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April Town Hall Hears More on SB 50

by Stuart Flashman, Chair, Land Use Committee

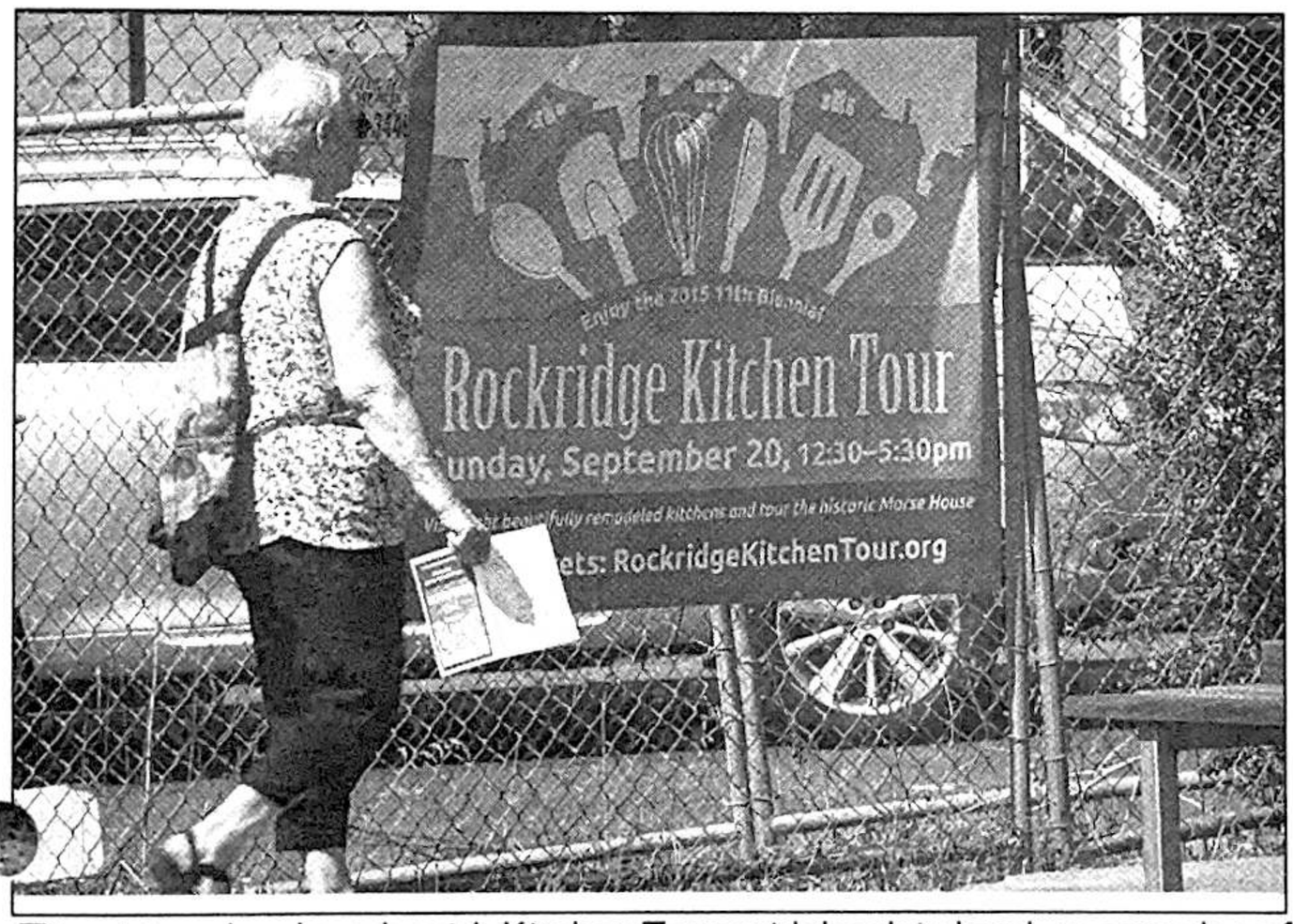
The April 18 Town Hall was devoted to a high-interest program: explaining California Senate Bill 50 (SB 50) – a bill to promote housing near train and ferry stops, along major bus routes, and in major job centers – and how it might affect Rockridge.

The program, expertly moderated by Kathleeen Cha of the Oakland League of Women Voters, featured a presentation by Bob Gammon, former East Bay Express reporter and editor and now communications director for State Senator Nancy Skinner. (Darin Ranelletti, formerly Acting Director of Oakland's Planning and Building Department and now Special Assistant on Housing Security to Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf – a supporter of the bill – had also been slated to talk about the bill's application to Oakland, but had to cancel.) The bill, authored by Senator Scott Wiener of San Francisco and co-authored by Senator Skinner and Assembly Member Buffy Wicks, among others, proposes increased height and density limits in the designated areas. **The diagram on page 2 shows how it could affect Rockridge**.

This bill, like its predecessor SB 827, has proved highly controversial with many local governments, including the Los Angeles City Council and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, as well as tenant and local neighborhood groups expressing opposition: Chambers of commerce, major labor unions and groups promoting housing development support the bill. (As with SB 827, affordable housing advocates are split.)

To say the bill is complex is an understatement. Mr. Gammon struggled

More on SB 50, page 11



Registered and ready with Kitchen Tour guidebook in hand, an attendee of an earlier RCPC Kitchen Tour sets off toward her visit to the first home among the many she will have visited by the end of the Tour. Look for more Tour information in this issue of The Rockridge News. /D. Kinkead

— Stop SB 50 —

My Personal Statement About This Proposed Legislation

by Jon Gabel, 43-year Rockridge resident

If passed into law, California Senate Bill 50 (SB 50) would fundamentally change Rockridge as we know it by permitting the replacement of residences within either a one-half or one-quarter-mile radius of major transit stops such as Rockridge, MacArthur and Ashby BART stations with 3-4 story apartment houses with revised lot coverages. Little off-street parking would be required for these; and since the new residents would be eligible for Residential Parking Permits, it would likely become impossible to park here. Traffic congestion would be severe. BART, already jammed on weekdays except for a few hours around midday, would become even worse. Trees, plants and flowers would be replaced by concrete. Those single family house or duplex owners/renters who wished to remain in the up-zoned area would be living at the bottom of canyons. I believe that eventually all of these current residents would find remaining here untenable and would sell their properties to apartment developers. Under these conditions, although land values may hold, the value of

Stop SB 50, page 6

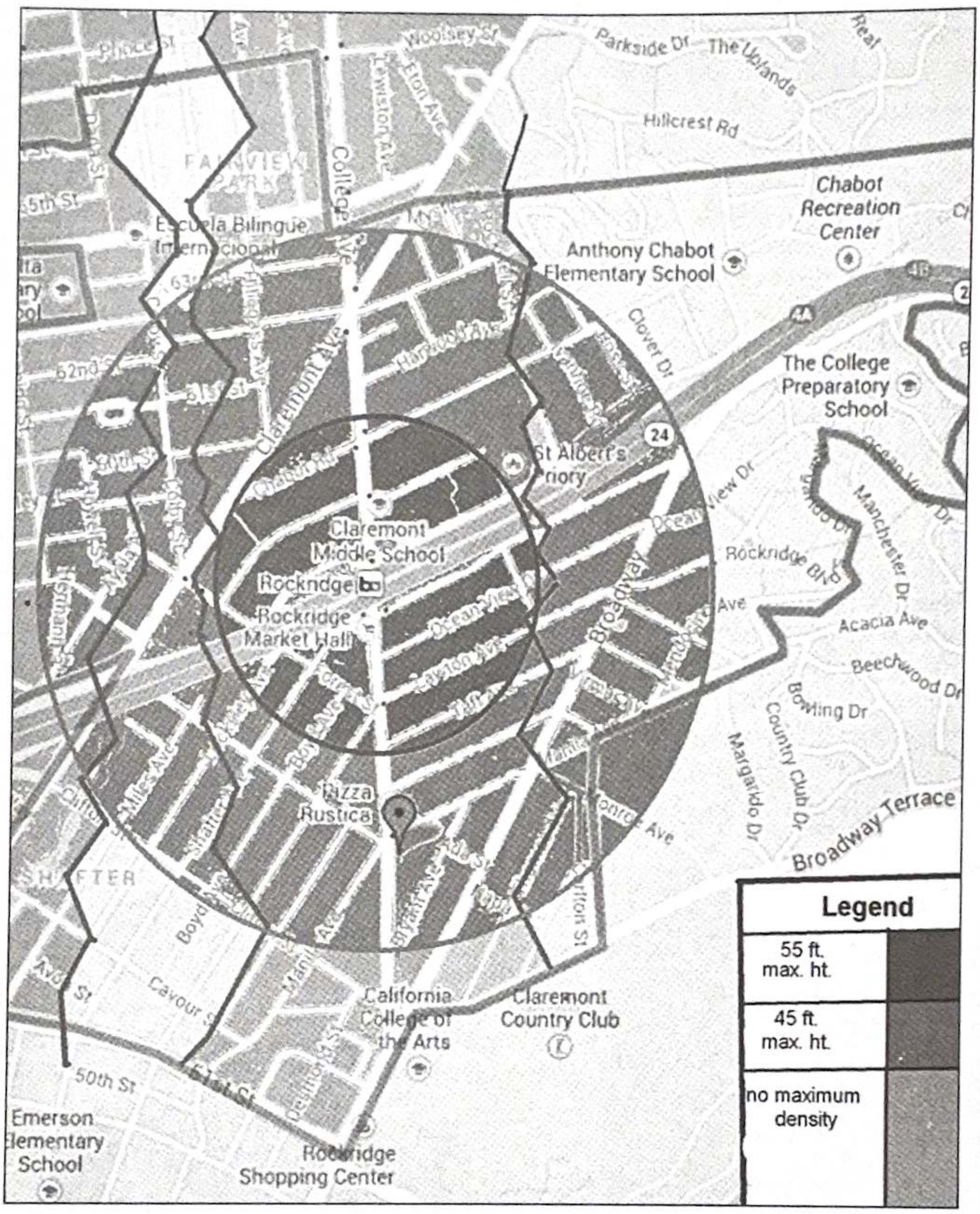
Editor's Note: This personal statement was submitted to The Rockridge News before subsequent legislative discussions proposing to merge SB 50 with SB 4. Due to ongoing legislative debate, conditions of the proposals are subject to change. The Rockridge News will offer updates as they become available.



