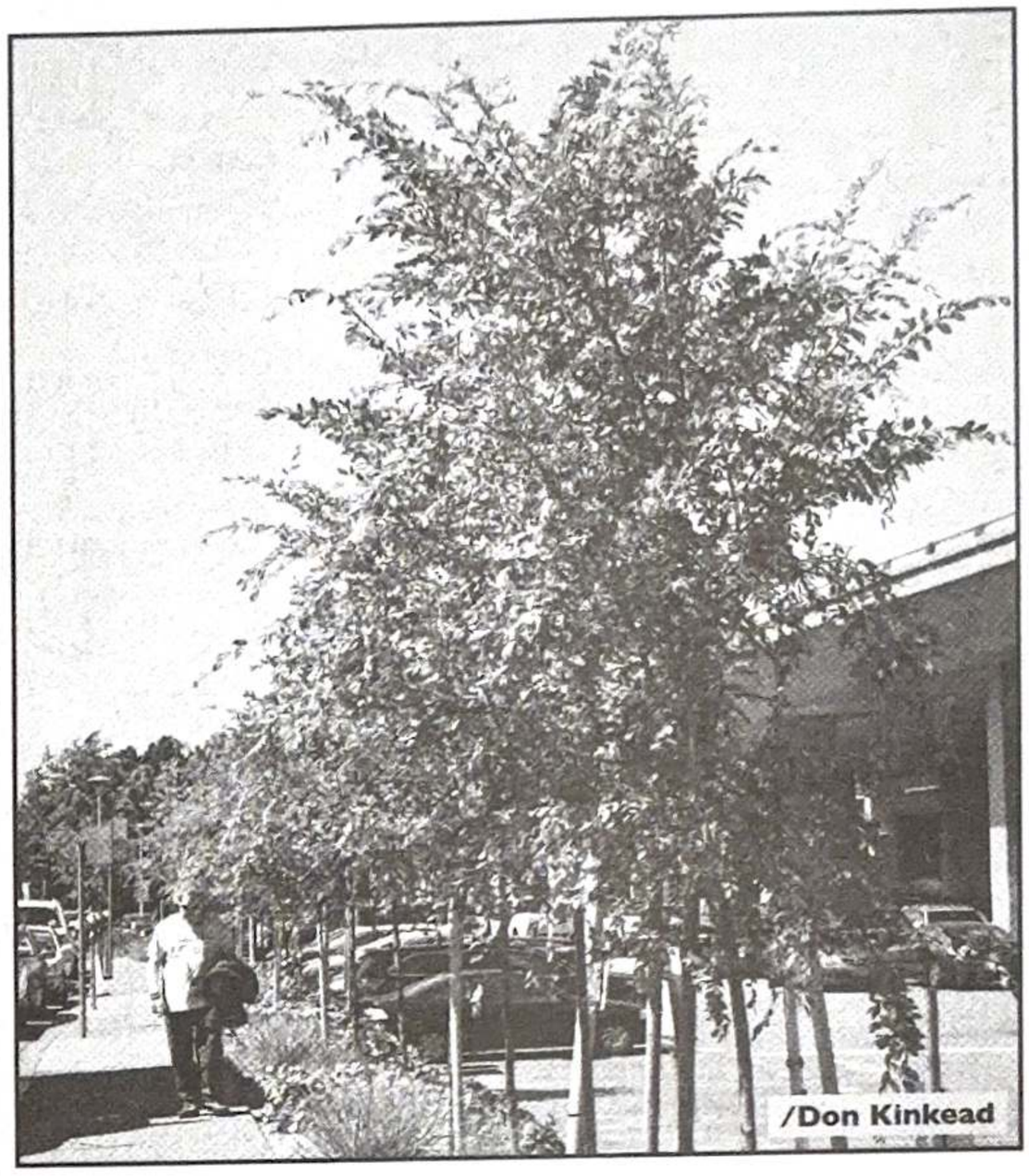
Market Hall and BART worked with an arborist to select a replacement street tree that would provide shade, aesthetic value, microclimate regulation, and visual buffering from the parking lot, BART tracks, and freeway. They were also strongly guided in their tree selection by feedback from the community: Preliminary plans were presented at the January 2018 Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) meeting, and public comments were taken through February 1.

Based on comments from the Rockridge community, BART and the Market Hall team chose Chinese elms *Ulmus parvifolia* as replacement trees, a hardy, low-maintenance, drought-tolerant tree. Attractive trees with lacy foliage and a graceful shape, Chinese elms can grow up to three feet a year and at maturity can be over 60 feet tall. The average height of the trees as now planted is about 13 feet; in five years they could be almost 30 feet tall. They are semi-evergreen in California, an important consideration from the public comments. The trees will provide shade and visual buffering year-round.

Phase I of the replacement project began with BART removing the tree stumps in early August. Now that the trees are in, Market Hall will plant drought-tolerant perennial grasses in front of the trees along the sidewalk edge. Market Hall will continue to water and maintain the trees for about a year, at which time BART will take over maintenance. BART expects to plant the remaining trees on Keith Avenue as Phase II work in early 2019.

Throughout the construction process, BART consultant John Potis, Landscape Architect of Merrill Morris Partners in San Francisco, advised on the installation of the trees to ensure they are healthy and have the resources they need to thrive. John was a resident of Rockridge and is a former member of RCPC. Julia Mandell, AIA, of Wilson Associates, brought her expertise as a landscape designer to the project as well. Planting was done by the Market Hall team.

Sara Wilson noted, "We believe these trees will add to the beautification of our community in myriad ways, and Rockridge Market Hall is pleased to make this investment."



/Don Kinkead

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Eyes on Rockridge

Local Tennis Pro Overcomes Injury, Earns Spot in USTA NorCal Hall of Fame

by Judith Doner Berne

His parents wanted him to be a singer – he took voice lessons all through high school. His community college professor tried to talk him into studying dance – she wanted him to transfer to Cal Berkeley.

But Wendell Pierce, who lived in the Alameda projects until the age of 10 when his parents bought a home in Oakland, held out for tennis. He played locally for Oakland's Castlemont High School, Merritt Community College and Cal State Hayward (now Cal State East Bay), where he graduated with a bachelor of science degree in physical education.

Post-college and a 10-year stint working at Plaza Tennis and Sports Shop in Albany, Pierce headed for Europe where he roamed France and Germany playing tournaments for two years. "That gave me a lot of match play on different surfaces – and I learned to speak French."

