THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
VOL. 33 ■ NO. 10 ■ ISSUE NO. 358 ■ November 3, 2018 CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES
Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council • 4123 Broadway, PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94611

RCPC November Town Hall Meeting

7:30 to 9 p.m., November 15; Rockridge Branch Library Upstairs Meeting Room

Agenda

1 Planning for the California College of the Arts (CCA) campus development plans is advancing. CCA representatives will be at the town hall meeting to present updated development plans for the reuse/redevelopment of the college's former Oakland campus to the Rockridge community. The proposal includes almost 600 units of housing, including a 19-story tower. Located on the East side of Broadway just north of Shops at the Ridge, the campus is recognized for several historic buildings dating to the college's founding in 1907 as the California College of Arts and Crafts (CCAC).

2 The RCPC Board of Directors is proposing modifications to the association's Bylaws to clarify RCPC's boundary description and aspects of voting procedures. Details of the proposed changes are presented on page 2. Board members will also review the changes at the town hall. Residents will then be invited to vote on the proposed modifications.

A Lot to Ponder

When Ben Friedman moved to Rockridge in October 2017, the vacant lot at the intersection of College and Claremont caught his eye and his imagination.

Despite the healthy redwoods at the rear of the lot, the grasses in the center seemed dead. When the rains followed in November and the space came alive, Friedman, pictured at right, wrote an article for The Rockridge News of his excitement in the changes he saw and the vision he had for the site: the opportunity for this space to become a public park providing much-needed green space that would a benefit residents and businesses alike.

Others have recently commented on the community needs the area could fill and written to the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) and The Rockridge News to learn what might be done.

Their letters and ideas follow:



Vacant Lot, College and Claremont
Editor:
I live and work in Rockridge. Three or four times a week I visit our financial district near the corner of College and Claremont. Each walk forces me to pass that grotesque chain link fence on the south west corner. A few months ago, after the first of the fence's iterations disappeared, we were greeted by an empty, quiet triangle, the peace of this green space only to be shattered by its more permanent appearing replacement. During the interfence period, I and my neighbors thought of how many community-building ways the space might be used before it's replaced by the inevitable condos: a small urban park, an occasional farmers' market, a music venue, a pumpkin patch, a craft fair, a spot to sit while enjoying a coffee from one of the many local providers, anything but the litter-gathering desolate waste-land it is now.

— Phillip Rubin

Hello, RCPC
Editor:
What is the status of the unused triangle of land at the corner of Claremont & College? Are there any plans? Is there a conversation? Has anyone expressed interest? I'd like to start or participate in a conversation about developing that land into a park or play space. I'm willing to put some money toward that initiative.

— Rich Robinson

RCPC Land Use Committee Chair Stuart Flashman had information to offer to one of the letter-writers:

Hi Rich,

Your e-mail was forwarded to me as chair of RCPC's land use committee.

The parcel at College and Claremont is privately owned. It's actually two parcels with separate owners, but it's our understanding that the two owners have set up a jointly-owned entity (probably an LLC) to develop the parcel. No development application has been filed with the City, but from talking to an architect and an attorney working with the owners, it appears it will be a 3-story

A Lot to Ponder, page 14

RCPC MEMBERS TO VOTE ON BYLAW AMENDMENT AT NOVEMBER TOWN HALL MEETING

At the upcoming Town Hall meeting of the Rockridge Community Planning Council, to be held November 15, 2018, members will be invited to vote on a proposed amendment to Section 5.1 of the RCPC Bylaws ("Eligibility for Membership").

Ballots will be cast between 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., in the 2nd floor meeting room of the Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue, Oakland. In order to cast a ballot, a person must be at least 18 years of age and be able to document residency within the RCPC boundaries.

The proposed amendment has been approved by the RCPC Board of Directors, but in order to take effect, will require an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present (and constituting a quorum) at the November 15 meeting.

The proposed amendment would clarify the basic criteria of eligibility for membership in RCPC. The first sentence of Section 5.1, as currently worded, states: "Membership in the corporation [RCPC] shall be open to any natural person who (1) is at least eighteen years of age, (2) is interested in the promotion of the purposes of this organization, and (3) is a permanent resident within that area of the City of Oakland contained within the following boundaries …"

The amendment would change the words "is a permanent resident" to "has his or her principal residence." In addition, a new sentence would be added, stating that "a person's 'principal residence' means a residence which the person has been occupying as his or her primary residence for at least sixty (60) days up to and including the date on which a determination of residency is made."

The amendment would further provide that "The Board of Directors may from time to time issue specific guidance for implementing the requirements set forth in this section" (e.g., documentation of identity and residency).

The requirement that an RCPC member must be a "permanent resident" within the boundaries is a traditional provision in the RCPC Bylaws. Over time, however, many have found the phrase to be ambiguous and confusing. The Board now feels that changing the operative phrase to "principal residence" (as defined above) would make the residency criterion clearer and easier to apply.

Ordinarily, determinations of membership eligibility are made at the RCPC annual election meeting in April, and at other meetings when members are asked to vote. The proposed amendment should make the residency requirement easier to understand, and is likely to make the process of certifying voters at election time more efficient.

The Board does not expect that the proposed amendment will cause any significant enlargement or diminution of the membership of RCPC. The forms of documentation presented by members at election time will, in most cases, be the same as in the recent past (e.g., California driver license, State of California identification card, PG&E bill). However, the amended language would provide a basis for the board to permit certain other forms of documentation as proof of residency or identity, such as college student ID cards.