The headline above gives notice of a job "surge" in the Bay Area. Freelance Journalist Cindy Warner set out to learn what that might mean in Rockridge. Her report begins on page 7.

Diagram showing effects of proposed SB 50 (Wiener/Skinner) on the Rockridge area. Shaded areas show where proximity to the Rockridge BART station or to AC Transit bus routes 51 A/B or 6 would increase height limits and/or density limits.

Prepared by Stuart Flashman, Chair, Land Use Committee



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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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Are there community issues you'd like to see covered in **The Rockridge News**? • Do you have questions about newsletter distribution? • Want to volunteer to be a **Rockridge News** block captain? • Would you like to write a letter to the Editor?

Contact us at one of the following:

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Newsletter Advertising/Deadline

Publication date of the June issue is:

- **June 8, 2019.**
- **Submission/Cancellation deadline: May 16, 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

(Note date change.) The May Land Use Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, May 29 (**change of date**) at 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge Branch Library. The agenda will include updates on the housing study and on SB 50. Please check at https://rockridge.org the previous week to confirm the meeting's date, time, and place.

RCPC Land Use Committee Update – May 2019

The Land Use Committee met on April 24 with a quorum present.

by Stuart Flashman,
Land Use Committee Chair

SB 50 (Wiener, Skinner/Wicks et al.)

Following up on (1) the previous week's Town Hall featuring Senator Skinner's Communications Director, Bob Gammon, discussing the bill, plus, (2) new amendments to the bill and news of its approval by a second Senate committee, the Land Use committee reviewed the various aspects of the bill and how it might affect Oakland and Rockridge. Committee members raised numerous concerns about the bill.

Perhaps the biggest concern is that this bill, like its predecessor SB 827, attempts a "one-size-fits-all" approach to addressing California's shortage of affordable housing. Indeed, Mr. Gammon had noted that some cities, including Oakland, were already making major efforts to add to their housing supplies, while others – including some with major jobs growth due to the tech industry – are doing very little. It would seem the bill ought to focus its efforts more on the cities where business expansion is creating many new jobs but little housing is being added.

It was also pointed out that the bill doesn't consider infrastructure limitations. Most notably, some transit stations and bus lines, including many in both San Francisco and Oakland, are at or near capacity during the peak commute hours. It makes no sense to add housing at these sites when there will be no transit capacity available for the added residents. Also of concern is the limiting capacity for street traffic and parking, as well as for adding to water supply and sewage treatment demands.

Also, in many cities, including Oakland, even "transit-rich" areas often don't allow good transit access to all household needs – e.g., child care, schools, and multiple job locations for two- or three-worker households. Further, lower income households, who most need good transit access, will largely be priced out of the transit areas, since SB 50 allows In-Lieu Fees instead of on-site affordable units, and its loose language likely will result in the affordable units being built elsewhere, in areas where land prices (and hence construction costs) are much lower. Further, smaller buildings (less than 10 units) have no affordability requirement, but such smaller buildings will likely be most of what's built in Rockridge, due to the small lot sizes.

Thus, ironically, SB 50 will likely do little, if anything, to restore the "missing middle" to Rockridge. In addition to direct

Land Use Committee Report, page 10

Be a Part of the Rockridge Kitchen Tour as a Sponsor.

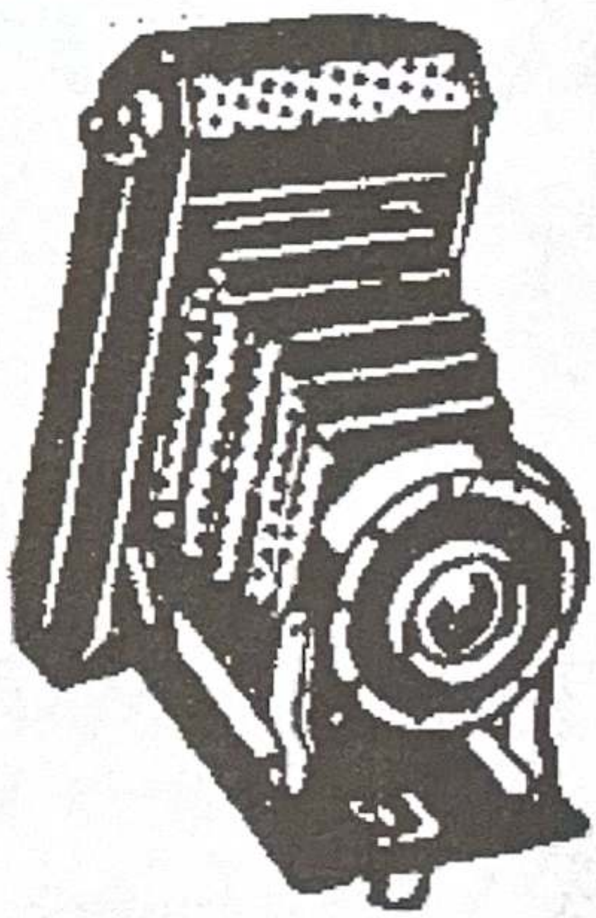
by Leonora Sea, RCPC Chair, and Kitchen Tour Co-chair

The 2019 Rockridge Kitchen Tour is coming September 22, and the Kitchen Tour Committee is again offering sponsorship opportunities. Sponsors are vital to the success of the Tour, and it's the perfect way to reach hundreds of local potential clients. At least 400 people take the Tour and about 60 percent live in or near Rockridge.

Sponsors receive a range of perks, depending on sponsorship level, and the deep satisfaction of contributing to the success of the Kitchen Tour.

All sponsors are also offered a display table at a Tour house where they can interact directly with guests, and will receive complimentary tickets to the Tour. They are further recognized with a logo on the Kitchen Tour website and a notice of their sponsorship in the Kitchen Tour brochure given to all Tour-goers at the start of the Tour.

For more information about sponsorship levels and how to become a sponsor, contact the Tour Committee: kitchentour@rockridge.org.



Be sure to bring your camera on the Tour.



RCPC Election Confirms Incumbents, Adds a Member

Mia Ashleigh
Broadway



New Member: I have a passion for the environment and community service. A clean and healthy environment is fundamental to our quality of life and community service is a cornerstone of a healthy and functioning society.

Alden Conner
Hillegass Ave.



Inc: I will continue my work in the area of transportation. Our re-launched Transportation Committee will help address concerns about our roads. The committee will continue to monitor city projects and keep the community informed.

Offer your service to help bring the RCPC Board to its full strength. Visit www.rockridge.org for more information.

Stuart Flashman
Ocean View Dr.



Inc: My most important duty is spearheading the Land Use Committee's Rockridge Housing Study to analyze how we can add more housing Rockridge and increase its affordability, while maintaining the community's desirable qualities.

Ronnie Spitzer
Kales Avenue



Inc: I have served on numerous local boards and am vice-chair of RCPC's Transportation Committee, addressing traffic, transit and pedestrian and bicycle safety.