He returned to make his mark as an older player, rising to national rankings in United States Tennis Association (USTA) tournaments, in which players compete by age groups. Among his many titles, he was #1 nationally in Men's 45 singles in 2000 and #2 in Men's 50 singles in 2004 and 2005. Pierce, who will be 64 in October, is most recently ranked #61 nationally in Men's 60 standings and #8 in Northern California.

Wander past Chabot Canyon Racquet Club (CCRC), on Chabot Road in Rockridge, and you will most likely see the lanky, baseball-capped Pierce in action. As head pro at CCRC since 1988, most mornings he gives members lessons. In spring and fall, late afternoons are spent coaching the boys' and girls' tennis teams from nearby College Preparatory School (CPS), which he has done since 1991. Most of his own play and tournament practice takes place at the Berkeley Tennis Club where he has been a member for 40 years.

"That's what I like to do – help people improve their skills to enjoy tennis," Pierce told me. "I love the variety of teaching the kids and the adults." But at any age, he said, "players can fail because they are trying too hard. It's so important to be able to stay loose. Tennis is a test of the mental, physical and the technical."

As we sat on the patio overlooking the Chabot Canyon courts, the Oakland resident was still savoring his recent induction into the USTA Northern California Tennis Hall of Fame. His name is now listed alongside tennis luminaries such as Brad Gilbert, Helen Wills, J. Donald Budge and Alice Marble. "I was surprised," he said, at the honor. "I thought, maybe, it would happen in a few more years."

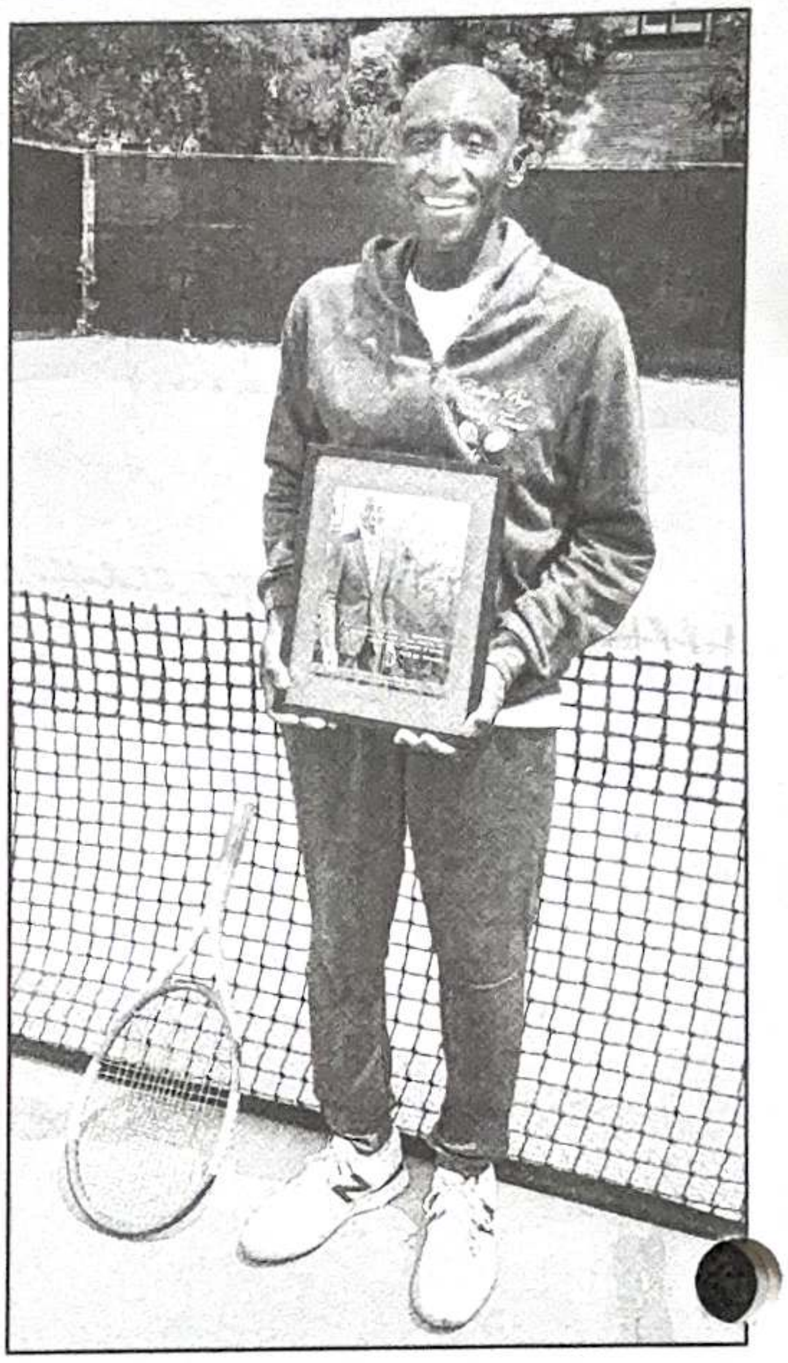
A contingent of 90 supporters flocked from the East Bay to a luncheon ceremony at the Peninsula Golf and Country Club in San Mateo where Pierce was introduced by his longtime friend and doubles partner Jeff Jue, retired Alameda County Court Clerk and current coach of Berkeley High's boys' tennis team.

Pierce's acceptance speech included a nod to his older sister, who let him use the racquet she received for Christmas at age 15,