It is possible there may be a few cases of persons who have exercised rights of membership in RCPC in the past, based on the status of being a "permanent resident," but who, in a future determination of residency, might be found not to have maintained a "principal residence" within RCPC boundaries during the 60 days before the date of determination. If the proposed amendment is adopted, such persons will be unable to exercise their rights of membership, unless and until they establish (or re-establish) a principal residence within the boundaries set forth in Section 5.1.

GARDEN CLEANERS
$5 FREE *DRYCLEANING with garment orders over $28*
or $3 OFF orders over $15
Dry Cleaning only ☛ Present with incoming order
EXPERT SHIRT LAUNDERING!
Garden Cleaners
5808 College Avenue, Oakland
601-1188
Mon – Fri 7 – 7 • Sat 8 – 6
Across from Trader Joe's and Zachary's Pizza

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

The Rockridge News

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

Rockridge News Production
Don Kinkead.....Editor
Jo Ellis.....Asst. Editor
Judith Doner Berne.....Eyes on Rockridge
Jo Ellis.....Advertising & Community Calendar
Susan Montauk.....Business Manager
Don Kinkead.....Graphics & Layout

RCPC Board of Directors, 2018-19
Leonora Sea.....Chair
Alden Connor.....Vice-Chair
Sally Smyth.....Secretary
Ronnie Spitzer.....Treasurer
Ashley Cruz, Stuart Flashman, Eduardo Gutentag, M C Haug, Don Kinkead, Andrew Masalin, Courtney Welch
Contact the board: chair@rockridge.org
For information: info@rockridge.org

Newsletter Subscriptions
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; www.rockridge.org;
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 December issue is:
☛ **December 8, 2018.**
☛ **Submission deadline: October 11.**
Advertising rates are $26/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or email joellis1@hotmail.com. RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate. (Classified ad contact, page 14.)

RCPC Land Use Committee

The November Land Use Committee meeting will be **Wednesday, November 28,** 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge Branch Library. The agenda includes an update on the housing study. Check at https://rockridge.org – the RCPC website – the previous week for updates.

RCPC Land Use Committee Update – November 2018

The Land Use Committee met on October 24. A quorum was not present, so no recommendations were made. Committee members and interested residents heard the items summarized below:

■ **Mixed-use replacement for single-story structure at 5346 College Avenue (next to McNally's Irish Pub).**

An architect group planning to replace the current one-story bungalow, which has been converted to commercial space. presented three alternative proposals. All three involved a retail/commercial space on the first floor fronting on College Avenue, with residential units above.

The simplest proposal would have a 1,400 sq.ft. retail space on the first floor, five small apartments on the second and third floors, and a rooftop open space area shared by the five apartments. A variant on this would add two affordable apartments, allowing a density bonus fourth floor, with the roof top open space now above the fourth floor. A further variant would still have two affordable units, but would reduce the size of the first floor commercial space so that the project would fit into three stories, plus rooftop open space.

The third proposal was for a four-story ten-bedroom rooming house. The first floor would again be a 1,400 sq. ft. foot commercial space, but the upper three floors would be residential bedroom/bathroom combinations. There would be a common kitchen and dining area, along with common open space, on the fourth floor. This proposal would require a variance to allow the fourth floor. Committee members discussed how to deal with residents' parking, since the site has no space for off-street parking. Because the area has residential permit parking, an agreement disallowing parking permits to project residents might be a strong disincentive to car ownership by residents.

Committee members present expressed a preference for reserving four-story buildings for projects containing affordable units. The architects will bring back a proposal taking into account the committee's comments for further review by RCPC.

■ **Shops at the Ridge Phase 2, Northeast corner of Broadway and Pleasant Valley Boulevard.**

Chair Flashman reported on a meeting between representatives of RCPC and the Piedmont Avenue Improvement League

Land Use Committee, page 13



Fuller caption to follow -- College Prep students go off-campus to pick up litter on Keith, Golden Gate, and College Avenue.

Darin J. Worm
BROKER
510.504.4960
djworm@centurioninsurance.net

Centurion Insurance Agency
Commercial + Personal + Life + Health

An Independent Insurance Brokerage providing cost effective, comprehensive Insurance products and services since 1947.

www.centurioninsurance.net

Rockridge Optometry

Larry Sarver, OD
Scott Yokoi, OD
Cindy Sakai, OD
Jasmine Junge, OD

5321 College Ave., Oakland
(510)655-3797
rockridgeoptometry.com

HIGHLAND PARTNERS
BOUTIQUE REAL ESTATE INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE



BUYING?
SELLING?
LET ME HELP YOU

ANNE D. BRANDON, REALTOR
35+ YEAR ROCKRIDGE RESIDENT AND HOMEOWNER
DRE# 01877719 | 510.682.6644
ANNE@THEHIGHLANDPARTNERS.COM

WHO'S WHO IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE

NCPC Has a Board Vacancy

The Greater Rockridge NCPC has an open Vice Chair position. If you are interested in crime and public safety in the community, consider volunteering for this position. Our bylaws say the Vice Chair "will assist the Chair as needed." In practice, this means attending meetings (7 p.m. at the Rockridge Library on the second Thursday of even-numbered months – February, April, June, August, October, and December); chairing the meeting if the Chairman can't attend; and possibly attending the bimonthly Area 2 Commander's Meeting (second Mondays as announced) if the Chairman can't attend that. The Vice Chair also assists in making decisions on programs and directions for the

College Avenue
Presbyterian Church
5951 College Avenue | 94618
(510) 658-3665 | www.capcoakland.org
safe | open | real

COMING SOON!
MARVIN GARDENS REAL ESTATE
TWO FABULOUS 3+BR/2BA LISTINGS
Bay View Midcentury with Level Yard in North Berkeley
Victorian Row House w/Updated Open Kitchen near Temescal
Ruth Goldstone
510.418.7191
eastbayprop@gmail.com
DRE# 01300164
For more information, or if you're thinking of selling or buying, contact Ruth.

