THE Rockridge News

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

Rockridge Kitchen Tour — Coming Soon to a Street Near You

— by Leonora Sea, RCPC Board Chair

While cooking over an outdoor fire pit in a metal cauldron is no longer the norm, some long-time residents remember their ancestors' kitchens with Wedgwood stoves and birdcage refrigerators. In the oldest houses, the original stove most likely was wood burning, and with no refrigeration available, perishable food was stored in a "cooler" — a screened cabinet open to the outdoors on the north side of the house.

Although one of the 2015 Tour kitchens had a clever modern version of the cooler, today's Rockridge kitchens have come a long way. New colors, sustainable materials, energy-saving appliances, and ample storage and workspaces are all features of the kitchens on the 2019 tour. Yet, every

See Kitchen Tour Coming, page 10



This dapper kitchen is one of nine featured on the Tour.

Photo by Ken Rice

Eat, Drink and Celebrate at the Out & About Street Fair in Rockridge

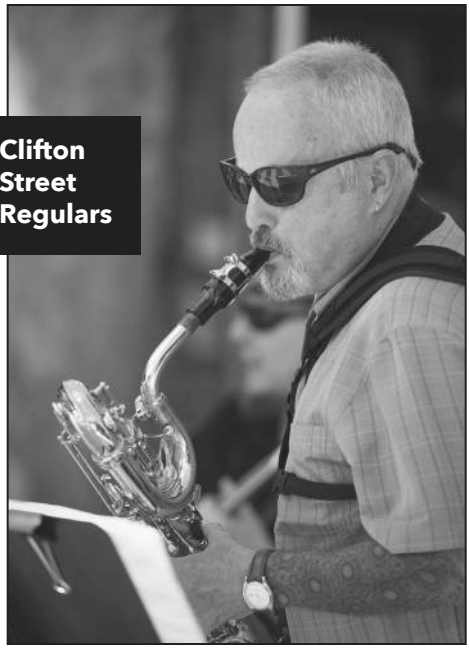
Sunday September 15 noon - 6pm

The 13th Annual Rockridge Out & About street fair coming up on Sunday, September 15. The free, family-oriented street fair will feature live music, dance, and circus arts Groove to Blues, Jazz, Funk, Soul, Rock and more in multiple staging areas dotting College Avenue. Thrill to aerialists at the Kinetic Arts Circus Stage, let the kids romp in the carnival, immerse yourself in art and artifacts, learn about locally-made products, businesses and community organizations, feast on tasty eats from area restaurants and vendors, shop fall fashions and gifts at popular Rockridge brick & mortars, and enjoy craft beer, wine, and specialty cocktails.

From Claremont to Lawton Avenue, the ever-popular festival traverses the bustling district's more than 100 street level shops, galleries, food & drink establishments, services and amenities.

Admission is free thanks to contributions from the Rockridge District Association, Market Hall, Fremont Bank, Strahan Insurance Services, Inc., Golden Squirrel, Bay Wheels, 1st United Credit Union, Beer Baron, Cole Hardware, The Henry Levy Group, Farmers Insurance: Ruth Stroup Agency, San Francisco

See Out & About, page 9



Clifton Street Regulars

Rockridge News Editor/Founder Passes the Torch

— by Judith Doner Berne

Newspapers across the country are closing. But not in Rockridge.

Don Kinkead, founder of The Rockridge News, is stepping down after spending most of the paper's 34 years as its editor of both content and design.

eyes on Rockridge

Stepping in are Anna Marks and Valerie Knight. Marks, a 30-year resident of Rockridge, is the new editor, chosen from among a number of applicants. Knight will do the layout, a job she did for several years in the 1990s, during which, she says, "I became very familiar with how things flowed. It was nice to be asked back."

For Marks, being named Rockridge News editor "is like coming full circle back to my roots. It's local. I love curating content. It's my favorite thing to do."

See Eyes on Rockridge, page 6

Residents Rally for Transparent Redevelopment Process

— Submitted by UBA Steering Committee

A dozen people who currently live and/or work in our beloved Rockridge formed what is now known as Upper Broadway Advocates (UBA). Our mission is to promote a neighborhood evolution that is a model of beauty, sustainability, affordability and density that reflects the diversity of Oakland and the character of Rockridge's tree-lined streets.

UBA's first endeavor was a response to the California College of the Arts (CCA) and Emerald Fund/Community Equity Partners proposal to develop the main campus and Clifton Street dormitory into a dense, primarily market-rate housing complex. Our intention was to leverage the collective wisdom of our community to support a better planning process that utilizes smart growth and density principles, and results in more affordability at the site.



Planning Commission's August Meeting drew a big crowd to speak about multiple topics.