RCPC Board election results: 38 ballots were cast. One ballot was voided for being marked improperly. All candidates were elected. The detailed vote count is available upon request to the RCPC Secretary.

We Deliver The Rockridge News and So Can You

We haven't found a replacement for Gail Giacomelli, block captain for Broadway Terrace residents for the last 9 years, or for David Herrenbruck who was a district captain for the Taft and Kales area. Let's not leave those parts of Rockridge in the lurch and out of the news loop! Please let us know that you can take over one of these routes:

- **Route 08B: Block Captain:** Deliver to both sides of Broadway Terrace, odd numbers from Broadway to 5409, even numbers from Broadway to 5400.
- **Route 11: District Captain:** Drop seven bundles at houses along 5400 and 5500 Taft, Kales and Manila between Broadway and College.
- **Route 16D: Block Captain:** Delivers to both sides 5200 Claremont, including apartments at 5248.

District Captains deliver bundles to the Block Captains; Block Captains deliver newsletters door-to-door. The newsletter is published the first weekend of each month except August, and your bundle will be delivered to your doorstep. Call 510/547-3855 or email Susan at smontauk@gmail.com to volunteer.



Sam, left, and Matthew Martin deliver The Rockridge News to their neighbors on 62nd Street. /The Martin Family

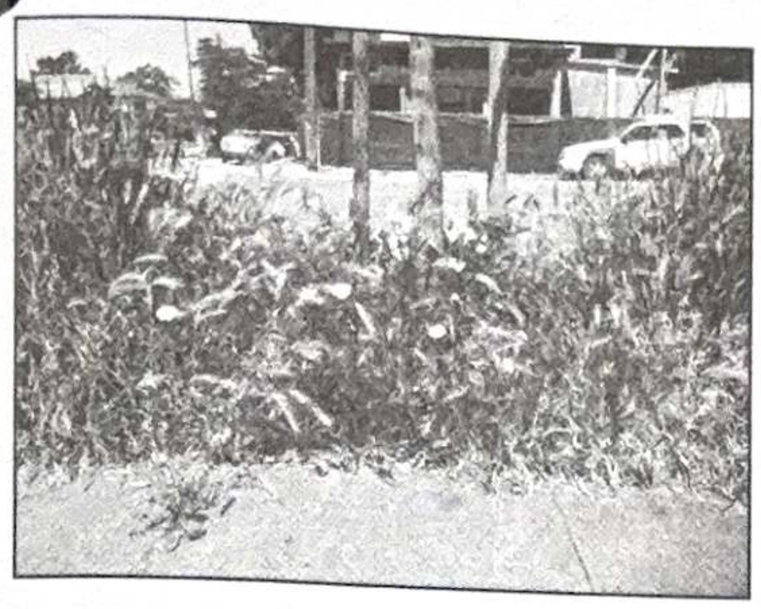
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Free Walking Tours Offer Glimpse of Downtown Oakland's History and Ongoing Renaissance

Residents and visitors can glimpse today's happening scene and landmarks from Oakland's past during the 2019 Oakland Tours season. The twice-weekly guided tours are held Wednesday and Saturday, May to October, and showcase the city's changing skyline, landmarks, churches and high-rises.

Take in each of the eight different tours. Each tour, led by a volunteer guide, begins at 10 a.m. from starting locations depending on the itinerary. Reservations are recommended. Leave a message on the Tours' 24-hour hotline: 238-3234 or email aallen@oaklandca.gov. The tour brochure, itinerary descriptions, more: oaklandca.gov/walkingtours

Scenic Streets Invites You to a May Weeding Event

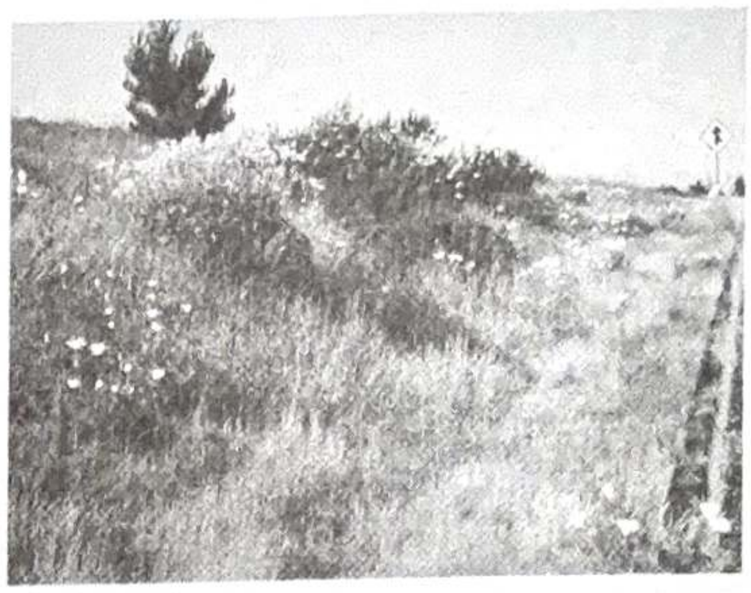


This street tree well has been invaded by marauding plants. We will clean it up during the May 18 weeding event.

Scenic Streets of Oakland is sponsoring a weeding event from **9 – 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 18**. We're the people who like to keep the Hwy 24 ramps and some near-by street trees looking cared for. We plan to tackle the on-ramp and some street tree wells during the event. Please come!

We'll meet on the east side of Claremont Avenue at the south end of Hardy Park (near the Dog Park). Bring your favorite weeding tools (marked with your name) and wear appropriate clothing. Since our priority will be weeding, a pad to kneel on would also be a good idea. Gloves and drinking water will be provided. If you plan to attend, an RSVP to Lee would be appreciated but not necessary. For more information, contact lee.scenicstreetsoakland@gmail.com.

ABOVE TEXT AND PHOTOS BY LEE PATTERSON



The growth on this section of the Highway 24 on-ramp is verging on becoming a potential hazard. We will tame it during the May 18 weeding event.



Right: Scenic Streets stalwarts warming up for the May 18 Weeding Event. /D. KINKEAD

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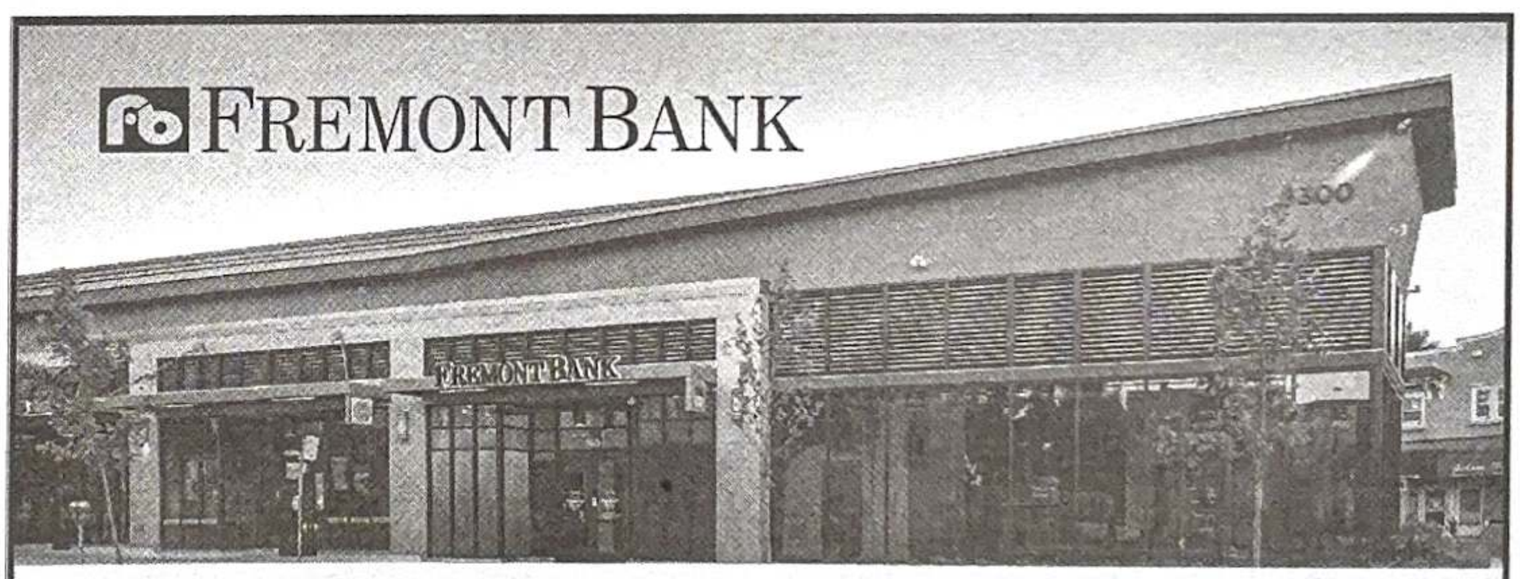
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Letters to the Editor

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.