What About Those Scooters?

by Karen Ivy, Secretary, the Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council

You must have noticed by now the electric scooters littering Oakland streets. They appeared earlier this year. They've been touted (by the vendors) as "the solution to our transport problems."

The Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) has learned that the City didn't pass an ordinance authorizing the Department of Transportation (DOT) to set up a permitting process for motorized scooters until September 2018. DOT hopes to have regulations in place by the end of November and approved by the end of 2018. Meanwhile, the scooter companies are renting these things without any particular supervision and without, as far as the NCPC can tell, any attempt to enforce either their own posted rules or the applicable California state laws.



So What Are the Rules?

■ **Driver's License:** Probably the most important rule is that you have to have a driver's license to operate one (Cal. Veh. Code §21235). You can have any class of license, including a learner's permit, as long as you're 16 years old or older.

■ The scooter companies all say on their web pages that scooter users have to be 18 or over and have a driver's license to rent a scooter. They used to take people's word for this, but **Oakland now requires scooter renters to submit a photograph of a driver's license, to validate both the license and the renter's age**, but it isn't retroactive. So there are people out there with rental contracts whose legal status is unconfirmed.

■ **Helmets:** This will change as of January 1, 2019 but right now scooter renters must wear a helmet. We think removing the helmet requirement is insane. It was requested by Bird, a scooter company. Los Angeles recently approved regulations, effective January 1, which require e-scooter rental companies to notify riders that they must wear a helmet. This means that if a 14 year old kid rides an e-scooter, that kid is in violation of two laws. Three, if he isn't wearing a helmet before January 1. Four, if he's riding on the sidewalk. Five, if he has a passenger.

■ **Insurance:** You might not be covered by your insurance while riding an e-scooter. The Insurance Information Institute notes that homeowner's policies usually exclude coverage for "self-propelled vehicles," and standard personal auto coverage excludes coverage for vehicles with fewer than 4 wheels. (See: http://www.iii.org/insuranceindustryblog/e-scooter-sharing-programs-are-you-covered/

In general, the scooter companies don't carry insurance to cover their renters. San Francisco's new permitting process requires it, but Oakland doesn't have a permitting process as of October 2018.

■ **Other Rules of the Road:**

These rules are in all the scooter operating rules that I've seen, but they are also in the California Vehicle Code (CVH §21235). We've never seen any evidence that scooter companies try to enforce them except with well-meaning exhortations on their web sites.

NCPC/Scooters, page 8

Questions About Wills, Trusts, and Probate?
Kyle M. Johnston
Estate Attorney
5315 College Ave.
Oakland, CA 94618
510.527.1880

Scenic Streets Planting Season Looms

After a summer and early fall of weekly trash pick-ups and pruning, your neighbors in the Scenic Streets efforts are gearing up for a rainy season planting push.

We're the folks in bright yellow vests who try to keep the Claremont Avenue on- and off-ramps to and from Highway 24 looking presentable. We also take responsibility for a couple dozen nearby sidewalk trees.

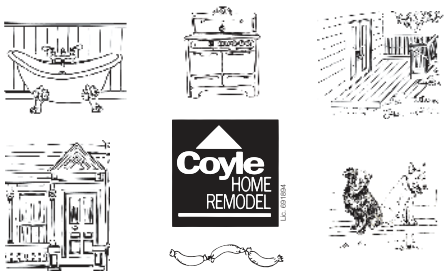
If you are someone who appreciates the gateway to your neighborhood looking a bit nicer, enjoys gardening activities and has a couple hours a month to contribute, we would welcome you with open arms, and a bright safety vest and gloves! Contact Lee at lee.scenicstreetsoakland@gmail.com.

We usually work on the ramps as a group on Wednesday mornings, but attending to the street trees can happen on your own schedule, with a partner or not. Once or twice a year we have a Saturday work party with more ambitious goals, like spreading a lot of mulch, extensive weeding or new plantings. Look for us to ask for your help in those 'one-time' efforts as well.



You Could Be in This Picture

If you want to help but time doesn't allow it, we also appreciate your tax-deductible contributions. You can send a donation to our fiscal sponsor, Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation, PO Box 13267, Oakland, CA 94661, payable to the Foundation. Note in the memo field that it's for Scenic Streets of Oakland. The Scenic Team thanks you."



Martin Coyle 510-655-8717 Mike Tracy
5221 James Ave. Oakland Ca. 94618
www.coylehomeremodel.com

COMING IN OCTOBER!


5811 LAWTON AVENUE
Brown Shingle Craftsman on Rockridge's Finest Block! 4 bed, 2 bath, a true forever home. Inquire for more details!


339 GLENDALE AVENUE
Bright and renovated 2 bed, 1 bath Craftsman bungalow with HUGE detached 2-car garage (ADU potential!)

PRESENTED BY #01919653
MAXI LILLEY
The Rockridge Realtor®
with A Designer's Eye
510.919.8997
maxi@redoakrealty.com
RED OAK REALTY



Rockridge Dental™
510.653.6677 rockdent.com
3rd Floor
Market Hall
Ste. 312

Bruce D. Fong, D.D.S.
Filippo Cangini, D.D.S, M.S.

Advanced Preventive, Restorative, Periodontal Gum Care, and Dental Implants.