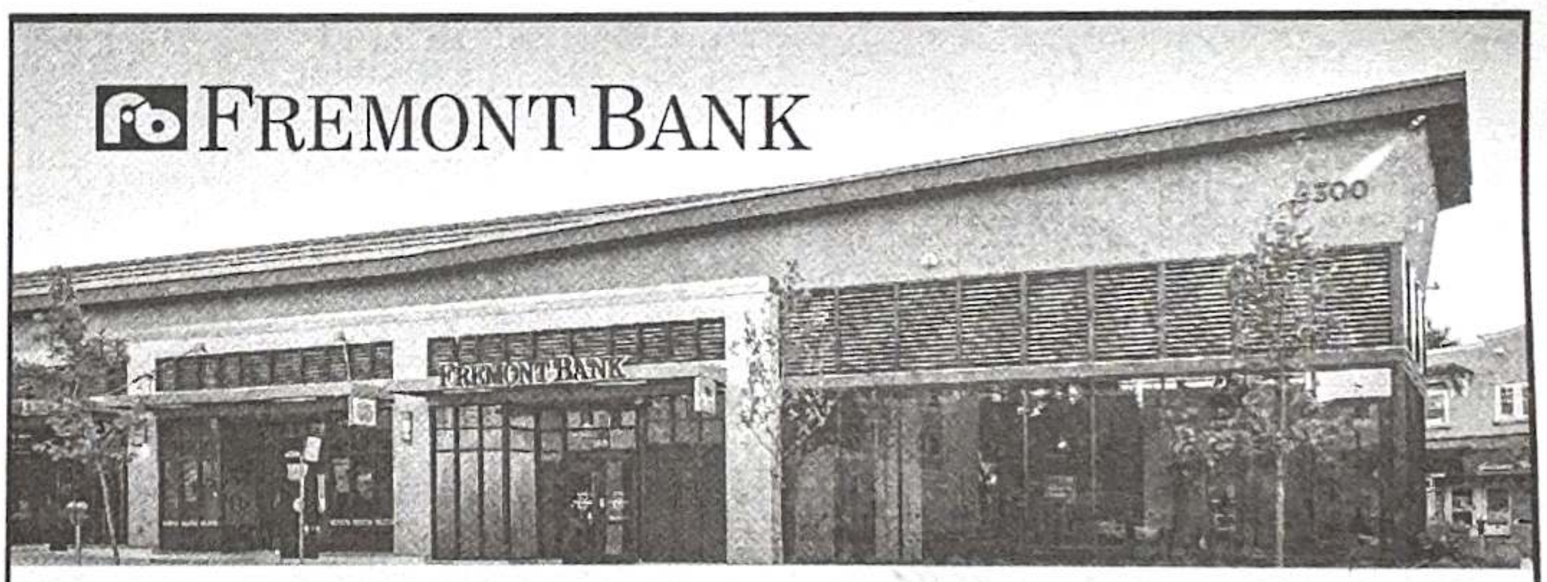
Tennis Pro, page 7

Wendell Pierce, right, on the Chabot Canyon Racquet Club courts, holds the framed photo congratulating him on his induction into the Northern California Tennis Hall of Fame.

Photo: Judith Doner Berne







Tennis Pro

from page 6

and to his grandmother, who although she never saw him play, always told him, "Hit that ball Wendell," a mantra he continues to invoke today.

He also was in good immediate company. Fellow inductees for 2018 include Oakland native Mike Bauer, who ranked #25 in the world in doubles and #29 in singles in the mid-1980s; former Piedmont High tennis star (she played on the boys' team) Dana Gilbert Heinemann, who retired from the WTA tour in 1984; and Ted Taube, whose family name adorns Stanford's tennis stadium.

But I dare say none of the more than 170 NorCal Hall of Fame members changed from being a right-hander to a left-hander in their late 50s, while still competing in major tournaments. "I hurt my right wrist in 2006 demonstrating a volley during a high school practice," Pierce explained. It turned out he had ruptured a ligament. No matter, a month later he was part of the United States Men's' Over 50 team that won the Fred Perry Cup in South Africa. "We beat France in the finals."

Diagnosed with Slack Wrist Syndrome, he had surgery to fuse his wrist. "I played right-handed for another few years and developed a two-handed backhand," Pierce detailed. But in 2010, he decided to become a lefty. "I basically had to build all my skills again" — strokes, footwork and a whole new spatial awareness. It took him nearly four years to be able to volley effectively.

"Now I am really playing well," Pierce told me, with a smile of satisfaction. "I can serve well. My arm has gotten stronger. My immediate goal is to keep improving. I was a serve-and-volleyer; now I am more of an all-court player."

Although his titles include both singles and doubles, "I still like singles better — you only have to call one person." When we spoke, he was preparing for the USTA National Indoors Men's 60 tournament in Seattle.

"Wendell has been a wonderful coach and mentor for hundreds of College Prep students over the past 28 years," CPS athletic director Rich Mazzola wrote in an email. "He's a great coach who draws upon his vast experience in and deep passion for tennis to do more than just teach skills, strategies and techniques.

"A quick scan of the walls of our gym lets you know that Wendell has built a very strong tennis program," Mazzola said, referring to the numerous banners reflecting championships the school has won. "But, like any great coach, in my conversations with him, he explained that each season's success is measured by the progress and improvement that each player makes, and by the quality of the experience shared by the team."

"Wendell is the quintessential nice guy and this niceness extended to his teaching technique," said CCRC member Gail Unno, who has been taking lessons from Pierce for more years than she cares to count. "He makes you feel good about your own game. But the most amazing thing about him is that when he could no longer use his right hand to play competitively, he taught himself to play with his left. And even to this day tries to improve his all-around game with his left hand."

"He has really improved my doubles game," says CCRC member David Steinberg, who started taking lessons from Pierce in 2012. "So now people even may say to me when I hit a good volley, 'Good hands, David!' I owe that to Wendell's teachings. He believes in being repetitive by doing the same action and movement over and over again. That is, if you do it enough times, it will become natural for you.

"His life story is inspiring and should be told on one of those sports documentary TV shows," Steinberg said. "He overcame so much to do something that he really enjoys doing — playing tennis all the time."

Full disclosure: I am a member of CCRC and have had the privilege of taking lessons from Wendell Pierce.

To comment or to suggest a future column on a Rockridge neighbor or neighborhood, email judyberne@att.net.

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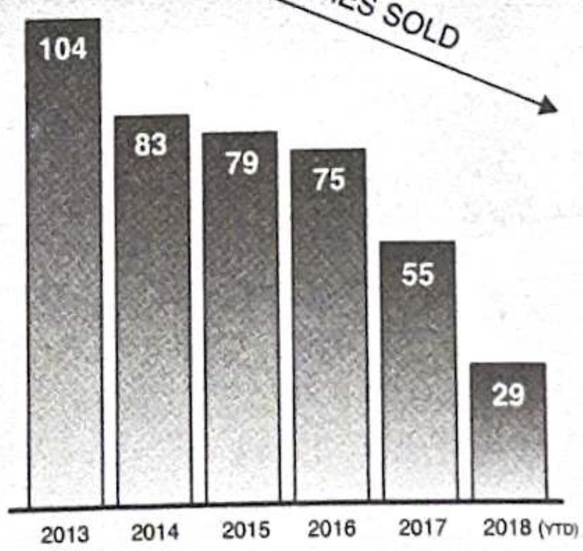
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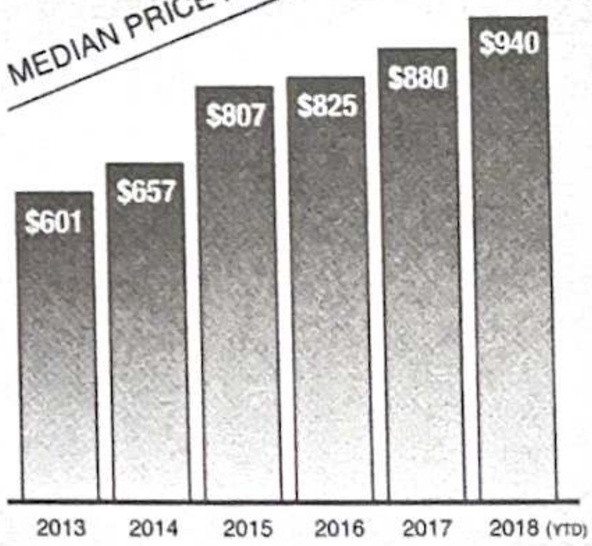
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Letter to the Editor