Kudos for John Wagers

Editor:

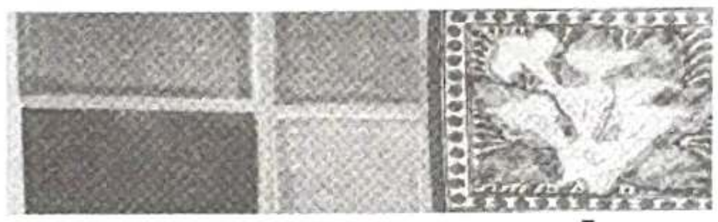
When I restarted the North Oakland Recycling Center in 1983, John Wagers became one of my first friends in the community.

When we got too big for our site at the Telegraph Community Center, John, by personal effort, gathered a petition in 1985 to encourage the City Council to grant us a conditional use permit for 5901 Telegraph Avenue where we relocated and thrived until the curbisde program in 1990 took many of our customers away.

Nobody gave more support to neighborhood recycling than John Wagers; he still goes through the garbage at his apartment house on Claremont to make sure the tenants did as they promised when signing their lease. If all property owners cared as much about quality goods going off for recycling, there'd be no Green Fence or any other country saying we're shipping them garbage. A tip of the hat to John.

— Arthur R. Boone, North Oakland Recycling Center, 1983-1989.

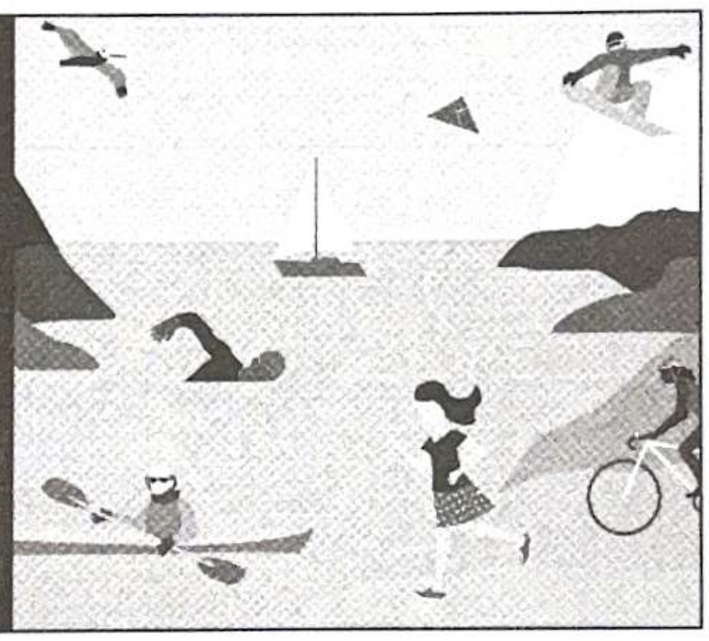
Find hidden gems like this at the RCPC Kitchen Tour. Information: http://rockridgekitchentour.org/about-the-rockridge-kitchen-tour/



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Stop SB 50

from page 1

single family/duplex buildings would likely plummet, as they would be purchased only to be demolished.

Rockridge was devastated by the construction of Highway 24 and BART in the 1960s. When the City of Oakland proposed up-zoning the area for high-rises in the 1970s, the neighborhood organized, and RCPC was founded to "preserve and enhance the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood." More than 40 years later, the people of Rockridge have made it a vibrant neighborhood that is one of the best in the Bay Area. We got a new library built; parental involvement helped make the schools good; old houses, many more than 100 years old, have been given new life; and we have a thriving business district second only to downtown in producing tax revenue for the City. If SB 50 passes, our reward will be for Rockridge to become a soulless adjunct to the San Francisco financial district and Silicon Valley.

Many are already opposed to SB 50, including 9 of 11 San Francisco Supervisors, the Los Angeles City Council, and the mayors of other smaller cities. Key politicians backing SB 50 have accepted large campaign contributions from real estate interests. Housinghumanright.org says, "A Housing Is A Human Right investigation has found that the real estate industry, including the California Apartment Association and landlord Russell Flynn, have shelled

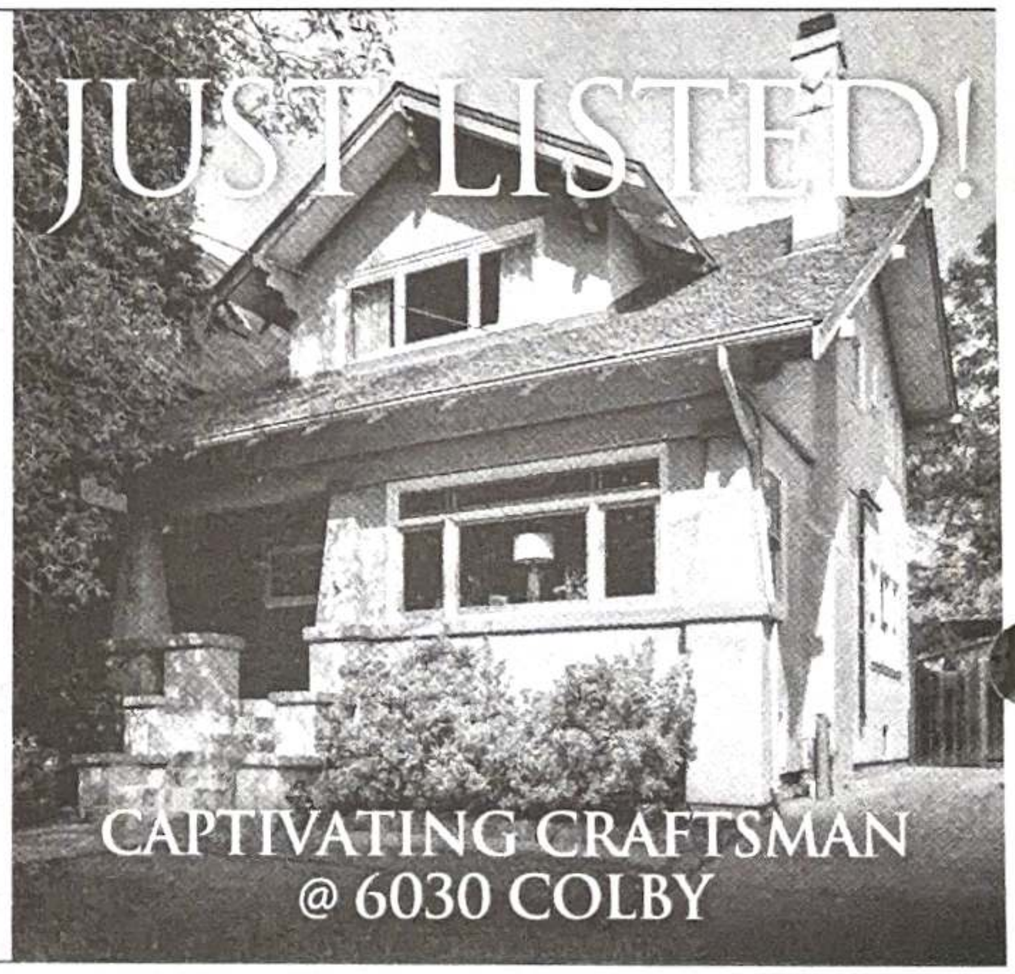
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Job Hunters Get in the Door in Rockridge

by Cindy Warner

Are you job hunting? Judging by the number of "help wanted" signs in many College Avenue storefronts, Rockridge merchants are open for business. You can get in the door if you are friendly and hard-working. It's all about small businesses that are often family-owned and operated looking for the casual and neighborly feeling that means enjoyable experiences for customers that corporate environments could never match.

Restaurants and cafe's will often provide training on the job with perks including delicious food. The salons will require a cosmetology license and experience based on the level and extent of the service. The only corporate, union jobs seem to be at Safeway but the store offers a wide variety of departments including a bakery. Starting jobs generally offer minimum wage, often an opportunity for tips, while a few offer benefits. Most offer perks such as reduced prices and other merchandise benefits.

Following are samples of the opportunities along College Avenue waiting for the right job-seeker to apply.

- **Cole Hardware**

Thirsel, the supervisor, started as a cashier. Her niece worked for Cole, and her uncle worked for Cole for 40 years. She says the owners treat you like family. She herself knows the customers by name, the dogs too. Jakob Johnson from Wisconsin applied online. He says, "It's not a stressful environment such as in a corporate structure." He sees customers enjoying the experience.

