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Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

VOL. 34 ■ NO. 3 ■ ISSUE NO. 362 MARCH 2, 2019

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NO March Town Hall; In April: RCPC Board Elections

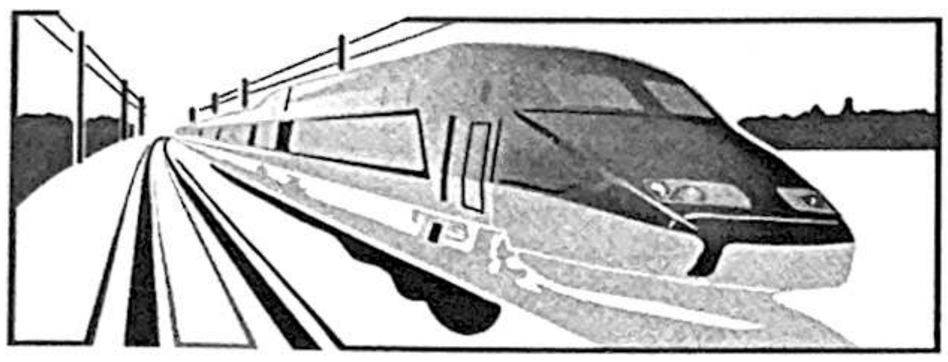
The Rockridge Community Planning Council's (RCPC) annual election of boardmembers will be held at the April 18 Town Hall. What's that all about?

RCPC boardmembers promote community projects in Rockridge; help represent Rockridge to the City on matters of zoning and development, traffic and transportation, and public safety; and contribute to strengthening our community. Its directors are elected by its members, the residents of Rockridge who live within its boundaries. (See www.rockridge.org/boundaries.)

A full RCPC board would have 14 active members. Lately, the board has operated with as few as nine members following retirements due to illness, family needs, and relocation. With the appoint of new boardmember Casey Farmer (see below), the count is now up to 10.

In the end, it comes down to how you feel about your neighborhood and your city and how strongly you feel about helping. As stated in the second paragraph, "RCPC boardmembers promote community projects, represent Rockridge to the City, and contribute to strengthening our community."

Don't be left behind; Get on (the) Board.



Don't Be Left Behind... *Get on (The) Board*

Here Are Your Tickets to Ride...

RCPC Committees

- **Communications**
- **Fundraising**
- **Land Use**
- **Parks and Open Space**
- **Public Safety**
- **Schools**
- **The Rockridge News**
- **Transportation**

Claremont Launches Fundraising Campaign for After-School Sports



by Michelle Quinn

You see them running in the neighborhood, you hear their shouts and cheers in the afternoon: Claremont Middle School (CMS)students taking part in after-school sports.

Under Principal Jonathan Mayer, sports are a big part of life at Claremont Middle School, a way for students from all grades to get to know each other.

Now, the school's PTA is launching a fundraising campaign to support the school's athletics program.

The PTA's campaign aims to

▸ **Claremont Sports, page 11**

RCPC Welcomes New Boardmember

Casey Farmer appointed to an open seat

Casey Farmer joined RCPC in January, seeking to support the neighborhood she loves and has called home for eight out of the past eleven years. Professionally, she is the Executive Director of Alameda County's Complete Count Committee for Census 2020 where she manages communications, community engagement, and the outreach grant to ensure every Alameda County resident is counted. She previously served as Campaign Manager, and later Communications Director to Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley). Prior to her work

▸ **RCPC Appoints Boardmember, page 3**



Rockridge Kitchen Tour a Chance to Celebrate Achievement

It's time to sign up to celebrate your newly remodeled Rockridge kitchen on the 2019 Kitchen Tour. It's a chance to share, show off, and rejoice in the wonderful cooking/living space you've created with your talented team of architects, contractors, and craftspeople, or all on your DIY own.

The biennial Kitchen Tour is the Rockridge Community Planning Council's major fundraiser. It allows RCPC to administer the Kevin Faughnan Memorial Grants program, host Town Halls and the Halloween Parade, and conduct other activities that benefit the quality of life in Rockridge.

The Tour presents selected kitchens reflecting a variety of design styles, family sizes, and space considerations: Large or small, we want to see them all. A substantial number of Tour guests live in or near Rockridge, many looking for ideas for their own projects. Past Tours have featured renovations relevant to homeowners wanting to plan a more family-oriented cooking, dining, and living space. The 2019 Kitchen Tour committee is on the lookout for a variety of inspiring kitchens.

Is having a kitchen on the Tour a lot of effort for the homeowners? No. The Tour committee keeps home visits and inter-

▸ **RCPC Kitchen Tour, page 3**

Impact of CCA's Proposed Tall Building Can be Offset by Proposed Open Space

A personal statement by ashley cruz, Rockridge resident, RCPC Boardmember, proponent of parks, and a Landscape Architect. The points of view expressed in the statement are those of Ms. cruz and are not necessarily shared by the Board of the Rockridge Community Planning Council.

by ashley cruz

I am writing in response to the proposed development at California College of the Arts (CCA).

I agree, a new 19-story building will be a shock to the neighborhood. I also believe that we, the community, will begin to accept its presence. Perhaps it is my nature, but I tend to look to the bright side of things, and, for me, there is a major benefit of this project, Makers' Gardens; the private developer has committed to creating a community gathering space, aka a public park.

Rockridge is lacking public open spaces for recreation; my article in the August 2018 issue of The Rockridge News pointed to that by highlighting parks within a 1-mile radius of the Library. Rockridge currently has three parks within its boundaries: Frog Park and Greenway; Chabot Recreation Center; and Colby Park.

Parks promote physical activity, relieve symptoms of depression and anxiety and enhance well-being. A POPOS (privately owned public open space) at the CCA site would benefit residents within a half-mile radius of the site, and others well beyond. This is an opportunity for all of us, as a community. Of course, we can voice our opposition to the proposed residential tower or we can voice our

Benefits of Open Space, page 13

NCPC End of Year Report: Crime in 2018

NCPC Notes

- **NCPC does not meet in March.** The next meeting will be Thursday, April 11, 7:30 p.m. We expect it to be held in the Rockridge Library upstairs meeting room but that cannot be confirmed until next month. After April 1, see https://www.rockridgencpc.com for meeting location.
- **The search continues** for a community volunteer to become the NCPC vice chair. Interested persons should email chair@rockridgencpc.com for more information.

This report covers beats **12Y (Rockridge)** and **13X (upper Rockridge, above Broadway)** in calendar year 2018.

The biggest crime problem in 12Y was auto-related property crimes (auto break-ins and thefts), followed by general property crime (burglaries and thefts).

Beat 12Y

We saw 277 auto-related crimes in 12Y in 2018, with monthly incidents ranging from 9 (May) to 33 (December). For the record, in January 2019 there were 44 incidents, so it's an ongoing trend. There were 181 general property crimes in the beat during 2018, ranging from 8 (May again) to 23 (February). We don't know why May was so slow. At the last NCPC meeting, Captain Chris Bolton expressed deep concern about this, especially the auto break-ins, and his department is working hard to reduce it.

Crime Report: NCPC, page 14

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Library program details/hours: Calendar, page 15

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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Contact the board: chair@rockridge.org
For information: info@rockridge.org

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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;
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 April issue is:
- **April 6, 2019.**
- **Submission deadline: March 21, 2019.**

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 it deems inappropriate. (Classified ad contact, page 14.)

RCPC Land Use Committee

The February Land Use Committee meeting was held Wednesday, February 27, after The Rockridge News went to press. Check at https://rockridge.org – the RCPC website – for a posting of the meeting's record and for information about the April meeting.

RCPC Kitchen Tour, from page 1

ruptions to a minimum over the summer preparation period. On Tour day, committee-trained docents guide guests to and around the kitchen. Signage, shoe covers and similar materials are provided for each home. With two shifts of two docents for each kitchen, plus one or two extra docents at the fully open house, Tour guests are never in a house unsupervised. Staying home or leaving during the Tour is optional for homeowners. Several homeowners on last year's Tour stayed home, chatted with guests, and enjoyed being present while their kitchens were on display. Others took the Tour themselves, using the two complimentary tickets given to Tour homeowners. Still others, with young children, went off to do something more child-oriented.

If putting your kitchen on the 2019 Tour intrigues you, or if you know someone who would enjoy opening their new kitchen for the Tour, the Committee invites you to submit it now for the September 22, 2019 Tour. Still a work in progress? No problem if the work is expected to finish by August 2019.

Contact Leonora Sea or Ronnie Spitzer, Kitchen Tour co-Chairs: kitchentour@rockridge.org.

Kitchen Tour's Docents a Big Part of Tour Successes

Preparations for the 2019 Rockridge Kitchen Tour are underway, and the Kitchen Tour Committee is calling for helpful volunteers, especially docents. Volunteering for the Tour is a great way to get to know more about the neighborhood and about first-rate kitchen design. It's also a chance to give back to the Rockridge neighborhood.

The biennial Kitchen Tour is the main fundraiser for the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC). Since the first Tour in 1995, proceeds have gone to such worthy causes as completing the home for the library branch, the design and building of the play structure and other amenities at Frog Park, supporting the work of the Friends of the Rockridge Library; and establishing the Kevin Faughnan Memorial Community Grants program which supports local projects to benefit Rockridge, among many other such programs.