Scooters a Hazard

Editor:

My wife and I were almost run down on College Avenue by high speed electric scooters this morning. Please inform on the current law considering this dangerous episode.

Larry and Doris Benjamin

Editor's Reply:

Thank you for your letter. The following link to the City's website contains a discussion of scooters and the City's work toward a scooter policy. The questions and answers in Section 3 of the discussion speak to riding scooters on sidewalks, and are:

3. Where are people allowed to ride and park e-scooters?

E-scooter users are required to follow the rules of the road. Under state law, motorized scooter users should:

- Ride in the street, and stay to the right. (California Vehicle Code 21228.)
- Use the bike lane if there is one. If the street has a posted speed limit greater than 25 mph, they must be ridden in a bike lane. (California Vehicle Code 21229.)
- Not ride on sidewalks.
- Scooters are allowed to ride on multi-use pathways, such as the Lake Merritt Trail (California Vehicle Code 21230).
- Scooters may be parked on sidewalks, so long as they do not block driveways, building entrances, curb ramps, color curbs (such as blue or yellow zones) or utilities such as fire hydrants. Make sure to leave at least 6 feet of sidewalk space for people walking or rolling.

Link: www.oaklandca.gov/services/dot/bicycle-services/bikeshare/e-scooter-frequently-asked-questions.

A discussion of scooter safety and regulations is a major topic for the September RCPC Town Hall meeting to be held at the Rockridge Branch Library. See page 1.



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Competition Drives Price in August

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
8/02/2018	2	1	5486 Kales Ave	$1,198,000	$1,198,000	16	$1,696,000
8/06/2018	2	1.5	388 51st	$730,000	$730,000	27	$851,000
8/13/2018	6	3.5	6389 Colby St	$1,895,000	$1,895,000	23	$2,025,000
8/13/2018	3	1	5256 James Ave	$995,000	$995,000	12	$1,500,000
8/14/2018	3	1	446 59Th St	$899,000	$899,000	15	$1,290,000
8/15/2018	3	3	6110 N Rockridge Blvd	$1,349,000	$1,349,000	14	$1,675,000
8/21/2018	3	3.5	5589 Lawton	$2,550,000	$2,550,000	60	$2,700,000
8/22/2018	3	2	459 59th Street	$995,000	$995,000	14	$1,400,000
8/24/2018	2	1	568 Martin St	$795,000	$795,000	14	$1,201,000
8/24/2018	4	1	5776 Vicente St	$699,000	$699,000	15	$975,000

Homes sold in August closed 26.5% over the asking price on average.

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Grand Opening

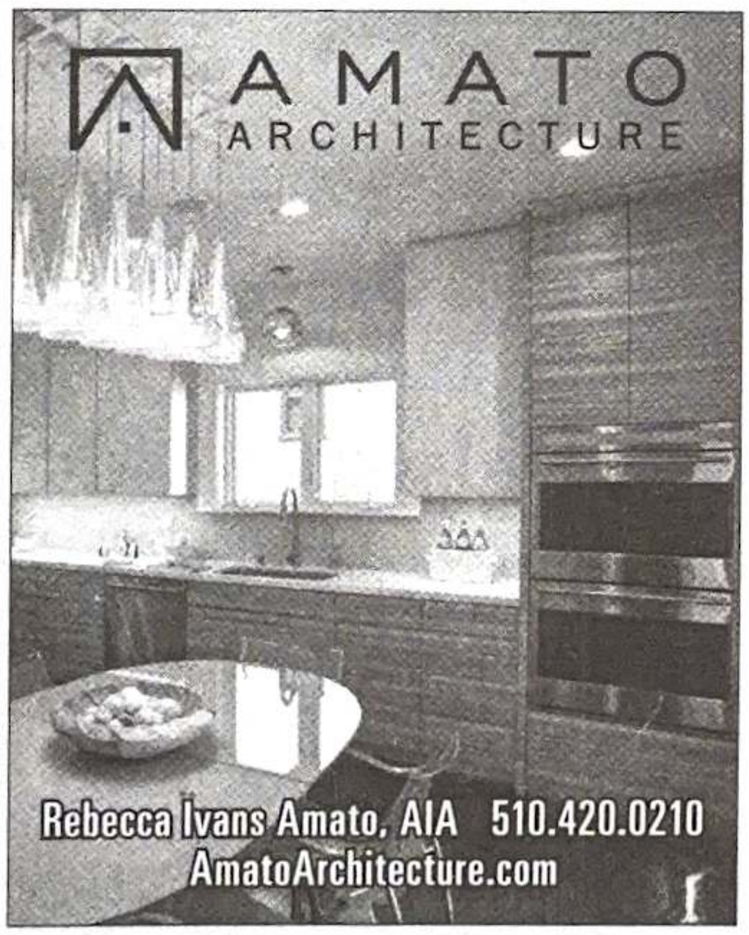
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UPTOWN | DOWNTOWN





Hardy Dog Park Seeks Volunteers

Linda Zunas, Dog Park Volunteer

After a summer of navigating permits and regulatory roadblocks, Hardy Dog Park Group is ready to kick off fundraising and further the design of our park renovation.

- Do you have expertise in fundraising?
- Do you want to help with organizing or applications? Please send us an email, or come by on any park cleanup day.

Too overwhelmed by the crazy world to help us with renovations? Great news! Volunteering is good for your health.

A generous donor recently gifted us with a pressure washer, so you can come to any park cleanup day and have fun with the pressure washer.

As always, we love newspaper bag donations so all the dog owners can keep the park poop-free: drop off clean bags at either entrance to the park.

Park cleanup days are the first Saturday of every month, 9-10:30. We love extra sets of hands to help keep the park clean and inviting.