- **Peet's Coffee & Tea**

If you like the aroma of coffee, Peet's offers some other nice benefits, too. Justin, the barrista pictured, says he has cat insurance. "Pretty cool." Peet's just installed a new cash register program for tips from credit cards. Starting pay ranges from $14 to $17 an hour. Benefits include a 401(k) retirement plan. High school and college students are welcome to apply. Applications can be made on-line. Justin selected three locations and Rockridge called.

- **Zoonie's Candy-Gelato Novelties**

Owner Shahrazad Junblat hires team members of all ages and backgrounds. They include young adults taking their first jobs and students completing their university degrees. "Zoonies is a happy place," she says, which enables students to supplement their income and take care of their studies. She encourages employees to contribute to their 401(k) plan. "Even $10 a month adds up."

- **Safeway at College & Claremont**

Safeway manager Mieda French says Safeway hires all ages. It's a union job, 16 hours a week for clerks; 24 hours minimum for others. Employees get a 5 percent discount on groceries and 10 percent off Safeway brands. Corporate hires the contractors who offer wine tasting.

- **Hair Salons**

1. Great Clips at Safeway



Plaza, College & Claremont:

Hair stylist Vanessa says applicants need a cosmetology license and two or three years' experience. Applicants need a flexible schedule and work 20 hours a week. Call the manager — Latrina — at 510/250-9770.

2. Right Angle at Lawton & College: will rent a chair to an independent barber or stylist. Text Stacy 510/821-8866.

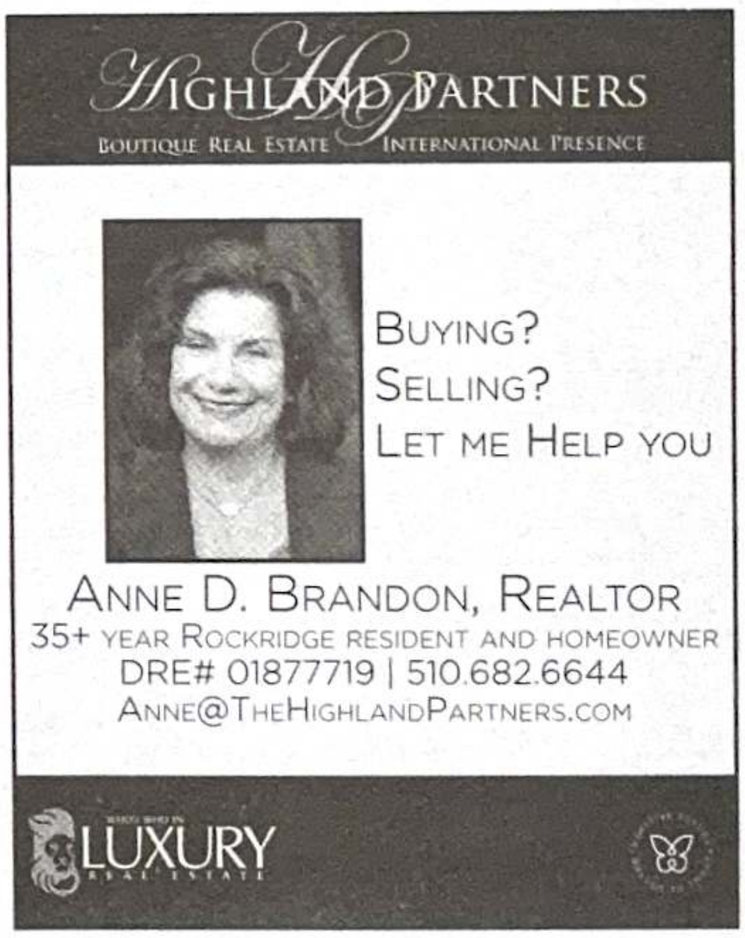
3. Cuttin' Up on College:

Cuttin' Up on College needs a barber.

- **Zachary's Pizza:** Hiring for the kitchen and the dining room.
- **Trader Joe's:** Always taking applications.
- **Crossroads:** Used clothing store accepting applications.
- **Jules Thin Crust Pizza:** Applicants must download the form and must bring it in in person. It's minimum wage, often a first job, with tips distributed daily. Staff may enjoy organic slices.

Job Hunting, page 14





Eyes on Rockridge

ALL PHOTOS: JUDITH DONER BERNE

Energetic, Giving Couple Creates Deep Family, Neighborhood Ties

by Judith Doner Berne

Carl Brush, a former head of performing arts at Berkeley High, set this scene in describing how he first met his "My Fair Lady," Suzanne Schuster, on the Rockridge street – Presley Way – where she lived.

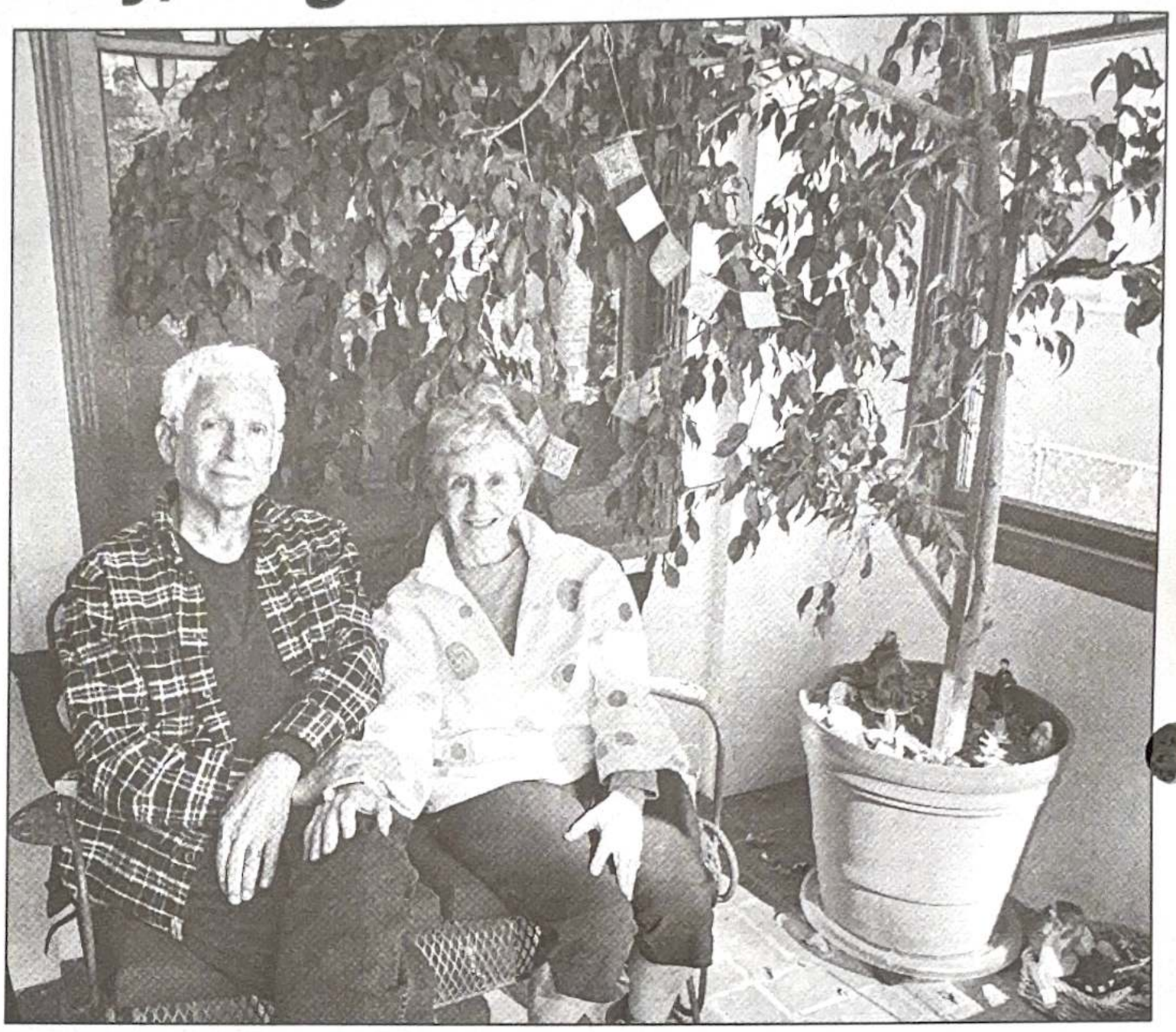
"It was Thanksgiving. I was a wandering bachelor. Suzanne was on the front porch putting polish on her toes. She was about to go on a run with a boyfriend."