Becoming a Tour volunteer is ideal for someone who wants to help the Rockridge community, but can't make a long-term commitment to our neighborhood boards

Be a Tour Docent, page 12

RCPC Appoints Boardmember

from page 1

in the Legislature, she served as Policy Analyst and Community Liaison for Oakland City Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney, whose campaign she managed in 2012. Casey has also worked in philanthropy for The Rogers Family Foundation and as a high school teacher for students with learning disabilities at Youth Empowerment School (YES) in Oakland. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of San Francisco in Sociology and Public Service and also holds a Master's degree in Education. She also serves on the DreamCatcher Advisory Board, which serves homeless youth in Oakland, and as Political Director on the East Bay Women's Political Alliance. She owns a home on Hermann Street with her husband and college sweetheart, Galen Wilson, and their dog Misty.



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Letters to the Editor

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

Editor:

I have noticed that my baby's caregiver loves going to the little "parkette" between Rockridge Place and Rockridge Boulevard. Has there ever been any push by the community to add a couple of toddler swings and/or a slide? Maybe a picnic table? I'm sure there are lots of little ones who would appreciate a few amenities there. Is the space owned by the City of Oakland?

Any info you have on the park would be great.

— Ellen Denham

Theresa Nelson Replies:

When I was head of the RCPC Parks Committee in the late 1990s, we looked at many possible locations for a children's park in Rockridge. Rockridge is a densely developed area, and open spaces are few and far between. The very nice triangular park on Rockridge Boulevard, owned by the City of Oakland, was one of the places we looked at as a possible site. In the end, we selected the current Frog Park and Greenway settting. We learned a lot as we went along.

For example, swings require a fairly substantial "fall zone" under state law, about six feet all around. This is an area of resilient surfacing where, if a child falls, s/he will not be seriously injured. Swings might or might not fit in the Rockridge Place site, given the space. For more details, see this website for detailed regulations: https://ers.fpg.unc.edu/sites/ers.fpg.unc.edu/files/playground%20revised%2010-28-10.pdf. A picnic table is different, and requires relatively little space. You might first want to contact your neighbors to see how they feel about this idea, and then contact the Public Works Department to see if they would consider installing a picnic table there. Likely you would have to raise private funds for this, as we did to build Frog Park. The FROG Committee is currently obtaining bids for the installation of toddler swings and an ADA-accessible swing at Big Frog in lower Rockridge, so that should be available for your child this summer, we hope.

— Theresa Nelson

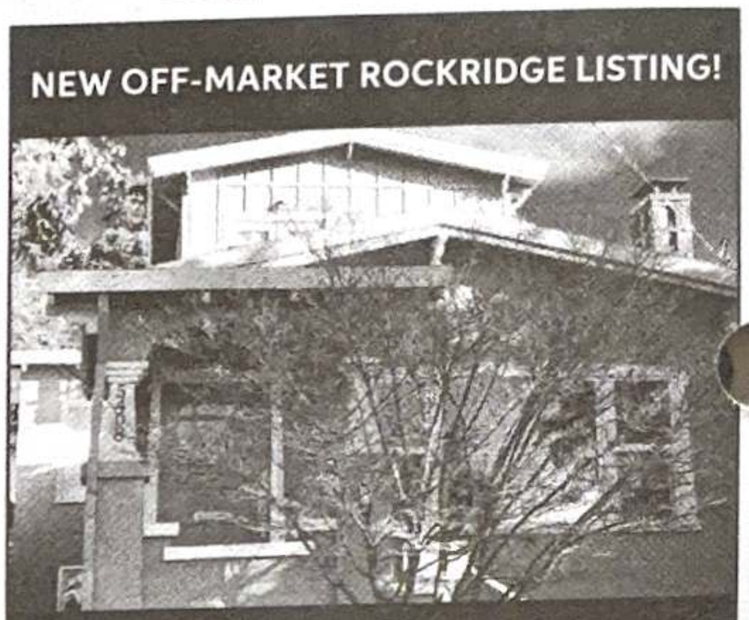
No Benefit to Residents from Permit Parking Program

Editor:

I wrote last month to present my objection to planning and building housing that meets only the needs of the growing number of tech workers and neglects the needs of Oakland residents such as teachers, writers, artists and nurses now being priced out of the area. I mentioned parking in my letter, and want to emphasize current problems with that important element as well. Residential parking is at a premium in Oakland, especially in neighborhoods near BART. Although most residents purchase parking permits, the permit stickers do no good: Restrictions are not enforced at all –EVER– by the City. Because the driveways of many of our houses are often too steep and narrow to accommodate current vehicles, many of us can only park on the street. We are at a disadvantage in our own neighborhoods without adequate enforcement of that parking protection.

— Sharon L. Osmond







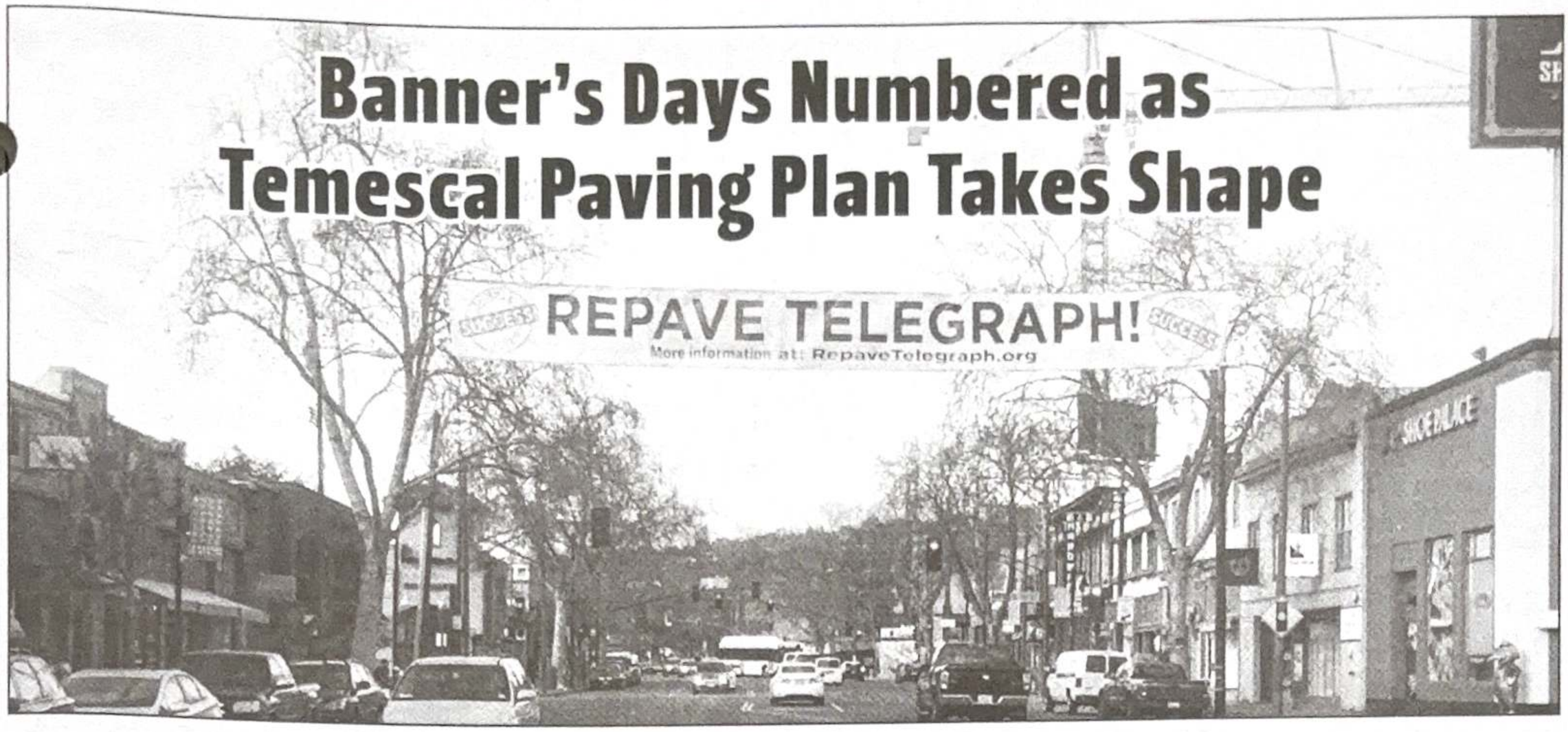
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Banner's Days Numbered as Temescal Paving Plan Takes Shape



10 Years of Neighborhood Organizing Get Promise of a Paved Telegraph

In Spring 2018, a campaign to get the City to recognize, finally, the paving needed on Telegraph Avenue found success. After receiving over 600 petition signatures, massive numbers of calls and emails and the overall support for the campaign, the City decided it was time to take action and put Telegraph on the paving list. The Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) initiated the redesign of Telegraph Avenue in Summer 2018. For five months, OakDOT collected input on community and business priorities for the street and evaluated strategies to improve safety, equity and vibrancy along the corridor. In December 2018, the finalized design was approved by the City Council, ensuring the repaving of Telegraph Avenue in the summer of 2019. Between 42nd and 52nd Streets, the project includes a road diet, parking protected bike lanes and a pedestrian plaza on Shattuck Avenue between 45th and 46th Streets.

Adapted from the Temescal Telegraph Business Improvement District (TTBID) website.

And, in other good news from Temescal, the 10th Anniversary of Taste of Temescal is set for Tuesday, March 19, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Taste of Temescal: A unique experience that only Temescal can provide. Food, Beverage, Music, and Family Fun... A great way to spend an evening while supporting local schools and non-profits. Each of our 29 participating restaurants offers a bite or small plate to each ticket holder, with 29 bites in total if you visit all the restaurants.