Experience * Knowledge * Performance

Coming soon: 5849 Virmar - 3 blocks to College Ave, 3 bed 1 bath craftsman, sunny yard, Chabot district

Did you know? Prop 10 coming on the ballot in November would remove rent control protection of your own single family home and new construction, limiting creation of needed housing. It would also allow cities to limit the amount of rent you ask for your home even after it becomes vacant!! Non owner occupied multiunit rental property that isn't newer construction is already subject to rent control in Oakland. The proposition provides no additional affordable housing incentive. UC Berkeley and Stanford Economists predict it will further constrict availability of rental property and provide no help to those looking for housing. Good intentions, but actually further restricts housing supply.

Mark your calendars for 11/4, end of daylight savings time and 11/6, election day!!!



Perry Riani, Senior Associate
"2016 Realtor of the Year"
1900 Mountain Blvd Oakland, CA 94611
1625 Shattuck Ave Berkeley, CA 94709
C: 510.813.3799 perry@pacunion.com
License # 01402540

PACIFIC UNION INTERNATIONAL

Eyes on Rockridge

'Likely I Have Hundreds of Half-Siblings Out There...'

by Judith Doner Berne

What if you woke up one morning to discover that you had 68 half-sisters and brothers...and counting?

That's kind of what happened to Kaitlyn Johnke, Rockridge born and bred, who grew up down the street from me. Her mom, Beth Johnke, is a single mom. And Kaitlyn knew from an early age that she had an anonymous sperm donor just as her younger sister, Kelsey, now a senior at Oakland Tech, knew she had been adopted from China. In fact, they went as a family in 2009 to visit Kelsey's orphanage in Anqing City, Anhui Province.

Kaitlyn, now 23, has been the subject of this column before, as the result of her taking a year off from academics between her graduation from Oakland Tech and her four years at Cal Poly, from which she graduated last spring. She spent that bridge year as part of the Oakland-based Global Citizen Year program working for a non-profit in Senegal and later wrote about it for The Rockridge News.

Knowing a good story when she sees one, Beth, who distributes The Rockridge News to deliverers in our corner of Rockridge, sent me Kaitlyn's August 18 blog enticingly entitled "Brothers and Sisters From the Same Mister."

This Eyes on Rockridge column, written with Kaitlyn's permission, is based on direct quotes and paraphrases from that blog and an interview with her mom. Here's how she begins:

"In December of last year, I got my DNA results back from 23andme, which my mom, sister and I had done as part of a family discount…The most interesting part of my results was not the report saying what parts of the world I come from but was actually the discovery of 10 half siblings." Although she and her mom share the same color of hair and eyes, Kaitlyn never thought they looked very much alike. At the same time, "I never thought I would learn more about the other half of my genetics."

But, as you might already have figured out, Kaitlyn's sperm donor was not a one-shot guy. He had donated at four different sperm banks and over a period of years. She was able to connect with several of her half-siblings who had shown up on 23and me and, later, to still others who had done their DNA tests on Ancestry, sought out the Donor Sibling Registry or were part of a Facebook group.

In mid-August, she joined 19 of her half-siblings on a weekend camping trip at a retreat center outside of Denver. Her mom and sister came too. "We were nervous, but I had to go," Beth said. "I was curious myself – you know I am a scientist." A retired environmental specialist, she holds a B.S. in biology from Cal Poly and a masters in environmental management from San Francisco University.

The moms formed their own tight-knit group. "It turned out they were all very nice people," Beth said. "By the end, I felt a real affinity for these interesting women."

Meanwhile, their children – 11 girls and eight boys – at first "were more like half-strangers than half-siblings," Kaitlyn said. But after "busying ourselves with a puzzle or game to keep the silence from getting too awkward…the more extroverted ones arrived and things warmed up. We talked about ourselves, our lives and what it was like to grow up being sperm donor children."

Kaitlyn, it turned out, was second oldest. Most were just finishing high school or heading off to college. "The entire weekend was a search for similarities to which we could exclaim 'Maybe its genetics!'" She discovered that, like herself, many were participants in cross-country or track in high school. And that was not a sport associated with her mother's side of the family.

But for Kaitlyn, who is once again in Senegal (on a paid internship for Global Citizen Year) and also spent major time abroad while in college, it was a chance "to learn more about the diversity of human experiences within the United States.

"We were from all over the country and from unique family situations. Many kids are from lesbian moms and others have single moms by choice, like my own." A smaller subset, she explained, hadn't been told they were sperm donor children in order to



LAW OFFICE OF
DAVE KARLINSKY
725 WASHINGTON ST., SUITE 313 OAKLAND, CA 94607
(510) 788-5700 WWW.DAVEKARLINSKYLAW.COM

Practicing exclusively in the area of trusts and estates:

- Estate planning
- Probate / trust administration
- Dispute resolution
- Special needs trusts

Please contact me during regular business hours to schedule an appointment.



Courtesy of the Johnke Family.

Family

from page 6

maintain a connection with the father-figure in their household.

"Likely I have hundreds of half-siblings out there, some of who don't know they are sperm donor children or aren't interested in their potential genetic connections," she hypothesized.

Although a few of her half-siblings have met with their sperm donor face to face, "He doesn't want to be exposed to the public," so she would only say this: "He seems like a kind and smart man who likes chicken and Coca-Cola. From pictures, I feel like I can definitely see where I got more facial similarities from him than my mom."

"He is open to connecting with us, though he is understandably a little overwhelmed by the number of us that exist," Kaitlyn said. But she doesn't think she will take advantage of that – at least not at the moment. "I feel like I have gotten enough information from my half-siblings and I'm not really looking for any kind of social/emotional connection or relationship. Other adults in my life have been role models and have filled the "father" figure."