Email us: HardyDogPark@yahoo.com



A dog park volunteer pressure washes a park gathering area. /Hardy Dog Park

Cleaner Home, Cleaner Energy

Energy Upgrade Program Can Save Money, Add Comfort

Jeffery Liang, Senior Program Services Specialist, StopWaste, Alameda County

Rockridge residents Paul and Hilary knew they had to do something about their drafty home. Paul professionally promotes clean energy, and Hilary works as a data scientist at UCSF. However, they found it surprisingly difficult to upgrade their own old 1912 home to align with their values.

Hilary says, "As many do who live in older homes, we used space heaters upstairs at night. Our entire home was drafty and we were overpaying on heating bills. We also had rodent problems and a musty smell throughout the house. While energy efficiency provides clear environmental benefits and cost savings, our journey was more about being comfortable and improving the indoor air quality for our young kids."



In 2013, Paul and Hilary contacted an Oakland-based home performance contractor approved by the Bay Area Energy Upgrade program (www.bayareaenergyupgrade.org) from a nine-county listing of approved contractors), to assess and diagnose the issues in their home. They learned they had a vertical wind tunnel pulling cold, dirty air from their crawlspace up through the house and out the attic, which lacked sufficient insulation. In addition, their heating duct system lost 90 percent of airflow due to severe leaks.

With $4,000 in rebates from the Bay Area Energy Upgrade program, Paul and Hilary engaged their previous contractor to seal the leaks throughout the house and tightly insulate the attic and walls. Final testing revealed they reduced the leakage throughout their home by 57 percent and to 2 percent leakage in their duct system. Their home heating bills went down significantly while they increased comfort and air quality in their home.

Recently, they decided to take it another step and switch their gas furnace and water heating systems to ultra-efficient electric heat pumps to further reduce their use of dirtier natural gas. The heat pumps modulate their energy use to take advantage of upcoming time-of-use rates that reward homeowners for reducing energy use during early evening hours, when solar is not as plentiful.

Paul says, "I learned a lot from talking to our contractors. I appreciated their scientific process in taking a whole-home, system-wide approach. The furnace, water heater, appliances, ducts and the shell of the house need to all work together and, over time, need calibration. By increasing the efficiency while shifting to a nearly 100% electric home, our next step is to essentially zero out our entire home's footprint with solar panels."

Learn more about energy programs and resources available to Rockridge residents: attend a free workshop presented by the City of Oakland and StopWaste, an Alameda County public agency: **The Future of Your Energy Bill and What You Can Do About It;** Saturday, September 22, 2 – 3:30 p.m., Rockridge Library, Upstairs Meeting Room, 5366 College Avenue. **Register at:** www.FutureOfEnergyOakland.eventbrite.com



Out & About

from page 1

and tons of great food and libations. This year's event arrangements are planned to create an easier stroll along College Avenue from Claremont to Lawton. The ever-popular festival's leisurely stroll will take festival goers past Rockridge's more than 100 street-level shops, galleries, food & drink establishments, services and amenities.

2018 Festival Highlights:

- Annual Picnic with Market Hall: delicious foods, tastings, demos, music, prize wheel and photo booth. Live music on Shafter will feature Big Blu Soul Revue and the Fancy Dad rock/jazz band. Festival goers will enjoy food booths from The Cheese Counter and Delicatessen of Market Hall Foods; Hapuku Fish Shop; Highwire Coffee Roasters; Marin Sun Farms; Market Hall Bakery; Market Hall Produce; Paul Marcus Wines; and Cactus Taqueria.
- Live music and entertainment clusters dotting College Avenue will include festival favorites such as The Clifton Street Regulars and JR Dreads Band, plus many more.
- Rockridge establishments and local food vendors offer a feast of great eats in the festival food courts.
- Scores of artisans showcase handcrafted art, clothing, jewelry, soaps, artifacts, mementos, and more.
- Aerialists, acrobats and contortionists thrill audiences at the Kinetic Arts Center circus arts stage.
- Kids can frolic in the family zone featuring arts & crafts, face painting, and the annual kiddie carnival complete with rides, inflatables, games, climbing wall and more.
- Skilled practitioners demo a range of wellness services such as yoga, massage, Ayurveda, and aromatherapy. Also, Namaste Yoga + Wellness will again host a Mindfulness Lounge.

Chabot

from page 1

isfy that sweet tooth by grabbing a treat from our Benefit Bakesale or candy giveaways at the DJ/Dancing booth.

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

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

Rockridge resident and Chabot dad Paul Erskine will bring back the amazing Wobbly Toggle Puppet Show for a second year at two event times: noon & 2p.m. in the library.

Please join us in celebrating all the fun that Fall has to offer – games, food, prizes, music and crafts – there is something for everyone. All proceeds from this family-friendly event benefit the Chabot Elementary PTA and fund enrichment programs like the library, music, art, science, Spanish, and the garden; coordination of numerous after-school programs; help in the classrooms; and much more.

Special thanks to our sponsors for supporting the Chabot community: 1st United Credit Union, MPR Financial, Piedmont Dental by Design, Yovino-You[illegible] Inc., and Cole Coffee, who will provide free coffee at our Bakesale.

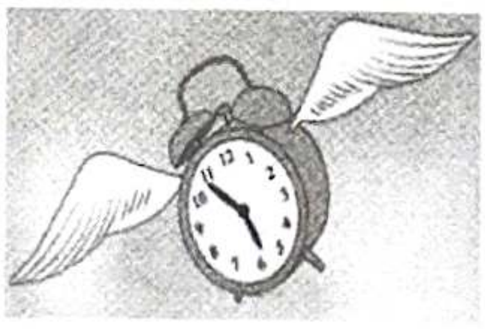
See www.chabotelementary.org for more information.

■ More than 100 community, artisan and business booths will combine with Rockridge's plethora of existing businesses to offer a wide array of shopping opportunities.

Find full event details at RockridgeOutandAbout.com. The Festival is presented free of admission through contributions from the Rockridge District Association, Market Hall, Fremont Bank, John Muir Health/UCSF Health, Henry Levy Group, Strahan Insurance Services, DHR Investment Counsel, First United Credit Union, The Golden Squirrel, Temescal Works, McGuire Real Estate, Kids Gym Berkeley, Savvy Rest Natural Bedroom, Oakland Magazine, East Bay Express, BART and the City of Oakland, with additional support from area businesses and organizations. **Festival organizers are seeking additional sponsors.** Contact Samee Roberts, samee@rockridgeoutandabout.com, or call 510/550-4804, ext. 1. Your support will be acknowledged in festival marketing and on-site during the event.