That opening act in what turned out to be their now 38-year-old marriage was actually orchestrated by Brush's fellow Berkeley High teacher, Bill Elliott, then the school's orchestra director. Elliott and his wife Janice lived – and still live – across the street.

"Bill did introduce Carl to Suzanne," Janice confirmed in an email. The men were colleagues and close friends "who had worked together on seven Gilbert and Sullivan operettas as well as several musicals and a collaborative musical 'Dream Caper' with lyrics and book by Carl and music by Bill. Truly, it's strange that two veterans of Berkeley High's Performing Arts Department live across the street from one another."

"I always tell my friends, you don't have to go far to meet someone. But you do have to at least get to your front porch," said Schuster, a retired pediatric nurse practitioner who worked both at Children's Hospital of Oakland and for Alameda County.

"My mom and stepdad are real characters and as lively as can be at 78," daughter Sarah Miller wrote, in suggesting this story. "They have been active volunteers and community members forever and have great stories about the evolution of the neighborhood."



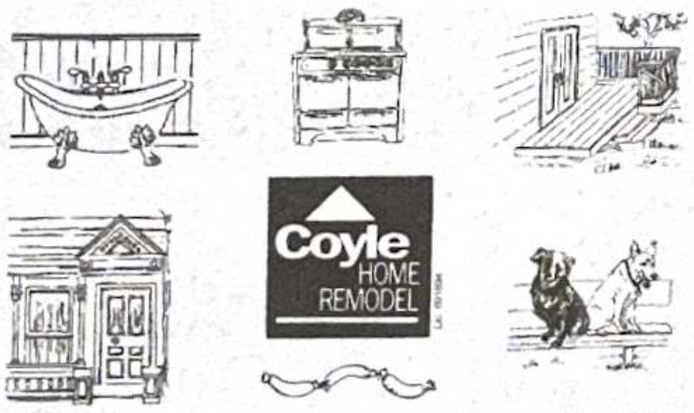
Carl Brush and Suzanne Schuster cozy up on the front porch where they first met. The overhanging ficus plant was given to them by neighbors Alan and Mary Jane Freeland in the early '80s.

Brush and Schuster still live in that 1923 Prairie School-style house that Schuster moved to in 1970. So, she has monitored Rockridge over almost 50 years.

"One of the things that was very impressive," Schuster said, "was watching them move houses to make way for the BART station in the '70s. It was fun to watch that and to see the neighborhood get better after BART."

Schuster and Brush were evacuated during the devastating 1991 Oakland Hills

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Deep Ties

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firestorm that fortunately stopped just short of their neighborhood. "Helicopters were bringing water from Lake Temescal," Schuster described. "It burned down to Chabot field." They both remember the 3 x 5 cards, such as "found a cat," posted on what was then Chimes Market (now Cactus Taqueria) and also on a huge tree at the corner of Acadia and Golden Gate.

"We had just redone our kitchen so we were thinking, 'Take the house, save the kitchen.'" In fact, just days before, their kitchen had been featured on the inaugural RCPC Kitchen Tour, which has been staged every two years since to benefit the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC). (This year it's on Sunday, September 22.)

During the remodeling, they embedded a time capsule, in the form of a cardboard tube, within a side wall. They don't remember exactly what it contains: thoughts were "a newspaper story about the Oakland A's winning the pennant; who was president; photos…"

Schuster's Rockridge roots have deepened. Daughters Sarah Miller and Anna Orias and their families reside in Rockridge – actually Miller lives across the street from her mom and stepdad. A 20-something granddaughter, their son Jim Miller's daughter (he lives in El Dorado Hills), is ensconced on their third floor while working in the area.

Growing up, Sarah, Anna and Jim attended Chabot Elementary as does the youngest grandchild, Nico Orias, a fourth grader. His brother Aiden, who also went to Chabot, is a sixth grader at Claremont Middle School.

Neighborhood ties are how Schuster originally found her house, and also how she knew that house across the street was about to go on the market. "I see you in that house," she told Sarah, who was living in an apartment in Berkeley but had lived a number of other places. "She told me: "'I can't imagine living anywhere but on Presley."

One disappointment was the closure years back of the five acres of grounds, once known as Rose Lawn Park, surrounding the Priory of Saint Albert's just down the street from their house. "It ran along the creek and was open to the community. Neighbors would gather. You would run your dog there," Brush said. But along the creek was also where some of the area's homeless would sleep, waiting for the breakfast the nuns offered each morning. "Somebody shot someone and they ended up closing the grounds," he said. "It's a shame but they had to do it. That changed the neighborhood, at least for me."

Long-time neighbor Mary Jane Freeland, who moved to Presley Way in 1973, remembers that "our first invitation to a neighborhood gathering was a Christmas party at Suzanne's house where everyone exchanged cookies. Another annual gathering at Suzanne's house is the Kentucky Derby party."

Through the years, Freeland said, "We have added a block party in October, organized for earthquake readiness and formed teams to assist neighbors who became home-bound. Suzanne and Carl are always in the lead for these projects and are models of what it means to be a good neighbor."

"Carl and Suzanne were truly made for each other as both are incredibly high energy people," Janice Elliott said. "They could give a brunch in the morning, go to a grandchild's event in the afternoon and attend a concert in San Francisco at night."

Brush, who went on to become principal of Berkeley's Longfellow School and then principal of Berkeley High's Independent Study Program, now volunteers at Chabot Elementary. He also has published five historical novels set in the 19th and early 20th century Bay Area and Sierra, and is working on the sixth.

Schuster is in between volunteer stints after working at St. Mary's Senior Center for almost a year. When I suggested a nearby volunteer situation that I thought might appeal to her, she pronounced: "That's too yuppie. I want to get down and dirty."

Once a runner, "We walk now," Schuster said, often with a stop at their favorite College Avenue coffee shop, Bica, and accompanied by their rescue dog, Gabe. To Brush: "That is one of the all-time joys of living in this neighborhood."

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

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Land Use Committee Report

from page 3

displacement, the increase in market rate units is likely to promote further price escalation in existing housing, causing secondary displacement of existing residents.

Another unanswered question is how great is the need for SB 50 in Oakland, when it appears accessory dwelling units (ADUs) are being added at a rapid clip.

The bill also has technical weaknesses, such as the difficulty in documenting which buildings contain existing rental units (which are protected from demolition), especially for single-family homes and associated, often unapproved, ADUs.

A question Mr. Gammon was unable to answer was whether additional state-mandated density bonus units would be granted based on the affordable units required under SB 50 [It appears they would.] That could bring the actual "by right" heights of new buildings up to 7 stories. As had been pointed out by local architect Glenn Jarvis, right now, California provides no protection for rooftop solar panels, and new buildings allowed under SB 50 could shade and render useless solar panels installed on neighboring buildings. This would seem inconsistent with laws requiring that new residential buildings be built to be "carbon-neutral" – i.e., to supply their own energy needs – for electricity, heating & cooling – without use of fossil fuels.

While SB 50 assumes that housing price reductions due to adding market-rate units will "trickle down" to reduce all housing prices, there is evidence that different markets (e.g., market-rate, moderate-income, low-income) do not interact much, so while adding market rate units may somewhat reduce market rate prices – if supply exceeds demand – there may be little effect on prices at other income levels.

The committee will transmit all these concerns to the Board of Directors, with the recommendation that the Board consider submitting comments on the bill's weaknesses and needed changes.

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More on SB 50

from page 1

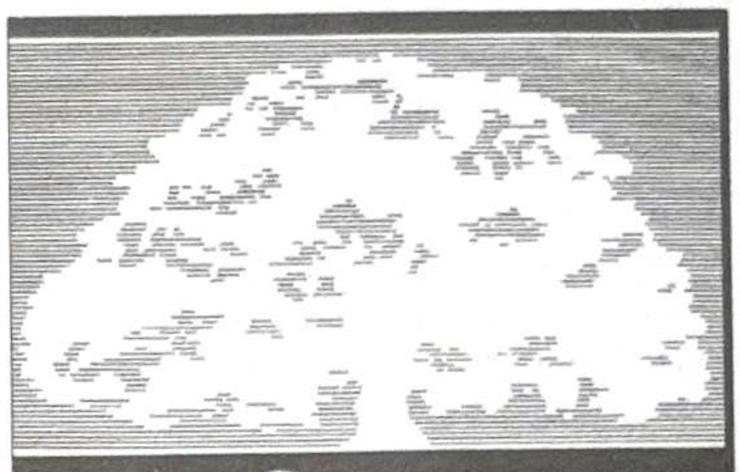
to explain its many provisions, including various exceptions, special features, and alternative options. For example, the bill eliminates current density limits in areas covered, but only increases height limits in areas near train and ferry stations – not along bus routes, and only along bus lines with rush hour frequencies of no less than every ten minutes and only within areas less than one-quarter mile from a bus stop. It generally requires compliance with other zoning requirements, but gives the developer three "waivers, concessions or incentives" addressed to those requirements – e.g., reducing or eliminating otherwise-required minimum setbacks or yard areas, or maximum height limits. It also limits the off-street parking requirement to no more than one parking space per two units along bus lines, and totally eliminates off-street parking requirements within a half-mile radius of train/ferry stations.