Buy tickets here: https://tasteoftemescal2019.bpt.me/

Scintillate your palates with this culinary crawl (like farm-to-table trick or treat), one of Temescal's most delectable annual events. Enjoy an evening of food, drink, live music and fabulous prizes (including gift certificates to your favorite local eatery), along Telegraph Avenue from 40th to 52nd Streets, Temescal Alley, and Claremont Avenue. This is a green event.

Proceeds will benefit the following schools/organizations:

- **Claremont Middle School**
- **Emerson Middle School**
- **Oakland Technical High School**
- **La Clínica de La Raza**



Early Bagel Outlet Granted New Life

Emily Winston, whose New York-style bagels have already garnered accolades from the East Bay Express to Bon Appetit, plans to open Boichik Bagels in Rockridge this spring. Her shop will be located on College Avenue just past Alcatraz, in the original Noah's Bagels location. Rockridge resident and writer Ben Friedman interviewed her for The Rockridge News.

by Ben Friedman

The Rockridge News: Why Bagels?

Emily Winston: Bagels are one of those foods that you grow up with and you have a deep emotional connection to. Every culture has foods like that. For certain people, especially Jewish people, bagels hold that place.

RN: Tell us a bit more about your path to opening Boichik Bagels.

EW: I moved out here nine years ago (Emily grew up in suburban NJ), and couldn't find good bagels. I only ate bagels when I went home. When bagel royalty H&H Bagels in New York City went out of business in 2012, I knew I had to take matters into my own hands.

RN: How has living in California, here in the East Bay, influenced you as a baker?

EW: Well, there's no shortage of foodie culture here in California. There's also a huge culture of amazing bread baking, and the community has been very helpful. I took classes at the Food Craft Institute in Oakland. I also took a course at the San Francisco Baking Institute, where fellow students were making pilgrimages from across the world, and I was lucky to have it in my backyard.

The design of the shop is influenced by my time in California too. The whole place will be open: You'll be able to see the dough, the baking process, everything.

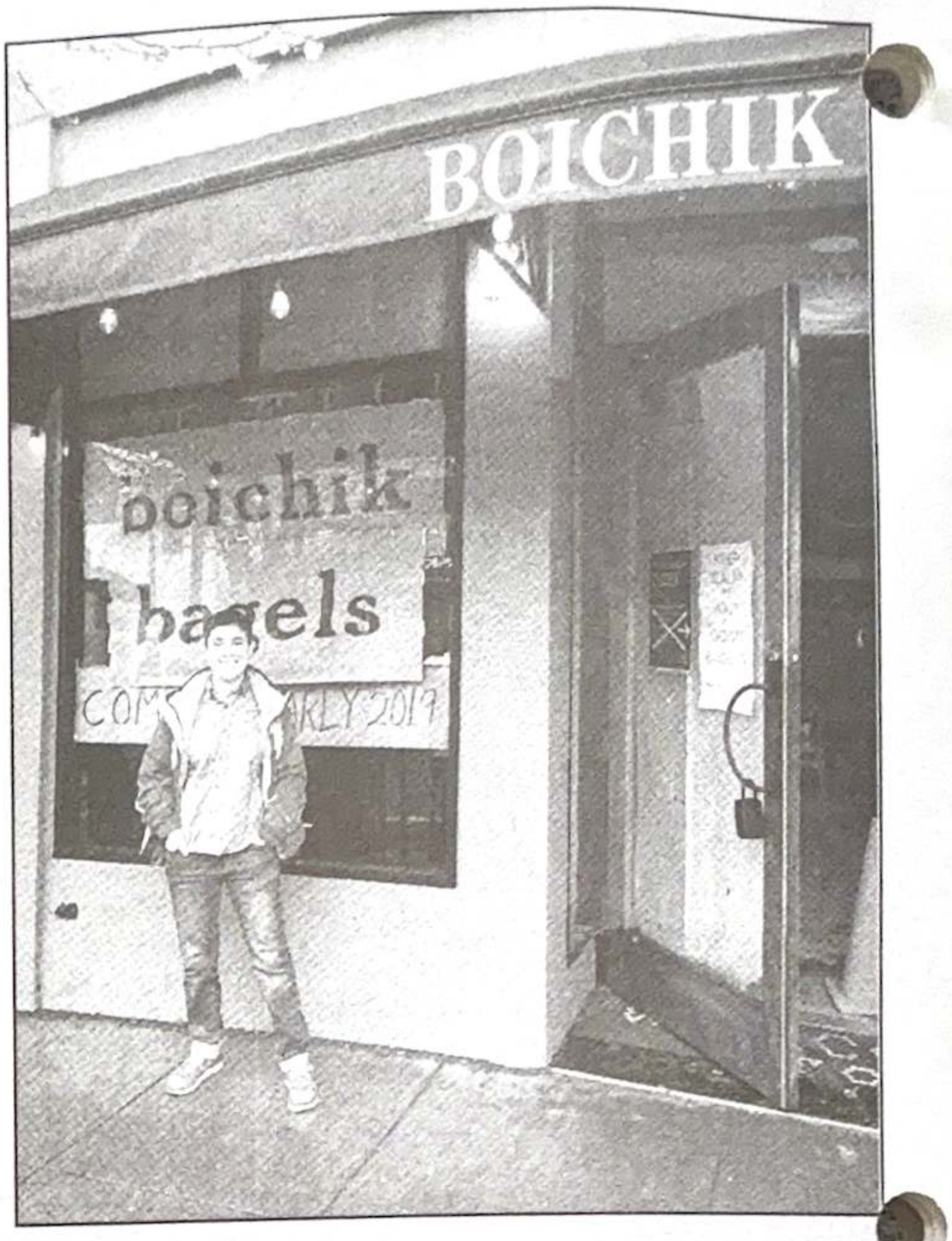
RN: Your shop will be in the original Noah's location. Coincidence?

EW: The location is amazing. The building was brand new when Noah Alper opened his first store there in 1989. That space has only been bagels. I met Noah a year-and-a-half ago, and he dug my bagels and offered sage wisdom. Soon after, he called and said Noah's Corporate had closed the original store and encouraged me to investigate. Eventually, I met the owner of the building and his son, who loved the bagels and encouraged me to move in. It felt like a calling; I didn't have a choice.

RN: Any bagel myths you can share?

EW: Well one great bagel myth of course is the water – that it's the water of New York City that produces the best bagels. I'm too much of an environmentalist to consider shipping water, but I've heard of bagel places in Florida that ship water from New York! I've developed my bagel here in the East Bay using EBMUD water and I'm quite pleased with the result.

RN: What is your vision for Boichik Bagels?



EW: I hope it's an instant classic. I, of course, hope for there to be crowds and for the business to do well. More than that, I hope it holds a cultural niche — where I could imagine my grandmother being a surrogate Jewish mom to my patrons. Community is such a precious resource around here. ***/Photo: Ben Friedman***

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Hardy Dog Park Continues Improvements

We installed a sturdy new water station last month, topped off with a non-skid, waterproof fiberglass layer to keep our dogs safe while slaking their thirsts.

Our ongoing cleanup efforts have certainly paid off, since even with all the rain we have been having there were no floods at the park.

Please join us the first Saturday of every month, rain or shine, to help work on the park. We maintain our drainage, refill bag dispensers, and clean up the park.

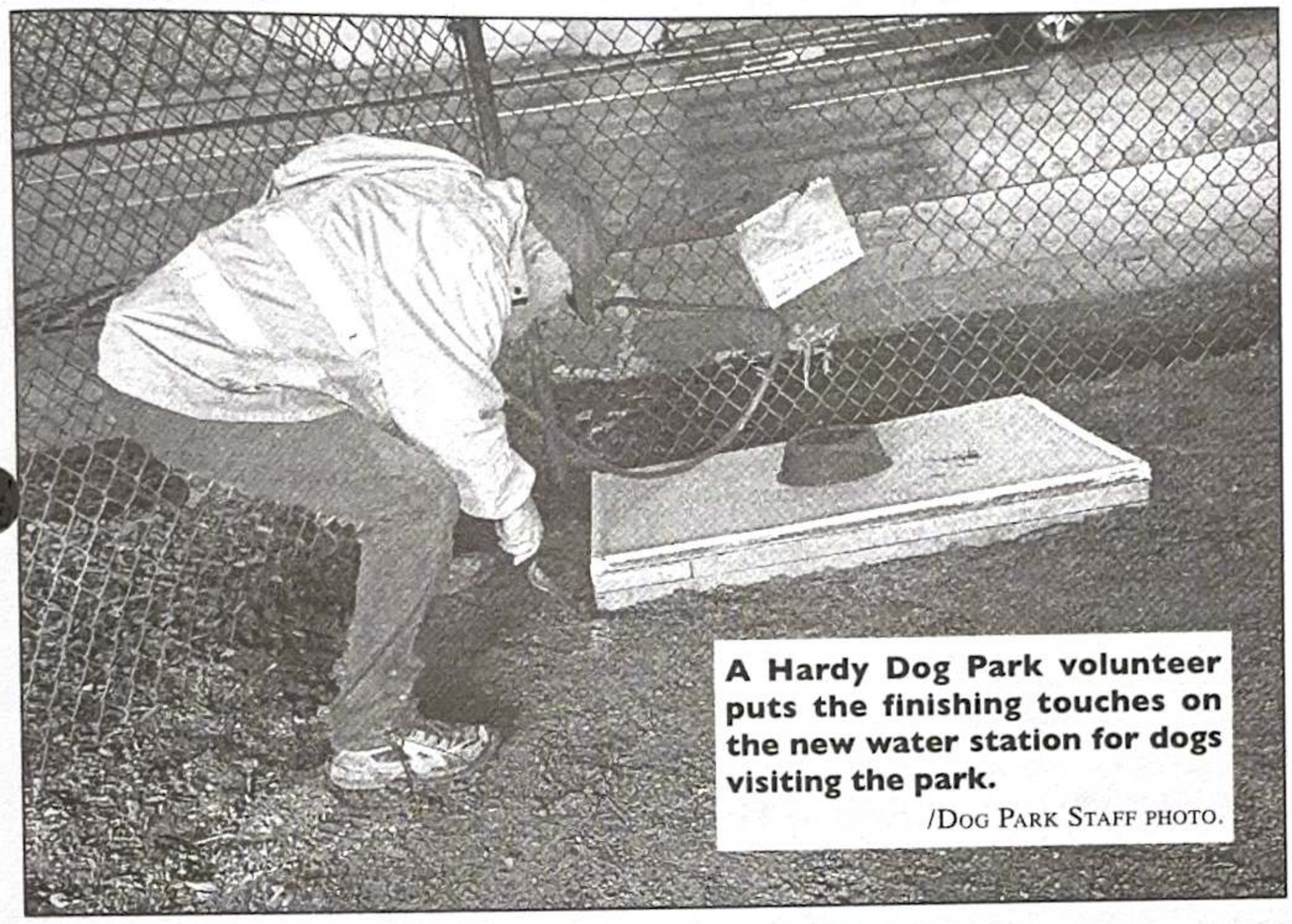
March 2 was our big Bench Building day, where we built several new benches for bipedal visitors and new, permanent, newspaper bag donation bins. Thank you to our generous supporters who donated all the materials for the new equipment.