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Coffee with Cops and a Couple of Horses at Safeway Plaza



In early August, Oakland Police officers, mounted and unmounted, convened a "coffee with a cop" get together at the College Safeway plaza. Coffee flowed, horses were admired and Police brass and staff could talk directly with the public.



/Don Kinkead



Rockridge resident A. Kassal came across the photo at left the other day, and offered it to The Rockridge News to print in the spirit of community interest.

An old photo, it did not scan well. The written note at the bottom of the page is helpful: "College at Claremont."

In the distance are the Oakland/Berkeley Hills. The foreground shows a corner likely unfamiliar to many residents today: A gas station with pumps in the foreground and several cars in front, probably being serviced.

Surely most unfamiliar to residents today are the two "Dodge" signs posted on buildings next to the garage and visable on a building to its rear. A dealership? No doubt.

When could the photo have been taken? A clue could be the wood-sided station wagon parked in front of the farther Dodge sign to the left. A Woody! A brief internet search indicates they went out of production in the early 1950s.

If you have lived in Rockridge longer than most, you may have more information about this photo's location. Take a moment; write to editor@rockridge.org.

Courtesy of 98-year-old Rockridge resident A. Kassal.

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RPP Monitoring Falls Short

from page 2

Mr. Ford has acknowledged that these calculations are correct. I asked him how the City could justify taking money for RPP permits without providing the service that purchasers thought they were paying for. His answer was to quote the Oakland Municipal Code section on the process for having RPP signs removed.

Wlad Wlassowsky, who heads the Oakland Department of Transportation, did not respond to my request for an interview. Had he done so, I would also have asked him how the City could justify this deception, and if and how it will be remedied.

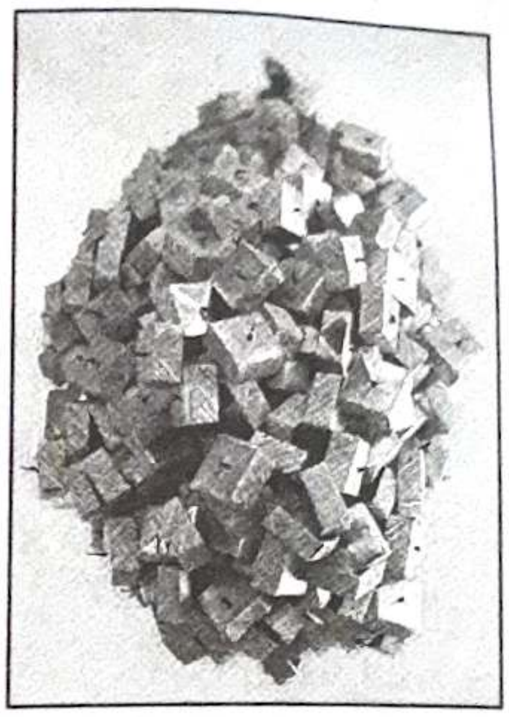
This enforcement system has been in place since 2011. The cost of renewing RPP permits has gone from $35 per year per vehicle to $59. A letter to the Editor of The Rockridge News (July 2, 2016) by District 1 Councilmember Dan Kalb stated his "belief that this [the apparent lack of parking enforcement on some streets in RPP zones in Rockridge] is due to …the lack of additional staff to do the ongoing enforcement… My staff and I will continue to monitor the enforcement situation to ensure that residents in RPP zones who have a permit are able to park on their own street, while those without permits are limited to the posted number of hours." It went on to say that, "Because of my actions, the RPP renewal fee is $59 instead of the $82 that had been proposed."

Many of us who have been paying for nearly useless RPP permits do not consider this to be such a great bargain.

Artists' Corner: Adele Crawford

by Caroline Stern, Oaklandartworks.com

I first came across Adele Crawford around the turn of this century in an article about decorative painting in the San Francisco Chronicle. Excited to find another decorative painter in Rockridge, I connected with her. Over time, I learned about a show she had done in Mill Valley, her MFA in printmaking from the California College of Arts and Crafts (CCAC), and her participation in the De Young Museum's Artist in Residence program. Her resumé lists art centers, colleges, private collections and museums throughout the Bay Area and the country. Adele makes artist books. She recreates pieces based on discarded pictures, vintage photos, postcards, and dictionaries that she hand stitches, beads, paints, embroiders, scans and displays. For example, she had taken apart a 100-year-old dictionary, gold leafed the pages, and then bound, threaded, and installed it as a new book. This one, though, hangs in pieces on the wall with a story in a new format for the viewer to decipher and try to read.

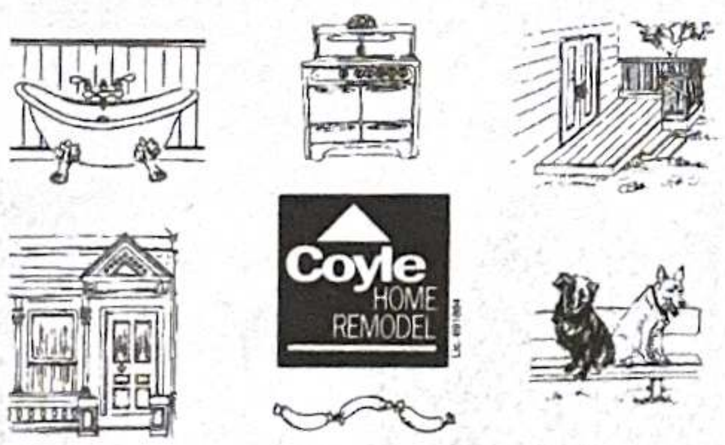




Adele Crawford

Describing her work, she says: "I am interested in, involved in, and aware of what is going on in the world – environmentally, politically, socially within my community and beyond. But I approach my work from another place, from my personal truth and the reality that is my truth. While working on my most recent piece, I referred to it as 'Weight of the Word' – thinking of how words are so often taken out of context and are now often ignored or ignited, given one's political leaning. Although when I make my work, my main emphasis is practice. In my spiritual work we call it Life Practice: Engaging in an activity (often mundane) while practicing staying present, staying with oneself and with what may come up.

"Having traveled to some Southeast Asian countries, Adele Crawford, Artist, page 14



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Did you know that September is:

Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month - Love and miss you Dad.
Blood Cancer Awareness Month - Love and miss you Mom.
ADHD Awareness Month - So many of us :-)
Women's Friendship Month - There's a powerful thing!
Subliminal Communication Month - No, nothing here like that.