Does Kaitlyn feel like she now has sisters

Family, page 14

G | The GRUBB Co.
Grand Opening
OF OUR NEW
RESOURCE CENTER



100 GRAND AVE, SUITE 108
Stop by and say hello!
UPTOWN | DOWNTOWN



LISTED!
STEA REALTY GROUP
DANIEL STEA
BRE # 01452156
510.843.6400
Call for details!

Claremont Spanish Language Students Prepared for "Days of the Dead"

by Carolina Juárez

Every autumn brings not only Halloween but also the Mexican celebration of "Días de los Muertos" or "Days of the Dead." And for the sixth straight year, Rockridge students and merchants have come together with the Oakland Museum for a community commemoration of all our ancestors.

As a Spanish teacher at Claremont Middle School, I made cultural presentations to the early morning Viva el Español language classes. The students learned about the ancient Mesoamerican tradition of honoring lost loved ones. Altars display photos and mementos of departed family members. Folk art and marigolds decorate these memorials. Most students have seen the recent movie "Coco," a brilliant presentation of the Days of the Dead tradition.

Using art tissue generously donated by Blick Art Materials in Rockridge, the students carefully cut "papel picado" pennants and folded paper flowers. The student art then went to decorate the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) for its annual Days of the Dead festival, held Sunday, October 21.

This is the sixth year that Rockridge restaurant Jules Thin Crust has kindly offered one of their walls to decorate with the students' artwork. Paper cutouts and flowers, photos and posters are on display to advertise OMCA's Days of The Dead Celebration. Additionally, owner Heather Clapp delighted the Claremont participants with an after-school gathering to enjoy pizza and jamaica, a traditional Mexican drink, made from hibiscus flowers. A very happy culmination of our Rockridge/OMCA community connection.



Claremont Spanish Language students created a representative Days of the Dead wall hanging that was displayed at the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) annual festival.

Photo courtesy of Carolina Juárez.

NCPC/Scooters

from page 4

■ You can't legally ride e-scooters on the sidewalk unless you're crossing it to enter or leave a property. You have to ride in the street, and if the street has a bike lane you have to ride in that. The official fine for riding on the sidewalk is $25, but with added fees and surcharges it comes to $197.

■ You can't legally ride scooters faster than 25 miles per hour under any circumstances. Lime's page says the maximum scooter speed is 14.8 mph. There are multiple public discussions about how fast scooters should be allowed to go.

■ At the moment you can't legally ride scooters on roads with speed limits above 25 MPH. On January 1, the road speed limit will increase to 35 MPH.

■ You can't carry passengers on e-scooters. Yes, we've seen people doing this.

■ You can't leave e-scooters lying on their side on the sidewalk, or anywhere that obstructs pedestrian traffic. This includes spaces where buses load and unload. NCPC gets regular complaints about this.





Rockridge, Once: Now Home to Trader Joe's











CollegePrep

A private high school for grades 9-12

College Prep is a home for ideas, discovery, and engagement—intellectual pursuits that our students treasure. Led by exceptional and caring teachers, mentors, and coaches, our students grow into their best selves.

The College Preparatory School 6100 Broadway Oakland, CA 94618 510.652.4364 **college-prep.org**

CYDNEY ORTZOW painting

Interior • Exterior
Lead-Certified Painters

For a free estimate
call Cydney
510 • 652 • 4034

TREE SCULPTURE

COMPLETE TREE CARE

Proudly serving Rockridge since 1965!

(510) 562-4000

www.treesculpture.com
Fully Insured | Certified Arborists | Lic #655977



FREMONT BANK

Bay Area built, **Bay Area focused.**

Visit us at College & Claremont Avenues.
6300 College Avenue, Suite 160
(510) 851-7741

Equal Housing Lender | Member FDIC | NMLS #478471 | PR-0976-0218

BPAD

BUTTRICK PROJECTS
ARCHITECTURE+DESIGN



MOTLEY TEAM
REALTORS®

PACIFIC UNION INTERNATIONAL

Demand continues in the Rockridge Fall Market

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
09/12/2018	3	3	403 63rd St	$969,000	$969,000	14	$1,310,000
09/13/2018	3	2	5334 Miles Ave	$1,075,000	$1,075,000	14	$1,570,000
09/14/2018	4	3.5	6529 Hardwood Ave	$1,595,000	$1,595,000	20	$1,700,000
09/17/2018	3	2	5223 Boyd Ave	$1,075,000	$1,075,000	13	$1,645,000
09/24/2018	2	2	434 North St	$799,000	$799,000	16	$950,000
09/27/2018	2	1	477 Hardy St	$1,025,000	$1,025,000	15	$1,200,000

Homes sold in September closed 28% over the asking price on average.

Specializing in Rockridge | 510.459.4338 | MotleyTeam.com
Want the highest possible price? Call us and we will show you how we will get it!

Artist's Corner: Kevin Flynn

Kevin Flynn Explores the Mystery of Time

by Caroline Stern

Photographer Kevin Flynn likes strolling the streets of Rockridge where he and his wife, Marilyn, have lived since 1996. He says, "Rockridge is a vibrant neighborhood with a diversity of people: Even the homeless want to live here!"

He enjoys remembering local history and the artists and writers who have called Rockridge home. He recalls "that Jessica Mitford lived on Regent Street and went to Cole Coffee; that Richard Diebenkorn's studio was up the road on Hillcrest; that there is a Julia Morgan church on College. Our house, in fact, was built by the owner of Phoenix Iron Works in 1907 just after the earthquake. Phoenix manufactured manhole covers and they were used in lots of East Bay neighborhoods. Whenever I'm walking, I'm always looking down trying to spot one: It's like a treasure hunt."