Mr. Gammon was peppered with questions from skeptical audience members. He had to acknowledge that there were some he couldn't answer, especially those specifically asking about the bill's potential effects on Rockridge. Those questions are being forwarded to Mr. Ranelletti, and his answers will be printed in the June issue of the Rockridge News.

The bill is rapidly changing. A week after the Town Hall, at a Senate Finance Committee hearing, it was amended in two significant ways: to reduce its impact on "small" coastal counties (population less that 600,000 [e.g., Marin, Sonoma, Santa Cruz, Mendocino, Humboldt]); but, on the other hand to allow four-plexes in existing structures or on vacant lots in all residentially-zoned areas statewide. The bill's text, analyses, and current status can be viewed on the web at: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov and entering "SB 50" in the search area. Although the bill is advancing rapidly, there are still opportunities for public feedback through Mr. Wiener's, Ms. Skinner's and Ms. Wicks' local legislative offices as well as through legislative committee offices.

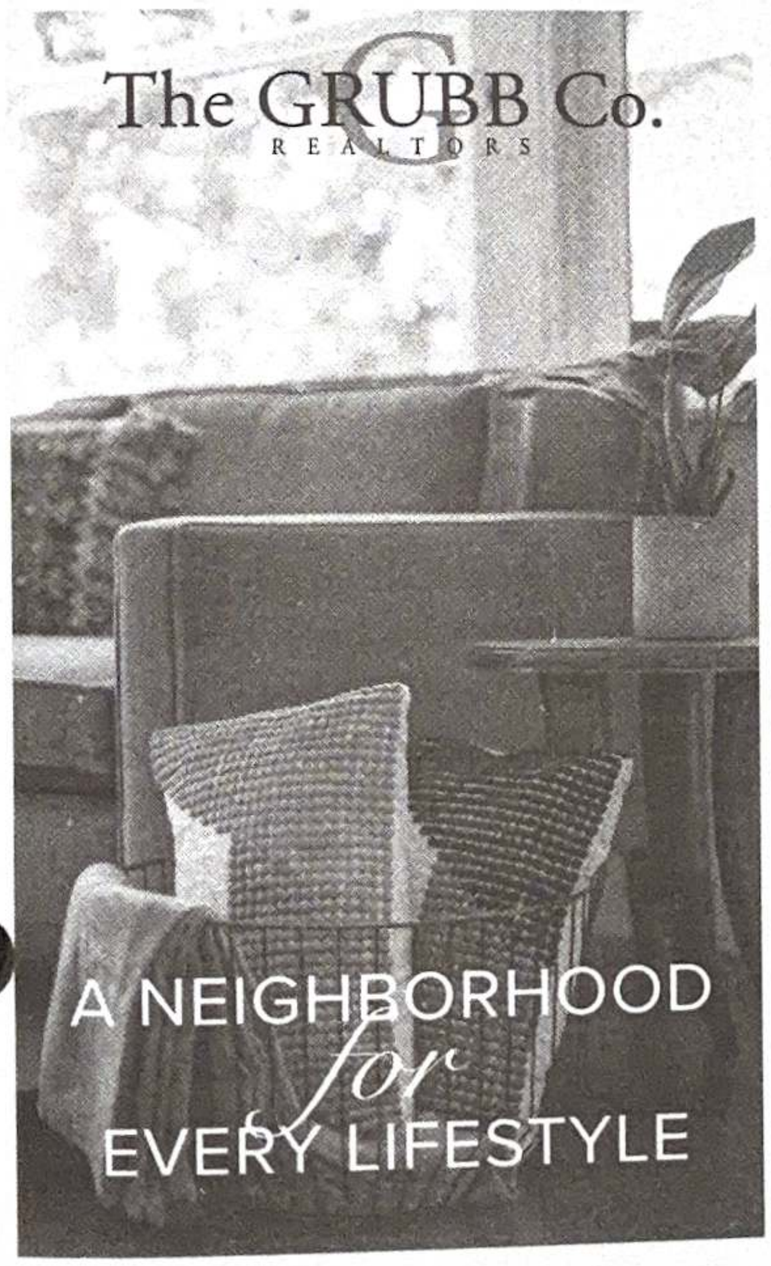
A report on the RCPC Land Use Committee's discussion of the bill appears under Land Use Committee Update on page 3.

Editor's Note: RCPC Board of Directors elections were held at the April Town Hall. See election results, page 4.


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4/10/2019	3	2	493 Forest St	$799,000	$799,000	10	$1,178,000
4/11/2019	3	2	5998 Howell Street	$995,000	$995,000	15	$1,210,000
4/17/2019	2	2	5351 Belgrave Pl	$898,000	$898,000	14	$1,362,000
4/19/2019	3	1	5332 Shafter Ave	$1,125,000	$1,125,000	4	$1,800,000
4/24/2019	2	1	5521 Taft Ave	$1,388,000	$1,388,000	0	$1,388,000
4/24/2019	3	2	5229 Boyd Ave	$1,095,000	$1,095,000	13	$1,530,000

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Claremont Middle School Special Education Students Celebrate Earth Day

by Rachel Hart M.S., Speech-Language Pathologist, Claremont Middle School

The Oakland Unified School District serves about 6,500 students through Special Education. Depending on needs, a student may receive support through mental health counseling, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language therapy, specialized academic instruction, behavioral therapy, adaptive physical education, career-transition, support from a visual specialist, hearing specialist, and/or assistive technology specialist.

Students are served in their general education classes and/or in a separate setting (Special Day Class or home/hospital). At Claremont Middle School, general education students and students enrolled in one of three Special Day Classes are supported with these services in order to gain equitable access to academic curriculum. Over the past month, many special education students have been targeting their goals while restoring the garden outside two of the Special Day classrooms. As the school's Speech-Language Pathologist, I saw the neglected garden as an engaging way for the students to target their speech and language goals while learning about how plants grow, the value of caring for a shared space and being exposed to a new vocational skill. In the weeks leading up to working in the garden, the students were introduced to gardening vocabulary and concepts, were visited by a guest speaker who works as a professional landscaper and made garden-themed collages.



Claremont Middle School report continues, page 14.



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Job Hunting

from page 7

• Mr. John's Dog Grooming
Froy bought the business about a year ago after 28 years of experience. He learned grooming on the job and passed the test when a shop owner challenged him to groom a poodle. He says he would have one job open for a student, part-time.

• Oakland Library
Trish works as an aide. She says aides need no degree but most at the library have a Bachelor's degree. She suggests going to the Oakland Library website and filing an interest card, then getting on a list to receive notifications.

Cindy Warner, an East Bay native, lives off the grid on her sailboat. She has been a bicycle commuter for about 10 years. She is a freelance contributor and has covered SF Bay arts & culture since 2009. Cal '82.

Ed. Note: The author has no financial or occupational interest in the shops and businesses discussed in this article. Her report is based on her independent observations of the Rockridge College Avenue business corridor and her contact with some of the people working there.

— Stop SB 50 —

from page 6

out $153,816 to California State Senator Scott Wiener's 2020 re-election campaign, according to state records." Wiener is the key sponsor of SB 50. According to Votesmart.org, in a tie for first place on SB 50 co-sponsor Nancy Skinner's campaign "Top Contributors" list is the California Association of Realtors. Her other "Top Contributors" include many building trades unions. Buffy Wicks' Votesmart.org "Top Contributors" list also includes the California Association of Realtors and many of the same building trades unions. In my opinion, SB 50 is a giveaway to real estate developers and their financial backers, and a gift to large tax-avoiding tech companies whose rapidly growing workforces have driven up real estate rental and purchase prices.

This is the biggest threat to Rockridge that I have seen during my 43 years living here. I strongly urge all Rockridge residents, and RCPC as an organization, to strongly oppose SB 50 now. Removal of local control over zoning in such a drastic way as SB 50 proposes would strike at the heart of RCPC's mission. I urge the RCPC board to rally the opposition to SB 50 and to work with other similar minded groups statewide. A poll of RCPC members indicating whether they are for or against SB 50, and a strong public statement from the board, would be very effective.