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Friendly Help With Your Android Phone

Ashby Village User Groups Help Solve Technology Challenges

by Lincoln Spector

Even the biggest nerds have problems with technology. We all struggle when our smartphones and other devices don't work the way we think they should.

You might find the solution by joining a user group. Even better, you can help others with their problems.

In July, I attended the monthly Rockridge Android Users Group meeting associated with Ashby Village, a nonprofit that helps East Bay elders stay in their own homes.

Ashby Village member Alison Colgan hosted the meeting in her home right in the center of Rockridge. Colgan and another member, Sam Duncan, run the group and provide most of the help. Group members have dubbed them "The Two Lords of the Universe."

Duncan, like me, is a member of Ashby Village's Tech Committee. One member explained that all of them get "a lot of help from Sam. He straightens out a lot of problems." Duncan doesn't take all the credit. "Between my daughter and Google, we can figure most things out."

This month, the group discussed widgets



– app interfaces that display information on the phone's home screen. Duncan and I (yes, I failed at being the detached reporter and got into the act) showed people how to put these sometimes-useful interfaces on their phones.

There was also a discussion on how to find and listen to podcasts.

The previous month, Duncan introduced the secure communications app WhatsApp to the crowd.

I asked the members why they attend this group, when Ashby Village provides free tech support help in members' own homes. "I find that service very helpful," a member told me. "But I get so much more out of the group. A lot of questions are small. You wouldn't want a home visit to answer one little question."

But there is another reason: socializing. "We get to know each other," someone explained. "It's better than talking about our medical problems." To which someone replied, "It's similar in some ways."

Meetings are held at 3:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month, and run about an hour.

For more information about joining Ashby Village as a member or volunteer, email info@ashbyvillage.org or call 510/204-9200.

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Rockridge Librarian Retires

from page 4

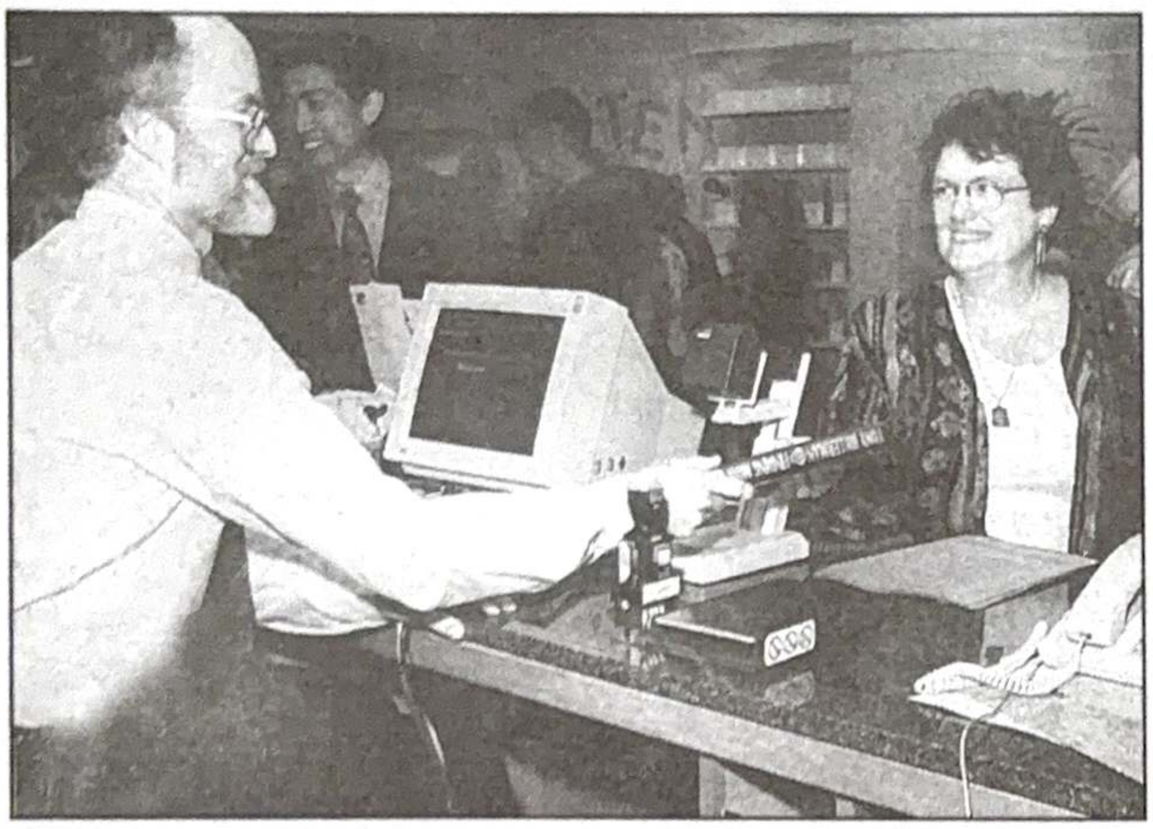
"My most vivid image of Alan is how willing and ready he is to jump up, to respond to things," Siskind said. "If a bird comes in here, he will not do anything else until it is safe. He is a committed environmentalist turning off lights and computers so we don't waste energy, and biking to work year-round, even in the cold or rain."

In his retirement, Howe plans to spend time birding, getting more involved in social causes, and writing poetry. Despite those robust plans, stepping away from his position at the branch on September 5 wasn't easy.

"I'm going to miss just seeing the books that come in," he said. "I'll probably haunt the place so that I can keep up and find out what's new with the staff and patrons. They are a real part of my community."

"This branch has been a part of my life for 26 years now, and so not 'living' here, not being able to go into the staff area – I'll miss that. I've known some of the patrons here since they were bumps and now they are graduated and in careers. It's been so neat watching them grow," said Howe.

"And now I'm getting a little emotional."



Pictured in 1992, now-retiring Senior Assistant Librarian Alan Howe hands Nancy Dutcher the first book to be checked out from the newly opened Rockridge Branch Library. Dutcher chaired the neighborhood committee that spearheaded a permanent home for the Branch. /FORL

Adele Crawford, Artist

from page 12

I often think of what I am doing as similar to the women preparing offerings outside of the temples.

"There is a reverence and a giving, not that different from what my grandmother did years ago during her quilting bees. Perhaps in some way I am offering a gift of presence to the universe."