You can donate clean newspaper bags at either entrance to the dog park, located at the corner of Hudson and Claremont. Please be sure the bags have not contained food, as that can attract rodents.

Come check out our new collection bins and benches, and say hi.

Questions? Email HardyDogPark@yahoo.com

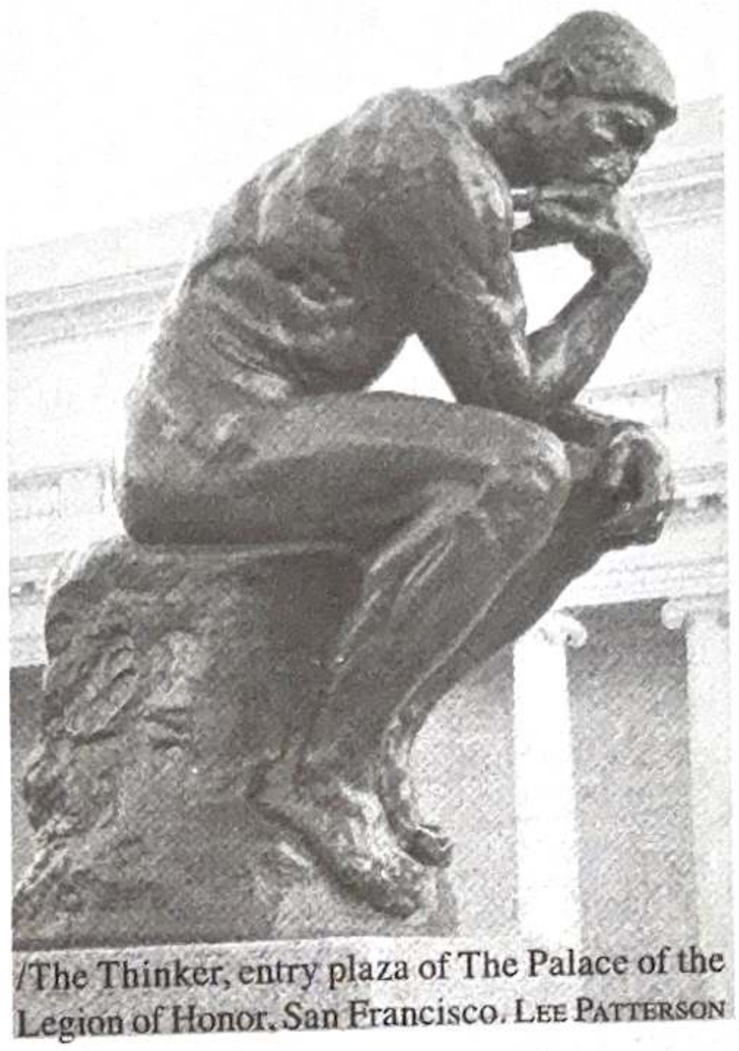
Hardy Dog Park®



A Hardy Dog Park volunteer puts the finishing touches on the new water station for dogs visiting the park.

/Dog Park Staff photo.

Scenic Streets of Oakland



/The Thinker, entry plaza of The Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco. Lee Patterson

Thinking About Volunteering?

Scenic Streets of Oakland needs you. We are a volunteer organization that commits time and energy to maintaining various Rockridge/Temescal sidewalk plantings and the Highway 24/Claremont on and off ramps. We are currently transitioning to plants that are more drought tolerant and native to the area so we're in need of knowledge, ideas, and creativity in addition to time and energy. If you're interested or just need more information, contact Lee Patterson at lee.scenicstreetsoakland@gmail.com.



Scenic Streets Crew On Scene. You can join them: Contact lee.scenicstreetsoakland@gmail.com. /Scenic Streets

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Eyes on Rockridge

ALL PHOTOS: JUDITH DONER BERNE

'She Loves Belotti; I like Ben 'n Nick's'

by Judith Doner Berne

Keith Debro and Kelly McDonald could, if they so choose, walk to work from their 1911 Rockridge bungalow that he bought in 1981.

He's a case manager and special education teacher who has taught for 17 years at Oakland Technical High School, from which both his mother and son graduated. McDonald has been a fixture behind the cash register at Cole Hardware weekends since it opened four years ago on College Avenue. She does have to drive to various locales for her weekday job as a court reporter, but even then her ❤RKRDGE license plate announces her sense of place.

The two met and fell in love "over the outdoor carousel" as baggage handlers at Los Angeles International Airport in the '80s. They had each been transferred there, she from the Seattle-Tacoma airport (SeaTac) and he from San Francisco's airport (SFO).

Debro was first to return to his home base at SFO. "He loved the spinach croissants at this Manhattan Beach restaurant," McDonald said, so she would regularly put a box of them at the door of the baggage compartment on planes headed from LAX to SFO. "Everyone knew who it was for," she said.

When she was able to join him at SFO, she lived in a couple of apartments before finally declaring: "All right, I'm moving in" to his Rockridge digs. They married in 1992 and have a 23-year-old son Drew, a graduate of Chabot Elementary, Claremont Middle School, Oakland Tech and the University of Hawaii.

Both held on to their baggage jobs while completing their educations. Debro already had a B.A. in government from St. Mary's College, then got his master's in special education from National University, an online, veterans-founded, nonprofit college. McDonald trained to become a court reporter, then added her job at Cole's after leaving the airlines. "They (the airline) had a buyout which included medical benefits," she said. "We still have flight benefits."

The couple carry out their sense of "community" in different ways. In 2008, Debro began and has headed a "Community Engagement" elective at Tech that gives students credit for volunteering at nearby Emerson and Piedmont elementaries.

It started with one of his special education students helping out after school at Emerson, Debro said. When Susan McWilliams, an Emerson special education teacher, told him "'I need 10 just like him,' I sent a couple of my favorite kids." And then it dawned: "We should be doing this during the school day. It just kept growing and growing." This year, more than 100 students, both from special ed and other school programs, are enrolled.

It's a win-win program for both her class of autistic students and the students from Tech, McWilliams told me. Some Tech students "can write this up for their college essays and all of them are learning pre-vocational skills. They get great experience being treated with respect and given responsibilities."

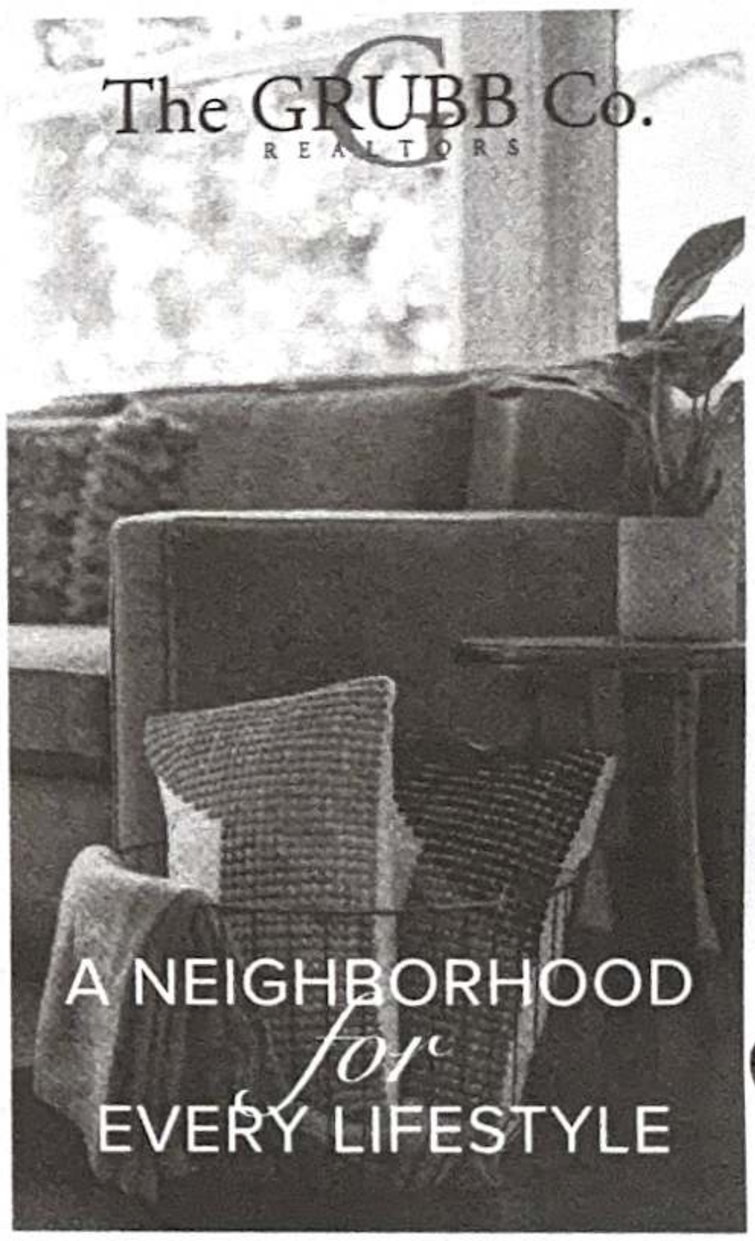
"My kids get some fun-loving young adults who will play with them and draw pictures with them," she said. "We (the teachers) get extra bodies – I have a girl who creates a lot of materials for me – it depends on their skill set. And they are all tech savvy. It takes a lot of coordinating, but Keith is amazing and he's always so relaxed about it."