Claremont MS

from page 13

"The other class is Ms. Kenya's Special Day Class," (Pictured below) Ms. Hart continued. "I helped them plant carrots, zucchini, pumpkin, sunflowers, echinacea, borage and tomatoes in the other garden space across the walkway. A couple of the students were timid at first, but eventually every student jumped in and put a sprout into the ground!"



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:** Stories/songs/rhymes (for all ages); Saturdays, 10:30am.
- **Toddler Story Time:** Songs, active rhymes and stories (for 9 months to 2 years), Thursdays, 10:30am, upstairs.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** Read-alouds, songs, and rhymes (ages 2 to 5); Thursdays, 10:30am.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS: all ages welcome.

- ****Summer Reading Program Begins Sat., June 1st:** pick up free A's Tickets and Reading Log, or sign up online at OaklandLibrary.org. Prizes for reading.
- **Stretching for Caregivers:** bring your children to free basic stretching session for adults. Wednesdays, 10:10am.
- **Chess Club:** learn the basics; Instruction and chess sets provided. Best for ages 8 to 12. Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30pm.
- **Paws to Read:** Sandy's dog Scout loves to help kids practice reading. You pick the book; Scout will sit by you and listen as you read aloud. All ages welcome. Every Thurs, 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 Tuesdays, 6:30-7:45pm. May craft: paper dolls - Superhero and/or Origami
- **May is Bicycle Month & Asian & Pacific Islanders Heritage Month: Kamishibai Stories:** from a Japanese-style paper-theater on the back of a bicycle, while you nibble on Japanese treats. Sat: 5/4 & 5/18 at 10:30am; Thurs: 5/9 at 1:30pm; Tues: 5/21 at 6:30pm; Thurs: 5/30 at 10:30am.
- **Special Performances, and Thursday Crafts in June and July:** pick up a calendar of events.
- **Fun Every Tuesday Night in June & July:** Starting with the Xtreme Science Show on June 4th at 6:30pm. Best for ages 3 to 13.

FOR TEENS

- **Sign up for 2019 Summer Reading starting 5/24: Get a free TeenZone notebook. Collect stamps to get a free TeenZone backpack, raffle tickets, and more. Or register online at oaklandlibrary.org/services/cards-and-visiting/summer-opl/teen-summer-passport. For ages 12-19.
- **Teen Volunteers ages 11-16:** to help with the Summer Reading Program and other routine library tasks. Email Erica at esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org, or stop by the Children's Reference Desk to sign up for an Orientation.
- **Make Sharpie Dyed Tile Coasters:** Wed, 5/15, 2-3pm. **All materials provided.** Best for 12-18 yrs.
- **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 crafts; every Tues, Thurs, and Fri, 3:30 - 5pm; Wed, 1:30 - 5pm (during school days).
- **Peer Circle, A Healing Space for Youth:** series of youth-led Restorative Justice (RJ) circles about relationships, racism, social justice, and more. Safe space provides opportunity to engage in community building and to learn skills to become RJ leaders in their community. Age 11 and up. (Gift cards available for participation). Second Wed, 4 – 5 pm.

FOR ADULTS

- ****Adult Summer Reading Program: starts June 1.** Read or complete activities to win prizes. Play online or at the library.
- **Adult Craft Series;** DIY Wood Coasters: Techniques for painting on wood. All materials & instruction provided. Sat., 5/18, 2 – 4pm. Sign-up in advance at library or call 597-5017.
- **eBook Help:** Work one-on-one with a librarian to download eBooks. Fridays, 2 -3:30pm. Make appt. online or call 597-5017.
- **Second Saturday Book Club:** 2nd Sat each month, 3 -4pm. Phone for details and book selection: 597-5017.
- **Writers Support/Critique Group:** Bring 15 copies of up to 5 pgs. of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (OK to come empty-handed). 3rd Sat. each month,1pm; wheelchair-accessible. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.

UPSTAIRS ART GALLERY

- May: **Oakland Art Association:** Small format paintings, photos, prints, etchings/more.

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

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

- Wed, 5/8, 6:30pm. **Freud's Bar** (talks by local Bay Area psychoanalysts/psychologists). **Drinks and snacks provided**. Mtg topic: Mourning Freud; the losses of Freud's early life and their impact on his theorizing. Presenter: **Madelon Sprengnether, Ph.D.**
- Fri, 5/10, 7pm. **Marcus Thompson:** *KD: Kevin Durant's Relentless Pursuit to Be the Greatest.* **(Limited seating. Call store to confirm.)**
- Tues, 5/14, 7pm. Local author **Maria Zizka:** *The Newlywed Table: A Cookbook to Start Your Life Together.*
- Sun, 5/19, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Willis Barnstone** and **Tony Barnstone**.
- Fri, 6/7, 7pm. **Obi Kaufmann:** *The State of Water: Understanding California's Most Precious Resource.*

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

Wisteria Ways House Concert

The String Revolution: Saturday, May 11, 7:30pm (house opens 7pm). A guitar quartet (**Daniel Schwarz, Markus Illko, Janet Robin, and Art Zavala Jr.**) with a passion for many different musical styles and guitar techniques. Examples at https://thestringrevolution.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 698-2458.

Chabot Space and Science Center: Call for Volunteers.

RSVP now and register for Volunteer Orientation: Sat., June 1, 10am to 12:30pm. Our Exhibit Guides are trained to work with children and families and lead daily activities in the exhibition galleries. Our newest exhibitions include a tinkering studio, and outdoor interpretive observation deck and an exhibition about how humans are pushing the boundaries of space exploration. Volunteers also help with popular events, lectures and special programs. **No science background needed; we'll teach you**. Volunteers are asked to work 8 hours per month. For more info and to RSVP for orientation, go to https://chabotspace.org/ or Volunteer Department at volunteers@chabotspace.org.

North Oakland Senior Center

5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way
597-5085

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

- **Oakland Community Orchestra: free concert** featuring works of Haydn, Williams, Ellington/ more. Fri, May 17,10:30am.

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

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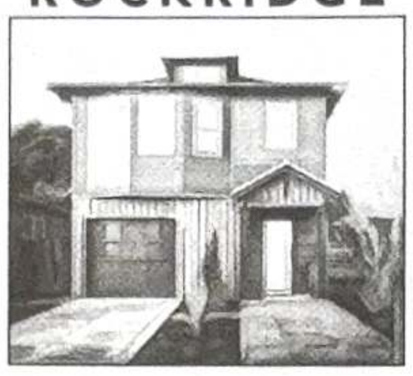
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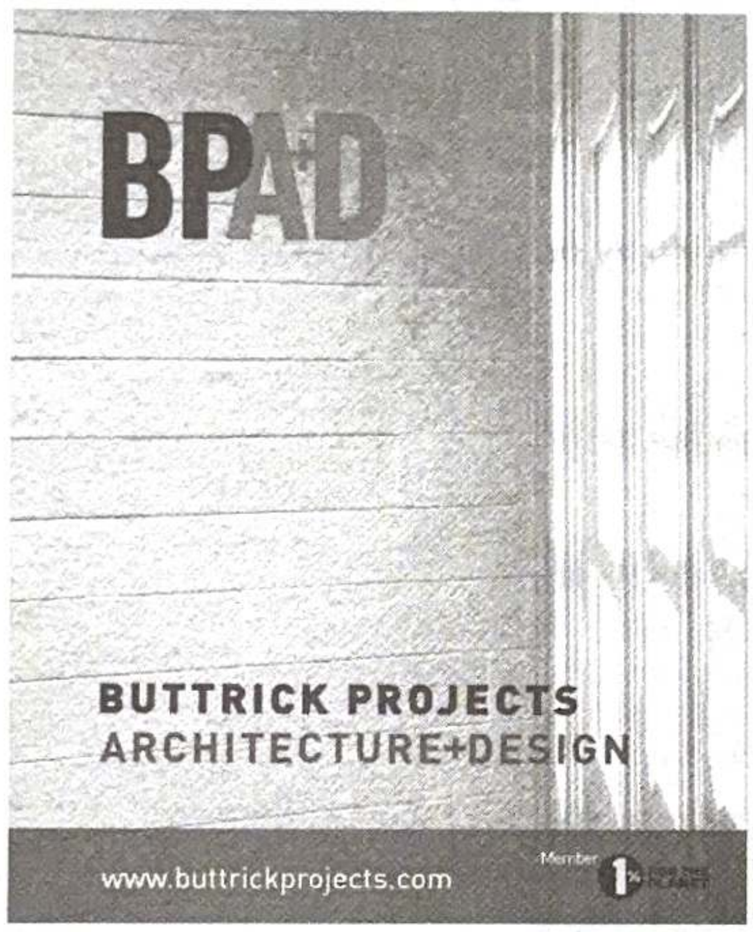
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