I was curious about how she processes information now. What do words and books mean in our world where truth is distorted and difficult to convey? She has work for that too: Mending the World; red thread binding maps of our fractured planet and a new wall installation of each state's police killings over a nine-month period, carefully counted, pinned and represented on the wall. It shows her thoughtful reverence for truth; witness to lives being discarded like material.

Luckily we have artists like Adele paying attention to the past, mending, threading, documenting, revering and rebuilding into new possibilities.

Oh, did I mention her dog portraits? See below, and visit Adelecrawford.com.



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Pilates Sessions
Privates, Duets, Groups, with Irving S. Wiltshire at Finding Center Pilates, 6214 Florio Street at College Avenue. Very early morning 6 AM, Mid-afternoon 3-5, and Evening groups 5-7 availability. 510/219-86[illegible] iswirving@comcast.net

Looking? Check out Rockridge!

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR ALL AGES: Collage & Doodle Workshop with **Caroline Stern** and **Elaine Bond.** Sat 9/8, 11am -1 pm.

FOR CHILDREN

NOTE: No Story times until 9/15.

- **Family Story Time for all ages;** Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.
- **Toddler Story Time:** Thursdays. 10:30 a.m.
- **Pre-School Story Time: (ages 2 to 5);** Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS: all ages welcome.

- **Mix It Up Family Game Night:** Every 4th Tues, starting Sept 25, 6:30-7:45pm.
- **Family Craft Night:** Every 2nd Tues, starting Oct 9th, 6:30-7:45pm. Oct: make Luminarias.

FOR TEENS

- **Rockridge Teen Advisory Board (ages 14-18):** Advise the library how to better serve teens; get community service credit for school. 2nd Sat. each month, 1 to 2pm.
- **Teen 'Scape Program:** Video games and crafts; every Tues, Thurs, and Fri, 3:30 - 5pm; Wed, 1:30 - 5pm.
- **Study Room Hours:** High school tutor available for homework help. Tues, and Thurs 4 - 5pm; Wed, 3 - 4:30pm.
- **Design Your Tote Bags:** We provide paints and tote bags. 9/12, 2pm.
- **Make Bike Tube Jewelry:** all supplies provided. 09/19, 2pm.

FOR ADULTS

*** **eBook Help**: Work one-on-one with librarian. Fridays, 2 -3:30pm. Make appt. online or call 597-5017.

- **Second Saturday Book Club;** starts Sept 8. 2nd Sat each month, 3 -4pm. Get book selection at 597-5017.
- **Writers Support/Critique Group: All Welcome.** Bring 15 copies of up to 5 pgs. (OK to come empty-handed). 3rd Sat. each month,1 to 5pm. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Lawyer in the Library:** Free legal info and referral. 1st Tues each month; 6pm-8pm. Lottery sign-up 5pm.

Knitting Meet-Up: Third Sat. each month, 3pm. Bring your project. All levels welcome.

- **The Future of Your Energy Bill & What You Can Do About It:** Presented by **StopWaste.** Sat 9/22, 2pm. Register at www.bit.ly/FOYEB922.
- **The Magic and Mystery of Vincent Van Gogh:** with **Marlene Aron.** Tues 9/25, 6:15pm.

ART EXHIBIT: Upstairs Gallery

Sept: Beneath the Surface: local artist **Caroline Stern** and wildlife photog **Elaine Miller Bond**.

Library Hours

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

Become a Volunteer Story Reader in Oakland Pre-schools

Sign up now for OPL's volunteer program **Books for Wider Horizons.** Training series starts early October at Rockridge Library. Learn to present storytimes to pre-school classes. Sign up at www.oaklandlibrary.org/bwh.

East Bay Booksellers Book/ Poetry Readings FREE and open to the public.

Wed, 9/12, 7pm. **J.D. Moyer:** *The Sky Woman: From Ringworlds to Earth, an Epic Struggle of Love and Survival.*

Thurs, 9/13, 7pm. **Albert Samaha:** *Never Ran, Never Will: Boyhood and Football in a Changing American Inner City.*

Fri, 9/14, 7pm. Children's author **Dr. Golbarg Bashi:** *P is for Palestine: A Palestine Alphabet Book.*

Tues, 9/18, 7pm. **Juliet Blackwell** and **Sofia Grant:** *The Lost Carousel of Provence* and *The Daisy Children.*

Thurs, 9/20, 7pm. **Guadalupe Nettel:** *After the Winter.*

Mon, 9/24, 7pm. **Jane Mount**: *Bibliophile:* An *Illustrated Miscellany.* With **Jasmine Guillory.**

Sun, 9/30, 3pm. **Poetry Flash,** with **Mary Mackey** and **Maurya Simon.**

Fri, 10/5, 7pm. **Kai Carlson-Wee:** *Rail (Poulin #41)*, poems.

Sun, 10/7, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Terese Svoboda**.

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

Book Signing and Tastings

Rose Levy Beranbaum's newest cookbook, *ROSE'S BAKING BASICS: 100 Essential Recipes, with more than 600 Step-by-Step Photos.* Taste samples from recipes. Sat, Oct 6, 2 - 4pm.

Market Hall Foods, 5655 College Ave. More info: rockridgemarkethall.com or 250-6001.

Jazz at the Chimes

Featuring **Cascada de Flores (Arwen Lawrence** and **Jorge Liceaga**) in "Ondas del Caribe", the songs of Mexico and its neighbors. With **Vission Latina Trio.** Reception and refreshments follow. More info: www.cascadadeflores.com. Sun, Sept 16, 2pm. Tickets $15: in advance at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3448286 or at the door (cash only) beginning 12:30pm (doors open 1:30).

Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. **Wheelchair accessible. Free parking**. More info: www.jazzatthechimes.com, or 654-0123.

Sing with the Oakland Turnverein Gemischter Chor (OTV)

Mostly folk and some classical. **All ages and voices welcome**. Some knowledge of German and musical traditions helpful but not necessary. Concerts scheduled for Fall and Xmas. No auditions required. Rehearsals: Wed., evenings 7:30pm at Bjornson Hall, 2256 MacArthur Blvd. **More details: call Ortrun Niesar: 652-6664.**

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.

Healthy Living for Seniors: Free sample of Harvest of the Month plus a **presentation by Habitat for Humanity's new home repair program for seniors.** Tues, Sept. 11, 10:30am.

Preview of Friendly Excursions 2019: affordable, senior-friendly travel from Southern Delight to Yellowstone and Canadian Rockies. RSVP to plan ahead. Thurs, Oct. 4, 10:30am.

Seniors age 55+ join for $12 annual dues to get discounts and other benefits. More info at 597-5085.

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