Debro, I also discovered, often pays for field trips for his students out of his own pocket and attends every Tech Parent Teacher Students (PTSA) meeting. "I'm just there to speak whenever I feel they are excluding special ed kids," Debro said. "It's the largest department in the school."

As for McDonald, her community involvement is non-stop during her Friday-Sunday stints at Cole's checkout counter. She enjoys seeing friends and neighbors meet by chance in the store. "People are hugging and kissing." In between her chatty interactions with customers, she may peek at "a little book" in which she keeps notes on the regulars. Items may include: Grandchild is Theo; their dog is Jake; bone spur, ask

Living a Sense of Community, page 9

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Living a Sense of Community

from page 8

about foot. "It's bad news if I ever lose it. I can't go anywhere on College Avenue without a 'hello, hello.' It's time I ran for Mayor."

"I met Kelly at the counter," said Wendy Hurley. "She's so adorable. She knows everybody." Hurley soon discovered they were neighbors and "hard-core Warrior fans. Keith has season tickets." So when he offered us a pair, Hurley said, and we tried to pay him, he suggested making a donation to the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) instead. "They are sweethearts."

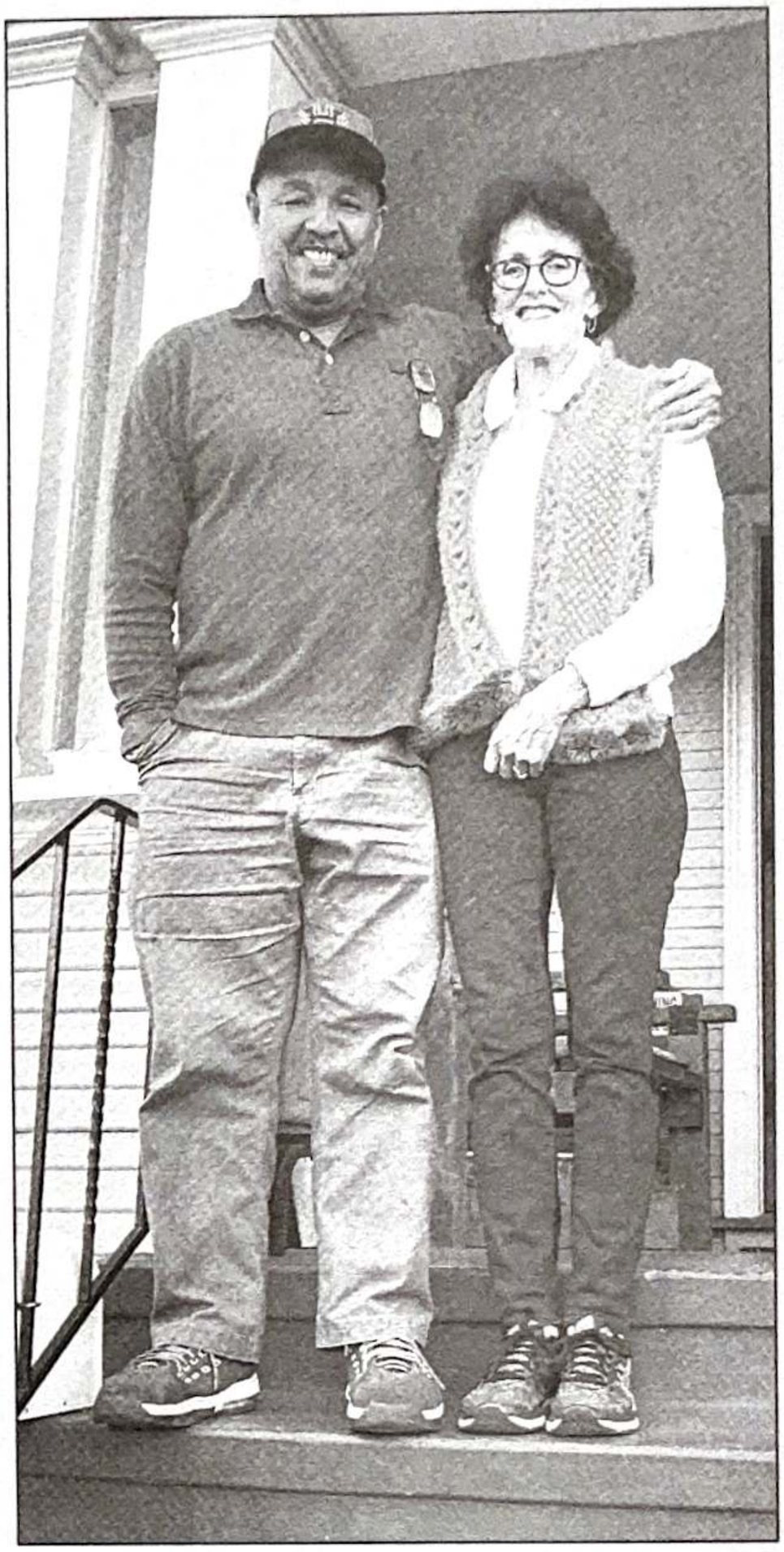
For fun, Debro plays tennis at Chabot Canyon Racquet Club in Rockridge but is no doubt the only member who uses a wood racquet. He tried an early version of a metal racquet but didn't like it, he told me. So he plays with any one of six "operable" wood racquets he owns including a Wilson Pro Staff and a Jack Kramer. "The feel of the wood is better," he insisted, "just like a wood baseball bat." He also bikes, participating in the annual Ride For A Reason to raise money for Oakland schools. "We ride 109 miles from the steps of Tech to the steps of the state capitol."

For her part, McDonald collects toilet paper (unused!) from other countries. She showed me a baggy packed with several pieces that retired Federal Judge David Crockett Lee, also a Rockridge neighbor, had recently dropped off at Cole's for her from Athens, Crete and Corsica. Another neighbor brought her what she terms "my most exotic: a leaf used as TP from Jeju Island, South Korea. People know 'Bring Kelly toilet paper.' I've got tons of it wrapped in bags in the basement" and she one day plans to display it. "I've given thought to this. Maybe some toilet paper company will want it."

"She doesn't cook. She's a grazer. We eat very different things," Debro said. "She loves Belotti; I like Ben 'n Nick's." McDonald rides a unicycle mostly up and down their driveway — and is an avid knitter. "I do scarves and afghan blankets," pointing out several draped over a living room couch.

But the focal point of their living room is a table displaying the dozen or more trophies son Drew won in OUSD's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Festival that he has entered every year beginning in kindergarten.

Keith Debro and Kelly McDonald "pretty much know everybody" in their Rockridge neighborhood.



Comments on this column and suggestions for future stories on your Rockridge neighbors and neighborhoods are welcome. Please email judyberne@att.net.



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COMPASS

Competition Drives Price in February

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
2/8/2019	2	2	5340 Broadway Terrace	$995,000	$995,000	17	$1,300,000
2/15/2019	2	2	5400 Broadway Ter	$895,000	$895,000	6	$1,100,000
2/20/2019	2	2	5340 Broadway Terrace	$649,500	$649,500	14	$705,000
2/20/2019	2	1	5723 Hermann St	$795,000	$795,000	14	$1,025,000
2/20/2019	2	1	5483 Taft Ave	$1,095,000	$1,095,000	14	$1,325,000

Homes sold in February closed 23% over the asking price on average.

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ONLINE AUCTION: MARCH 6TH - MARCH 13TH
LOCAL RETAILERS, POPULAR RESTAURANTS,
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FABULOUS GETAWAYS & MORE!

Rockridge's Chabot Elementary School launched its spring fundraising with shimmering, stellar fun. Shiny gold and silver stars began spangling neighborhood yards on February 15 to raise money and awareness for the upcoming "Gala-xy" themed auction and gala. The online portion of the auction blasts off March 6 and ends March 13; the live auction and gala take place March 16 at the Greek Ascension Community Center.