He also likes to discover more about Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury days of literature by searching through vintage photos, texts and forgotten childhoods, or to reveal the life and work of 19th century photographer Julia Margaret Cameron on the Isle of Wight.

Flynn received his degree in photography from UC Santa Cruz; early influences were Henri Cartier-Bresson and Harry Callahan. His work has spanned analog through digital and iphone cameras. He takes his images back into the past, evoking a blurry memory, then presents a moment in the here and now or somewhere in between.

His photos evoke mystery, reworking Alice in the Looking Glass and other classic art. He captures time and timelessness, presenting classic literature and art twisted into the 21st century. Holbein's 15th century woodcuts are re-imaged by overlaying found animal vertebrae. He pushes his work into ambiguity: Picture a vintage novel bound in twine or pierced with a spike.

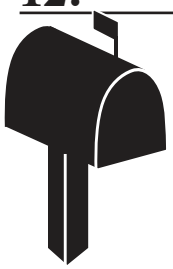
When he worked for newspapers during the Watergate era, Flynn's art was not political. This changed dramatically when he was recently notified that one of his photos was chosen for an exhibit in Washington, D.C. at the Center for Contemporary Political Art for a show entitled "Defining the Art of Change in the Age of Trump". He acknowledged that "Until the election of Donald Trump, I shied away from political work." Now, no longer reluctant to make political art, he has taken up Anish Kapoor's call: "Our silence makes us complicit with the politics of exclusion. We will not be silent."

Flynn questions where we will end up if our culture discards history and the treasures of vintage culture and memory. Perhaps he will be looking at the Phoenix manhole covers as portals to another time and place.

View Kevin Flynn's many portfolios at http://www.kevinflynnphotographer.com.







Letters to the Editor

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

"Road Diet" cuts off access to neighborhood from northbound Broadway

Editor:

As part of the Broadway "Road Diet" recently implemented (partly with Caldecott Tunnel Settlement funds), Broadway was changed from two lanes in each direction to one lane in each direction plus a center turn lane. To the dismay of many living between Broadway and College Avenue, left turns onto westbound Lawton Avenue from northbound Broadway have been prohibited.

Victoria Eisen, the consultant overseeing Caldecott Settlement projects, issued an email notice in January that stated, "The best way to allow safe left turns through the 5-legged intersection of Broadway/Lawton/Rockridge Blvd has evolved since it was discovered in the field that the original design needed to be adjusted. The final treatment will be to reverse the current left turn pocket from northbound Broadway-to-westbound Lawton to a southbound-to-eastbound left turn pocket. This change was motivated when the community brought to the city's attention that Lawton is the only feasible street that serves the neighborhood east of Broadway, while there are a number of parallel alternatives to Lawton that connect Broadway and College Avenue."

This notice did not state that left turns onto westbound Lawton from northbound Broadway would be prohibited; the change was not presented to the public for comments ahead of implementation; and there was no problem before Broadway was reconfigured because vehicles turning left onto Lawton from northbound and southbound Broadway occupied separate lanes.

There is now no safe and legal direct route for hundreds of residents of the Lawton-Ocean View Drive-Keith-McMillan Avenue area, located southeast of the Rockridge BART station, to get to their homes when driving northbound on Broadway. Turning westbound onto Ocean View Drive from northbound Broadway is dangerous because the intersection is on a hill. It is difficult to see oncoming southbound Broadway traffic coming off Highway 24, typically quite fast, from there. This blind spot is the reason there is no pedestrian crossing of Broadway at Ocean View. Keith Avenue is one-way and is not accessible from Broadway.

In an August 21 email from Ms. Eisen, my detailed complaint to the City and request for a meeting were answered as follows: "You and your neighbors will have to change your customary travel patterns as a result of the turn prohibition… Ocean View is not a safe option; rather, this prohibition will require the households on Lawton, Ocean View, Keith and McMillan that are between Broadway and College to use College Avenue to drive home when they are coming from the south."

But College Avenue is already congested. And, the City did not assess the impact of the change on travel times, fuel consumption, or air pollution.

City staff did not spot this problem during the design phase. Had it been known earlier, I believe there would have been an outcry from residents that would have prevented the project from going forward. Instead of trying to work with the public, the City simply imposed a draconian solution and then began posting a motorcycle officer to enforce the no left turn edict. But there is a solution: restore that section of Broadway to the way it was before, with two lanes in each direction.

Wlad. Wlassowsky, Assistant Director, Department of Transportation, and Consultant Victoria Eisen are the parties responsible for this situation. Please direct complaints to them.

— Jon Gabel

FISHMAN Financial Group Incorporated
David Herrenbruck
david@fishmanfinancial.net
Cell 510-981-9799
510-528-2255
Reverse Mortgages
Re-Fi
Pre-Approval
NMLS# 1384117

In Rockridge since 1997
Have you reviewed your business insurance lately?
Yes we do offer:
Workers Comp Insurance
Susan Bernosky
510-450-9050
Straban
INSURANCE SERVICES, INC
CA License 0D34069
www.strahaninsurance.com

Permit Parking System is Broken

Editor:

Jon Gabel is to be commended for his opinion piece and research into the broken Rockridge permit parking system reported in the September issue of The Rockridge News. He clarifies, by analyzing the shifts of the parking officers, why few non-permitted cars are cited. This explains why there has been virtually no enforcement since they changed the shift schedules in 2011. (Still, even before 2011, parking enforcement was spotty and sporadic at best.)