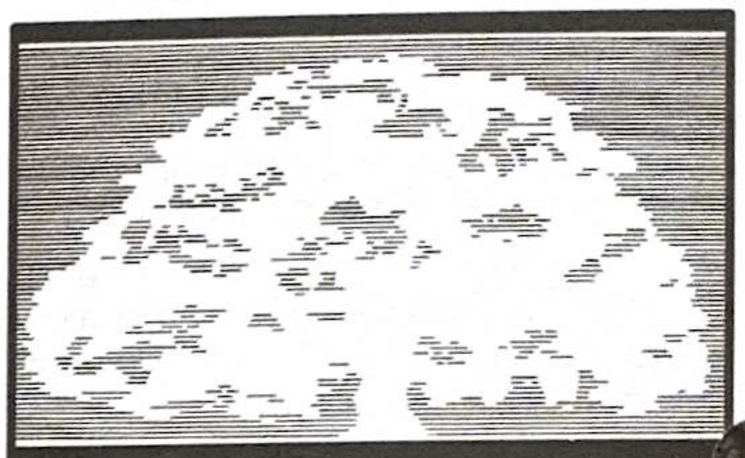
Support your neighborhood school and find some out-of-this-world items for sale by visiting www.chabotelementary.com/pta for a link to the online auction and Gala. A very special thanks to Gala-xy **sponsors**: Adventure Time; MPR Financial; Maxi Lilley of Red Oak Realty; Kids Overcoming, LLC; Rosie Papazian of Abio Properties; Galileo; The Grubb Company; Anatolia Architecture; Piedmont Dental; Gym World Marin; The Henry Levy Group; and 1st United Credit Union.

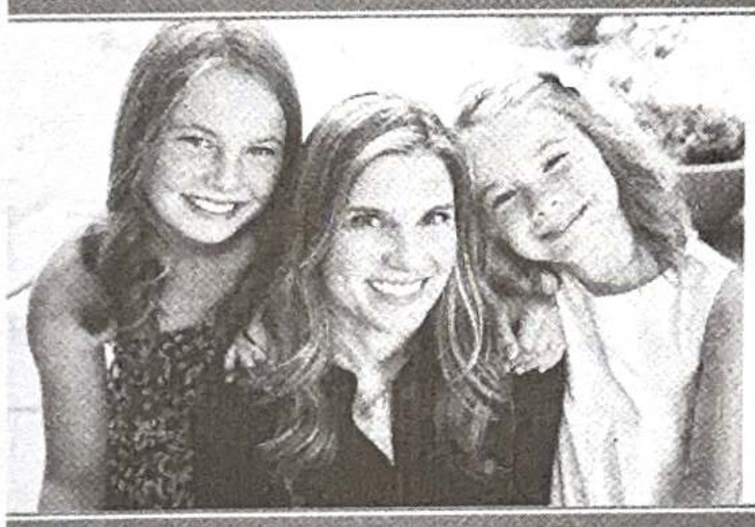
— Laurel Trotter


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Claremont Sports

from page 1

raise $15,000 to fund teams' registrations; pay for umpires and fields; pay teacher and coach stipends; and provide athletes uniforms. The PTA invites the community to be part of this effort by going to its GoFundMe page: https://www.gofundme.com/claremont-knights-athletics-fundraiser.

Since Principal Mayer joined the school five years ago, after-school sports at Claremont has greatly expanded – there is now soccer, baseball, cross-country and ultimate frisbee in addition to other sports.

"I believe it's really important for students to have something to do after school," said Mr. Mayer. "They are much more likely to stay involved in academics and stay active in life."

As many as 100 students, nearly one-fourth of Claremont's student body, are involved in winter sports this year. There is a boys and girls soccer team plus four basketball teams (a boys team for each grade and one girls team). However, winter sports in middle schools in Oakland were put on hold during the labor dispute.

"The same lessons in sports are the lessons you need in life," said David Doubley, the restorative justice facilitator at Claremont and the coach for both the 8th grade boys basketball team and the girls basketball team. "Competition, hard work and teamwork: My goal is to set students up for the future."

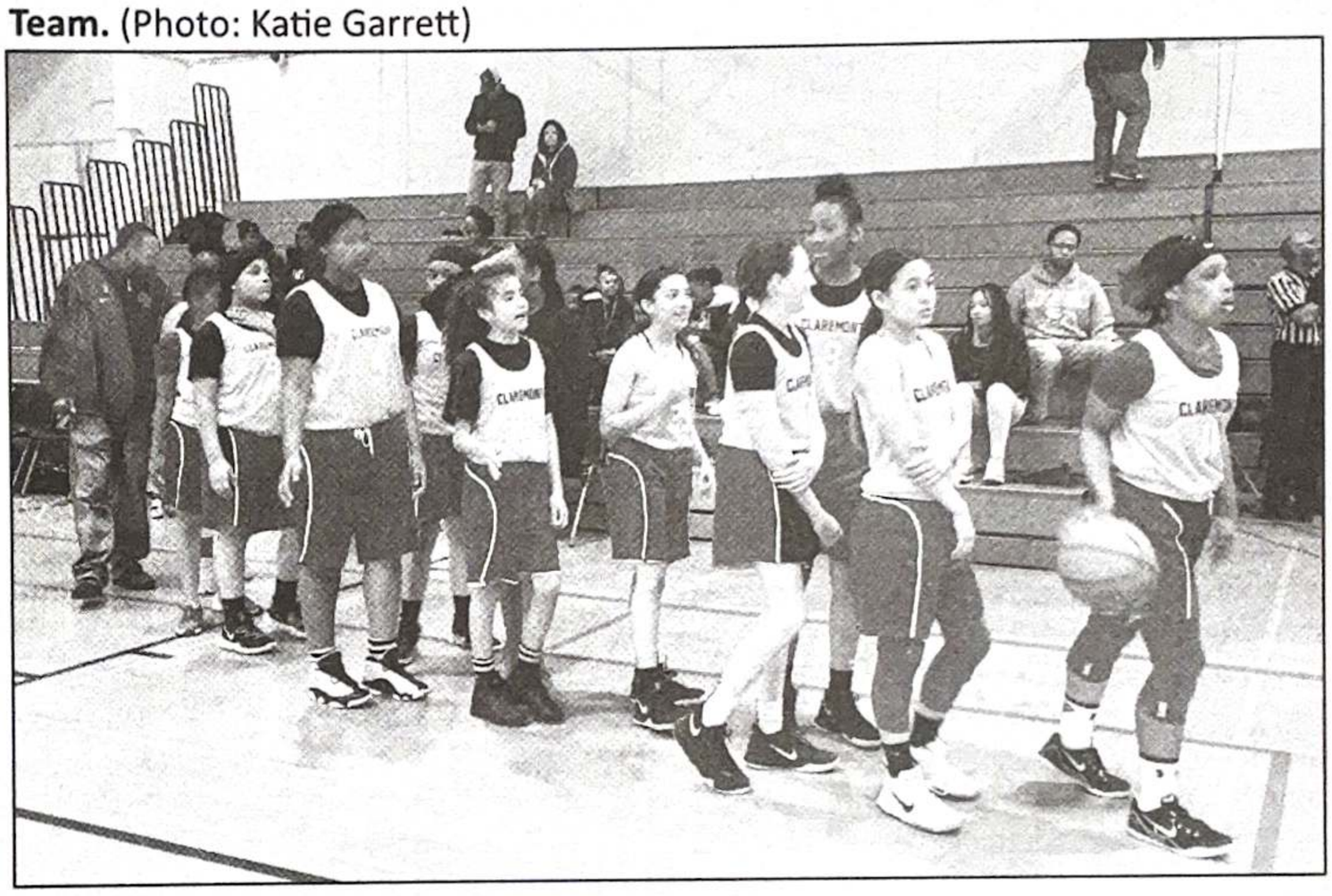
Sports at Claremont have played a big part

Claremont Sports, page 12



The 2018 Claremont Boys Flag Football Team (Photo: Claremont)

The 2019 Claremont Girls Basketball Team. (Photo: Katie Garrett)



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Be a Tour Docent

from page 3

play structure and other amenities at Frog Park, supporting the work of the Friends of the Rockridge Library; and establishing the Kevin Faughnan Memorial Community Grants program which supports local projects to benefit Rockridge, among many other such programs.


RCPC Kitchen Tour archives.

Becoming a Tour volunteer is ideal for someone who wants to help the Rockridge community, but can't make a long-term commitment to our neighborhood boards and associations. To volunteer for the Tour Committee which organizes the event, or to become a Tour docent, are very important roles. Docents are the people who welcome the guests at each house, answer questions about the kitchens, and make the Tour pleasant and fun for Tour goers and homeowners alike.

Many hands make light work, and that makes the Tour an enjoyable experience for guests and volunteers. To be a part of it, contact Tour co-chairs Ronnie Spitzer and Leonora Sea at kitchentour@rockridge.org.

Claremont Sports

from page 11

of Katie Garrett's three daughters' experience at the school in giving her girls a supportive environment and role models:

"Every student needs both challenge and encouragement, especially in middle school," said Garrett, whose youngest daughter Cammie plays on the basketball team. "These CMS coaches and teachers value our young people. They are committed to developing them as hard working, enthusiastic, competitive, strong, funny and caring members of our community."

In the coming months, the school district will put in a turf field on Claremont's tarmac which will be used for flag football and soccer, providing more opportunities for students to be part of sports. To see all the sports offered at Claremont, check out its website at https://www.claremontms.org/curriculum-programs/athletics/

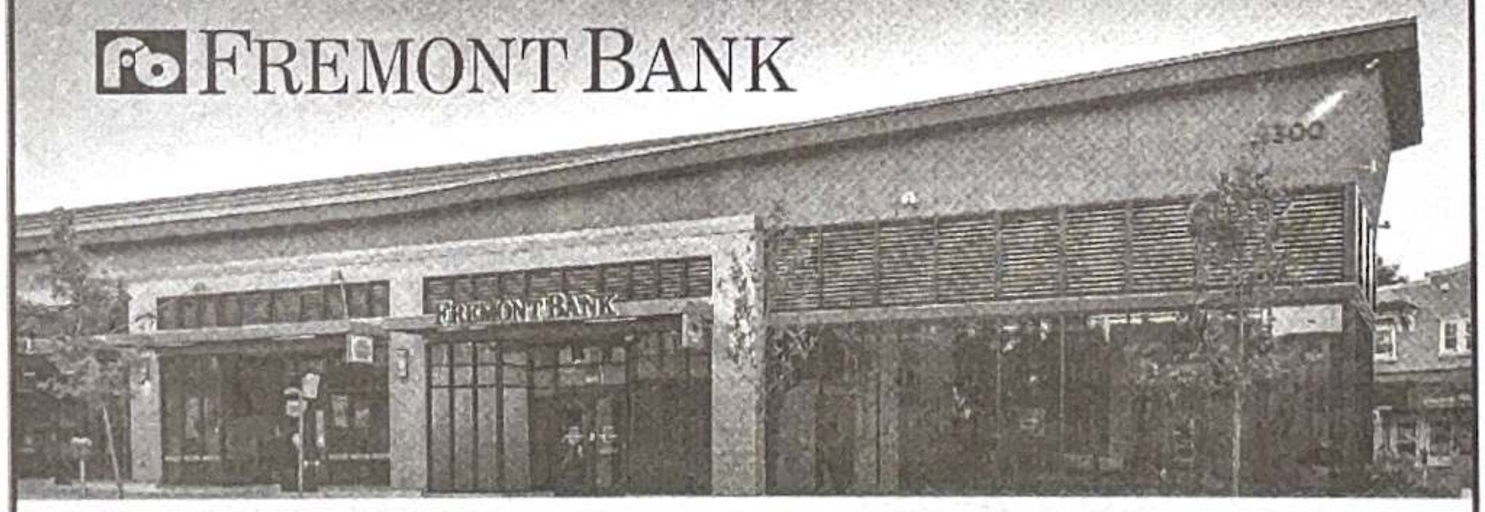
Coach Doubley, who comes from a family of coaches, said he would like to offer student athletes a memento of their time representing Claremont on a team: a uniform, a trophy. As he puts it: "Something that says, 'In 2019, I played for Claremont. I did this.'"

Rockridge Community Planning Council
2018 Financial Statement
Fiscal Year January 1- December 31, 2018

RCPC General Fund	
Income	
Contributions	995
Rockridge News	38,126
Interest Income	24
Merchandise Sales	189
Total Income	39,334
Expenses	
Rockridge News	35,708
Contractors	7,759
Insurance, Permits, Sales Tax	1,413
Misc Administrative & Program Expenses	3,062
Events	220
Total Expenses	48,162
Net Receipts (RCPC)	-8,828
Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt (FROG)	
Income	
Contributions	1,298
Interest, FROG	3
Total Income	1,301
Expenses	
OPRF grant	80,259
Total Expenses	80,259
Net Receipts (FROG)	-78,958
Locksley Gardens	
Expenses	
Bank Expense	3
Total Expenses	3
BALANCE SHEET	
Assets	
RCPC Assets, Savings/Checking	93,576
Locksley Gardens Assets, Checking	746
Total Assets	**94,322**
Equity & Liability	
KF Community Improvements Prgm	6,118
Legal Fund Reserve	55,000
Equity	120,993
Net Income	-87,789
Total Equity & Liability	**94,322**

(1) Excludes $100,000 of Fourth Bore Coalition settlement funds towards FROG's playground improvements.

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Benefits of Open Space

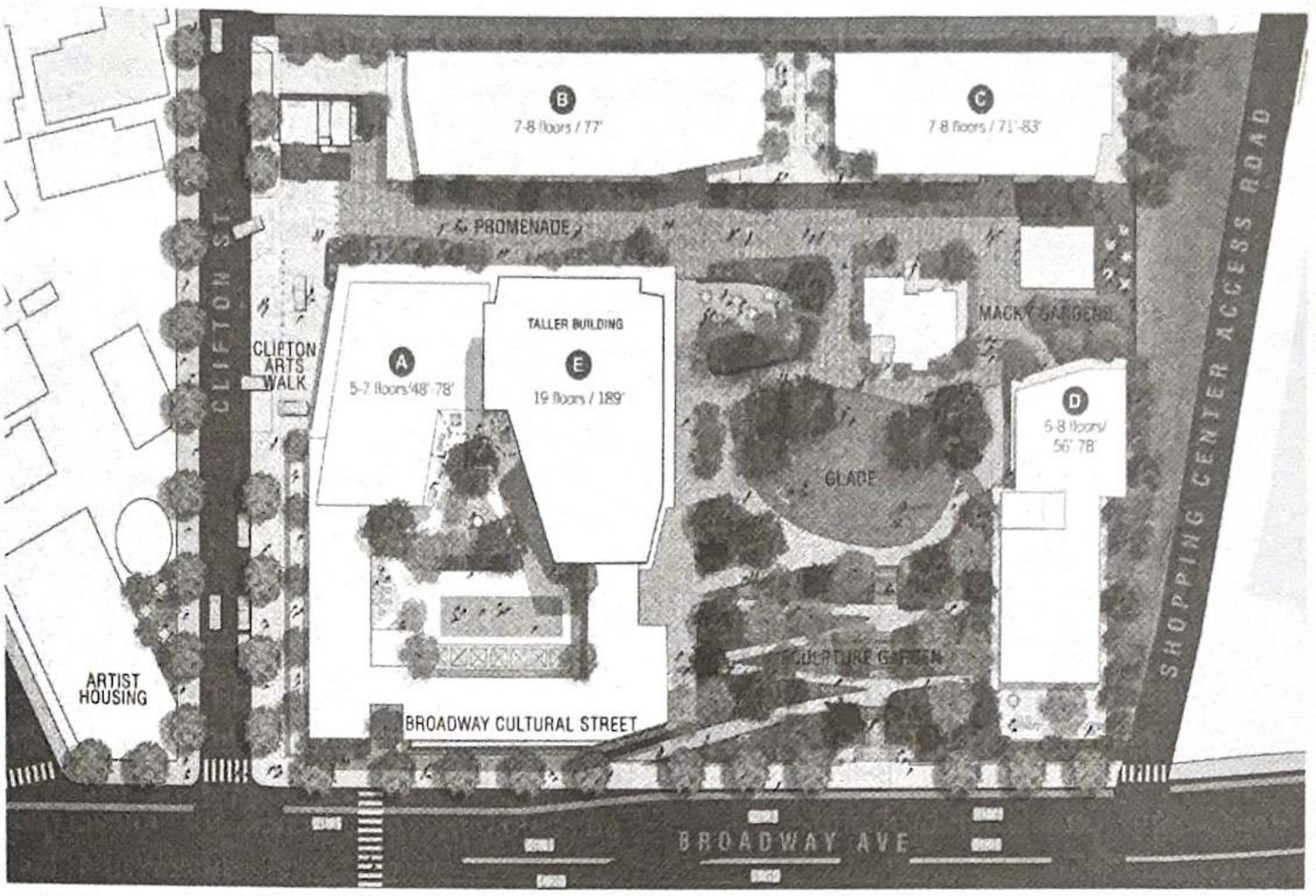
from page 2

excitement for a park and ask for features that we want to see and use: sculptures; views out; water features; places to run around with your kids, to play games, and to birdwatch.

The open space at Makers' Gardens, including the Glade and promenade, is designed by local landscape architect firm CMG. Spaces designed by the firm can be seen throughout San Francisco and Oakland. Daggett Park, in the Dogpatch neighborhood of San Francisco, has won many awards and been recognized by the American Society of Landscape Architecture for the efforts put forth through advocacy and collaboration between the community, public agencies and a private developer in its creation. I believe the success of that park will be replicated in ours, right here in Rockridge.

If we band together in solidarity and ask the developer to meet our needs for a community gathering space we would help create another significant and needed park in Rockridge. We would also be helping make our community healthier and happier. This is the time!

ILLUSTRATIVE SITE PLAN DEPICTING MULTI USE OPEN SPACE FOR ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATION, WITH ENTRANCE FOR PUBLIC ALONG BROADWAY. COURTESY CCA DEVELOPER TEAM.



See Local Art and Artists at 2019 East Bay Open Studios

For over 40 years, the East Bay Open Studios has been a wonderful opportunity for art lovers in the Bay Area to connect with artists all over the East Bay. These free self-guided tours of artist studios and exhibition spaces give the public a unique opportunity to have direct experiences with the artists and to purchase artwork directly from them: 100 percent of the art sales benefit the artists directly. The event offers an interactive and inspiring way for art collectors and enthusiasts to experience unique one-on-one connections with local artists by visiting them on self-guided tours. The public can visit artists working in visual mediums including, but not limited to, drawing, print making, fiber art, photography, digital art, mixed media, ceramics, painting, wood working, jewelry, installation art, illustration, sculpture, collage and more. To kick off the event, **art lovers are invited to the free Opening Celebration/Preview Exhibition on Saturday, June 1, 6 pm - 9 pm,** at Oakland's Scottish Rite Center's Grand Ballroom, 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland (close to BART

Open Studios, page 14

WHAT SELLERS NEED TO KNOW

Q: How should I prepare my home for the market?
A: Follow the advice of our design / staging "dream team"

Q: How do I assure my home stands out from the rest?
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Q: How do I receive the highest possible price for my home?
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Q: What if I'm not sure that I'm ready to sell?
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Crime Report 2018: NCPC

from page 2

Crimes against the person include robberies, assaults, and homicides. There were fewer of these, a total of 78 for the year, ranging from 3 (December) to 13 (October) monthly incidents. In the last four years (2015 – 2018), beat 12Y has never had more than 13 incidents of crimes against the person in a month. Beat 12 had only one homicide in 2018 (which may have been in 12Y or 12X, Temescal).