Like Jon, and probably many other Rockridge residents, my wife and I regularly call the traffic parking phone number (238-3099). In the past month, I have called five times for someone to come and patrol my street. Usually Yolanda answers and says that she will send someone out. She probably does. However, in only one case, did I actually see an enforcement officer come down my block. Ultimately, she nabbed three cars. And if an officer showed up on the other times – I did keep my eyes out and didn't see anyone – no cars were ticketed, most likely because no one came by. And, even if someone did show up, with the shift change, apparently no one came back to ticket.

My own recent survey showed the following:

September 24, 2:30 p.m.:
33 cars
15 permitted cars
18 non-permitted cars
1 empty space
0 tickets

September 25, 2:30 p.m.:
33 cars
13 permitted cars
20 non-permitted cars
1 empty space
0 tickets.

There are many more non-permitted than permitted cars with permits. This is typical. While some of these cars move within two hours, I assure you that many, if not most, do not move during the day. Many are even parked for several days.

When the 2-hour parking system was put in place 32 years ago, it solved a horrendous parking situation for those living within proximity of the BART station. Since 2011 it is as bad now as it was then, only we now pay for it. Like Jon, we don't feel we are getting any kind of bargain, despite our council member's claims.

I'm surprised the merchants along College Avenue aren't calling for better enforcement. After all, our streets serve as their parking lot. With such low parking turnover, their customers have a hard time finding a place to park. Enforcing the parking zones would open more spaces for customer parking. It's not only the residents who are ill served.

What is made obvious by Jon's research is that it's really a simple solution: return to the pre-2011 shift schedules so that these parking permits are enforced. In the meantime, since the city and our council member seem reluctant to do anything about this problem, call 238-3099 and ask for an officer to come out. Maybe if enough people call, they will enforce the parking rules and we will be better served.

— Michael Reardon



The photo shows the effect of the lack of enforcement: More cars parked for longer times; fewer resident spaces.

EXPERIENCE THE UNIQUE
Local with Global Reach | Specializing in the East Bay | Discreet and Professional

ORTRUN NIESAR
510.326.2161
Realtor®
o.niesar@ggsir.com
GoldenGateSIR.com
Lic.# 01161032
Golden Gate Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY
Each office is independently owned and operated.

Land Use Committee

from page 3

(PANIL) and representatives of TRC, Inc., the master-lease holder for Shops at the Ridge. TRC reported it had examined numerous options for the phase 2 build-out and concluded that only a mixed-use project including some residential units would be financially viable.

As envisioned, the plan would involve four four-story buildings, with retail on the ground level of each building, a total of about 60,000 sq.ft. of retail. The upper three stories on three of the buildings would be apartments. In the fourth building, the upper stories would be office space. TRC reps acknowledged the difficulty of convincing the property's owners to accept a residential component and the need to modify the sites' master ground lease. They have begun meeting with the owners to negotiate lease revisions. RCPC and PANIL representatives applauded the addition of a residential component and expressed a desire to have an interim use established soon, so the site would not continue to sit vacant.

The TRC reps said they were looking at establishing interim single-story retail uses, using recycled shipping containers similar to a development in San Diego called, "SteelCraft." (Find it online to get a sense of what's being proposed.) Such a proposal would require city approvals, and would likely generate significant traffic through the already-impacted 51st/Broadway/Pleasant Valley intersection. Perhaps it could be used to leverage traffic improvements – like signal synchronization along Broadway?

■ **Update on Rockridge Housing Study**

Last month's call for technical assistance in evaluating the five alternative housing scenarios resulted in several offers of help. Committee members discussed forming a subcommittee to move the housing study forward. Also discussed was outreach to faculty members at the Cal-Berkeley campus who might be able to contribute ideas, expertise, and perhaps graduate student assistance. An initial meeting is planned for the coming month. Anyone interested in participating should e-mail landuse@rockridge.org.

RN classifieds

Your Message Could Be Here

Your 36-word message is $22. (Phone number counts as one word.) **Make check payable to RCPC** and write **Rockridge News Classified Ad** on the memo line. Mail to: **RN Classifieds**, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. ***The classified ad December issue deadline is November 22. The December issue*** *will be out on* ***December 8.*** *For information: Email Susan Montauk via smontauk@gmail.com*

Celebrate the Holidays!

Penelope's Aesthetics is offering a full European facial w/eyebrow wax for $65! Relax and refresh for the holidays. Gift certificates available. What a fabulous gift! call 510/594-1552 penelopecalef.com

Your Rockridge Specialists

– JUDITH GLASS & SHEILA SABINE –
The Grubb Company

Now may be the right time for a move. Your home says a lot about you and we are here to listen. Call 510/326-5055 or email SSabine@Grubbco.com

Erratum

A layout error in the October issue of the newsletter caused the caption below identifying the site and subject of the photograph to be omitted. The Rockridge News regrets the error.

Gardening Cleanups and Maintenance

Experienced team of 2, dedicated to the care and maintenance of plants and trees. Garden design and restoration, pruning and vegetable garden installation, affordable rates. Yelp: Chris Rausch Gardening. Chris Rausch Gardening. Chris @ 510/655-0157.

HOUSE REPAIRS & REMODELING, INTERIOR & EXTERIOR

Plumbing, tile work , decks, dry rot, drainage, walls, termite damage, doors, windows, kitchen & bath remodel. Professional work for affordable prices. Local references available. Juan 510/692-6399 or Jbahena.info@gmail.com

Edward Jones Open House & Canned Food Drive

Tuesday, November 13, 4:30-6:30p.m. 5330 College Avenue, Suite 230. More info: 510/844-4772 or ben.blake@edwardjones.com. Refreshments will be served. We hope you can join us.

Handy Man for Hire

Multifaceted and well experienced. Hauling and towing available. No job too small. Reasonably priced. Lee Self. 707/223-1298.