Our other crime category is quality of life, mainly vandalism (largely graffiti), and alcohol and drugs. We had 81 incidents, between 1 and 10 per month.

Beat 13X

Beat 13X, in general, has much less crime than 12Y, largely because it's harder to get into and much harder to get out of this area in a hurry. Beat 12Y has many more convenient freeway exits as convenient escape routes.

13X saw 49 incidents of auto-related crime in 2018, ranging from zero to 8 per month, and 44 incidents of general property crime, ranging from 2 to 7 per month. The worst month for this in 13X was better than the best month in 12Y.

There were even fewer crimes against the person, 11 incidents total, ranging from zero to 2 per month. Quality of life crimes were a little higher, 16 incidents in all, ranging from zero to 3 per month. Both Rockridge beats have substantially lower crime rates than most of the city of Oakland.

City of Oakland

In January 2019, Chief Kirkpatrick reported substantial decreases in crime rates for the city at large in 2018; you can find the report at http://tinyurl.com/yypo7jun, with a link to the full city-wide crime report for 2018.

In 2018, Oakland had the lowest number of homicides (68) since 1999. Department staff believe the Ceasefire program is working. Also, residential burglaries decreased by 20 percent, and auto thefts by 25 percent, from 2017. Unfortunately, at least in the Rockridge beats, all categories of crime went up in January 2019 except auto-related crimes and quality-of-life crimes in beat 13X. Watch for the monthly crime statistics from the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council.

— Karen Ivy, Secretary, NCPC

Open Studios

from page 13

and plenty of street parking). Details on how to receive a free invitation to the Opening Celebration/Preview Exhibition can be found at EastBayOpenStudios.com/guest. Guests will join over 100 of the participating artists at the Celebration/Preview Exhibition to connect with the artists in person, enjoy live music, preview a few pieces of the artists' work and pick up copies of the guidebook containing artist directories and maps to their studios.

The Celebration/Preview is followed by three weekends of open studios. This year, the event has been expanded to include a third open studio weekend that is dedicated to the cities along and near the Hwy 680 corridor.

Weekend 1: Sat. and Sun., June 8 and 9, 11 am – 6 pm.

Weekend 2: Sat. and Sun., June 15 and 16, 11am -6pm.

Weekend 3: Sat. and Sun., June 22 and 23, 11am -6pm.

Note to all East Bay artists and residents: more information available online at EastBayOpenStudios.com.



RCPC Kitchen Tour File Photo


RCPC Kitchen Tour File Photo

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 April issue deadline is March 21. The April issue*** *will be out* ***April 6.*** *For information: Email Susan Montauk via smontauk@gmail.com*

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN

- **Family Story Time:** Saturdays, 10:30am.
- **Toddler and preschol Story Times:** Thursdays, 10:30am, upstairs.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS: all ages welcome.

- **Stretching for Caregivers:** bring your children to free basic stretching session for adults. Wednesdays, 10:10am.
- **Chess Club:** Instruction and chess sets provided. Best for ages 8 to 12. Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30pm (no chess instructor on 3/20).
- **Paws to Read:** Sandy's dog Scout will sit by you and listen as you read aloud. Every Thursday, 3:30-4:30pm.
- **Mix It Up Family Game Night**: Bring your favorite game or try one of ours. Every Tues 6:30-7:45pm (except for Family Craft Night).
- **Family Craft Night:** 2nd Tues, 6:30-7:45pm. Family Zine Making on 3/12.
- **90-Second Newbery Film Festival:** Saturday, April 6, 3:30pm. 8th annual presentation of the winning films made by kids. **Free popcorn**. Best for ages 6 to 16. (Reserve a free ticket online.)

FOR TEENS

- **Tortilla Press Printmaking:** Make art prints on a tortilla press. 3/13 at 2 pm.
- **Rockridge Teen Advisory Board** (ages 14-18): Help advise the library how to better serve teens; get community service credit for school. 2nd Sat. each month, 1 to 2pm.
- **Teen 'Scape Program:** Play video games and make craft; every Tues, Thurs, and Fri, 3:30 - 5pm; Wed, 1:30 - 5pm (during school days).
- **Study Room Hours:** Tutor available for homework help. Tues, and Thurs 4 - 5pm; Wed, 2:45 - 4pm (during school days).
- **Peer Circle, A Healing Space for Youth:** Youth-led Restorative Justice (RJ) circles about relationships, racism, social justice, and more. Age 11 and up. (Gift cards available for participation). Second Wednesdays, 4 – 5 pm.

FOR ADULTS

*** eBook Help: to download eBooks. Fridays, 2 -3:30pm. Make appt. online or call 597-5017.

- **AARP Smart Driver Class (for ages 50+)**: refresh driving skills; new research-based driving strategies. March 23 & 30, 10:30am-3pm. Register at desk or call 597-5017.
- **Second Saturday Book Club:** 2nd Sat each month, 3-4pm. Call 597-5017 for bookselection.
- **Writers Support/Critique Group:** Bring 15 copies of up to 5 pgs. of any prose for on-site reading/discussion. 3rd Sat. each month,1 to 5pm; wheelchair-accessible. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Lawyer in the Library:** Free legal info and referral. 1st Tues each month; 6pm-8pm. Sign-up for lottery starting 5pm; lottery at 5:45 pm.

UPSTAIRS ART GALLERY

March and April: East Bay Landscape Painters .

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

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

- Sun, 3/3, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Keith Emmons** and **Lisa Rosenberg**.
- Wed, 3/6, 7pm. **Nanjala Nyabola:** *Digital Democracy, Analogue Politics: How the Internet Era is Transforming Kenya.*
- Thurs, 3/7, 7pm. Contributors from the new anthology *She's Got This!: Essays on Standing Strong and Moving On.*
- Wed, 3/13, 6:30pm. **Freud's Bar:** talks by local Bay Area psychoanalysts/psychologists, aimed at students ages 16-25. Mtg topic: Empathy and Ian McEwan's *The Children Act.* Presenter: Professor **Claire Kahane**.
- Sat,3/16, 7pm. **Helen Oyeyemi**: *Gingerbread: A Novel.* In conversation with **Esmé Weijun Wang.**
- Sun, 3/17, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Linda Elkin** *Navigation* and **Steven Rood**: *I Say Your Name.*
- Tues,3/19, 7pm. **Mark Doten:** *Trump Sky Alpha.*
- Thurs, 3/21, 7pm. **J.J. Mulligan Sepulveda**: *No Human Is Illegal: An Attorney on the Front Lines of the Immigration War.*
- Fri, 3/22, 7pm. Poets **Andrea Abi-Karam, Leila Weefur** and **Andrea Marina**: Read from *Extratransmission.*
- Tues, 3/26, 7pm. **G. Willow Wilson:** *The Bird King.*
- Tues, 4/2, 7pm. **Meredith May:** *The Honey Bus: A Memoir of Loss, Courage and a Girl Saved by Bees.*
- Sun, 4/7, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Maya Khosla, Barbara Swift Brauer,** and **Camille Norton**.

East Bay Booksellers, 5433 College Ave. More info :: 653-9965 or info@ebbooksellers.com.

Wisteria Ways House Concert

Scroggins and Rose: Sunday, March 31, 2:30pm. **Tristan Scroggins,** mandolinst, and **Alisa Rose**, composer and violinist/fiddler. Western classical and American traditional folk music. Hear examples at https://scrogginsandrose.com/music. **Inside venue; not wheelchair accessible**. $15-20 donation for musicians (cash only at the door). 383 61st Street. More info and reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

North Oakland Senior Center

5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way

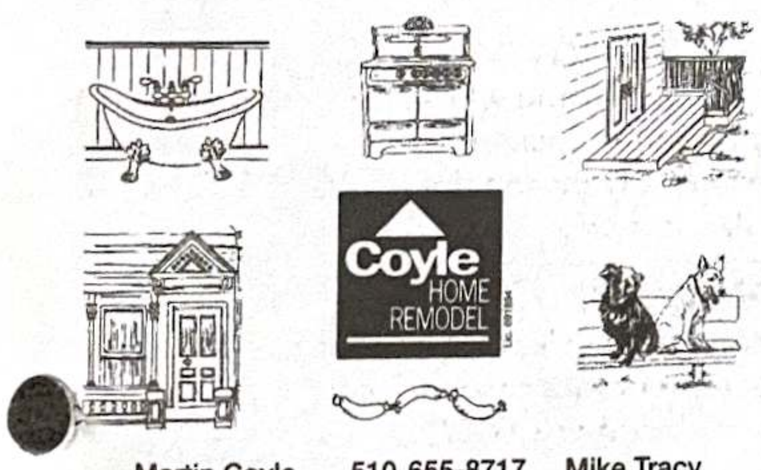
Mon. – Fri., 9am to 4:30pm. Programs include: Arts/crafts; health counseling; dancing and exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's support groups, computer classes/more.

- **Free AARP Tax Preparation:** Thursdays, by appointment. Call 597-5085 to schedule appointment.
- **Thunder Valley Fun Bus:** $35 fun(d) raiser for the Sr. Center on March 14. Treats and games on a deluxe bus. Reserve space now (in person: cash or chk.)

Seniors age 55+ join for $12 annual dues to get discount and other benefits. Receive "The North Oakland Senior Times" for full schedule of classes/events, lunch menus, and volunteer opportunities. More info at 597-5085.

Temescal Farmers' Market

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







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