Family

from page 12

and brothers that she can consider family? Again, not at this point. A group of her half-siblings, she said, met each other when they were much younger and have created relationships that she describes as close friends or real half-siblings. "Some of them are the only child to their parent(s), and so I understand how half-siblings could fill the sibling-void."

"I am not in the position to take advantage of this half-sibling-hood in the same way. I have a little sister that, while adopted, feels like my full (not half) sister. We spent our childhood together," she wrote, "helping each other up only to push each other back on the floor and being dragged by our mom to each other's performances and athletic events."

Also, Kaitlyn explained, "I have already grown up. I grew up in a family. I have found host families (all over the world). I have supporters and friends that I value so much, and it never mattered to me if they were related to me or not. I have graduated college and am no longer confined by the house of my family. I love to travel, live and learn in other parts of the world."

The time spent with her half-siblings "caused me to reflect on what it means to be siblings and a family and what these newly-made connections mean to me and could mean to me in the future."

To comment or to suggest ideas for future columns about Rockridge and its very interesting neighborhoods and residents, email judyberne@att.net.

The Cranes Are Flying... Over Oakland

As construction cranes crowd the horizons, Oakland changes before our very eyes. Rockridge is not exempt. Land Use Committee Chair Stuart Flashman catalogued Rockridge building projects for an Out & About display that drew sustained interest from Rockridge residents and event visitors. Photos and text start on page 8.



Cranes at work at the MacArthur Station Residences project. Builder Boston properties expects completion in 2020. /D. Kinkead

A Lot to Ponder

from page 1

(or perhaps 4-story, with affordable units) building, probably covering most of the lot. Our understanding is that it will likely have commercial space on the 1st floor, with residential units on the upper floors. There would be resident parking underneath the building. The building's application may have been delayed because the site used to be a gas station, and the proposal to excavate for parking requires reopening investigation of chemical leaks from the station's underground storage tanks. (It had previously been cleared for above-ground development.)

Several area residents have suggested developing the site as a public park. Since it's in private ownership, at a prime location on an active commercial street less than 1/2 mile from BART; on a major bus route; and zoned for 3 stories of commercial/residential space, the price for getting the parcel into public ownership is likely to be prohibitive. However, you are welcome to investigate that option further.

— ***Stuart Flashman***
stuflash@sbcglobal.net

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

NEW LISTING ROCKRIDGE

5876 Ocean View Dr
$1,855,000
3+ Beds /1+ Baths

- Traditional Shingle Home
- Spacious Rooms
- Upgraded Kitchen
- A "Real" Family Room
- Remodeled Bathroom
- Work at Home Office Space
- Hardwood Floors, Fireplace
- Yard with Patios, Gas Fireplace, Great Play Space for Everyone

ROCKRIDGE HOME PRICES HIT $1,000 PER SQUARE FOOT!

Valuing your home might be easier than you think. Try multiplying the size of your home by $1,000 per square foot and you will be close. Of course, I can get you closer.

Call Me!

"I know Rockridge"

LAWTON ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

Ron Kriss, Broker
Lawton Associates
direct 510-612-2547
RonKriss@JPS.net

"#1 in Rockridge Real Estate"
160+ Successful Sales in Rockridge
www.LawtonAssoc.com

Mortgage solutions tailored to you and your family.
Local. Knowledge. Integrity



Scott Murray
Loan Advisor
NMLS #1020834
925.743.3512
smurray@rpm-mtg.com
www.rpm-mtg.com/smurray
3240 Stone Valley Road West.
Alamo, CA 94507

RPM MORTGAGE

RPM Mortgage, Inc. – NMLS#9472 – Licensed by the Department of Business Oversight under the Residential Mortgage Lending Act | 6041| Equal Housing Opportunity.

OMNI PAINTING & WATERPROOFING Inc.
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

INTERIOR-EXTERIOR LEAD CERTIFIED PAINTERS
Professional preparation. Many local references. All work Guaranteed.
(510) 654-3339

COLLINS ROOFING
Family Owned & Operated



(510) 444-2220
www.collinsroofing.com
Quality Work • Free Estimates
Lic # 695711

KEVIN BROWN
Broker
654-8707 or 593-4780

PROVIDING
Professional,
Full Service
Real Estate Brokerage
To Rockridge Clients
For Over 36 Years.

SPECIALIZING IN
- ***Residential Sales***
- ***Income Property***
- ***Commercial***
- ***Property Management***

Better Homes Realty

Better Homes Realty
5353 College Avenue
Oakland

Celebrating 30 in Business! 1988 Years 2018

FMS Projects INC.
REMODELING / LIC #522497

Award Winning Contractor
Kitchen & Bathrooms
Foundations & Additions ADU projects
Frank Silver: 415-722-9805

Find it in Rockridge!

Hoping? Find it in Rockridge!

PIPE SPY

Sewer Problems? Pipe Spy Can Help!
Trenchless Sewer Pipe Replacement
Camera Pipe Inspection
Sewer Diagnostics
Sewer Service & Repair
$15 off camera inspections
510-465-3000
www.pipespy.com

Financing Available
Lic #: 754966

THE GRAYSON COLLECTION



Two and three bedroom modern townhomes in the Berkeley Design Loop!

1032 GRAYSON STREET, BERKELEY
1,697 sq. ft. | 3 bedrooms | 2.5 baths
Offered at $989,000
1032Grayson.com



CLAUDIA MILLS
Top Producer with Local Expertise
510.350.6419 | cmills@mcguire.com
ClaudiaMillsRealEstate.com
Cal BRE# 01881682

CLAUDIA MILLS REAL ESTATE TEAM
McGUIRE REAL ESTATE