Photo by Dona Turner

The developers did not originally respond to changes requested by residents about the proposed plan for 589 residential units throughout four buildings that will be five to eight stories tall, a five-story parking garage and a 19-story tower, and we felt that community to should have more input. As a result, we recently hosted two community meetings attended by over 200 neighbors to share ideas and concerns.

Opinions varied, but the vast majority felt the project could be substantially improved. The top five concerns were: 1) Traffic congestion, weak transit infrastructure, and inadequate parking; 2) Aesthetics that reject Rockridge's scale and style; 3) Grossly insufficient affordable housing; 4) Re-zoning that would severely increase density and encourage other extreme height buildings; and 5) Questionable fire/life safety and ADA access to the site. Comments, too numerous to mention here, were discussed such as loss of mature trees and open space, and the demise of the historic Arts and Crafts heritage of the site.

These meetings proved an important exercise in understanding what has been proposed for the site and for counter-proposals that address these major concerns. We distilled the community input, and support a project that includes:

- A planning process inclusive of meaningful neighborhood input
- A formal application from CCA/Emerald Fund to the City prior to EIR scoping sessions and City Council consideration as a protection against surprise project changes (only pre-application plans have been submitted)

See Redevelopment, page 7

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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 non-profit public benefit organization founded to: preserve and enhancethe 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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Newsletter advertising/deadline for October's issue is September 19.

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 next Land Use Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25th, 7:30pm, at the Rockridge Branch Library. The agenda will include updates on the Calif. College of Art campus redevelopment proposal, the use of Safeway settlement funds, and housing study.

RCPC Land Use Committee Update – September 2019

California College of Art Oakland Campus Redevelopment Proposal

With the California College of Art's pending move from the 5200-5276 block of Broadway to San Francisco, the school has brought in a private development team to redevelop the site. While no formal proposal has yet been filed, the project entails preserving the historic Treadwell Mansion and carriage house, the entry gate and staircase on Broadway, the original CCA building on Clifton St., and approximately 1.7 acres of publicly available open space.

The current Clifton Hall dormitory at Clifton and Broadway would be remodeled into below market rate artists' housing, with studios and an art gallery on the south side of Clifton. The project would include a total of nearly 600 residential units, the vast majority of which would be market-rate rentals. One of the residential buildings would be 19-stories tall, and include several floors for parking for residents and guests.

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared, and public comments ("scoping") are being accepted on what should be studied. The hearing has been extended and rescheduled to October, and the comment deadline will presumably be extended as well.

RCPC submitted a scoping comment letter, which, along with pre-application documents downloaded from the City website, can be found at rockridge.org/news/california-college-art-redevelopment-pre-application-documents-available-line.

RCPC will almost certainly submit a comment letter on the Draft EIR, which will be reviewed by the Land Use Committee and the Board. RCPC will also consider hiring a traffic consultant to critique the EIR's transportation analysis.

College Avenue Safeway Community Enhancement Funds

There was further information and discussion of how best to use the $400K community "enhancement" funds from the College Avenue Safeway settlement. The initial deadline of January 2020 has been extended three years in a revision to the settlement.

One requirement for the proposed uses of these funds is that they must address a problem created by the Safeway project, yet not already addressed in the City's conditions of approval for the project. Thus, for example, a park at College/Claremont would not be an eligible use (not to mention that it has a quoted price of $5 million).

See Land Use, page 9

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Battle for the Bay 2019: Join the Challenge on Coastal Cleanup Day

Lend a Hand for Temescal Creek and Frog Park



On Saturday, September 21, San Francisco Mayor London Breed and Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf are leading volunteers from San Francisco and Oakland in a friendly competition as part of the International Coastal Cleanup Day. The two cities will participate in the worldwide effort to make our planet's waterways cleaner and healthier.

According to the mayors' joint announcement, The Battle for the Bay is in honor of the 30th anniversary of the 1989 "Battle of the Bay" Major League Baseball World Series between the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland A's.

The contest is being held to see which city can have the greater impact in the cleanup effort for our beautiful bay. Much of the litter discarded on land ends up in our waterways, so when we clear trash and debris, our parks look better, and it keeps litter out of the creeks, bay, and ultimately, the ocean.

Join our local team on Saturday morning, September 21, at 9am, as we cleanup Temescal Creek and Frog Park. Led by the DMV Neighbors Association and the Friends of the Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt, we'll weed, prune, rake, sweep and cleanup trash to get the parks ready for the fall season.

Look for sign-in tables at Cavour and Redondo for creek and path maintenance between Clifton and Clarke, and at Big Frog for pond and greenbelt maintenance above Clifton. Coffee and snacks will be available for volunteers. Families and groups are most welcome.

For more information on how to participate, contact Leonora Sea of the DMV Neighbors Association at LeonoraSea@comcast.net, or at info@frogpark.org; or visit www.battleforthebay2019.org. ■

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Library program details/hours: Calendar, page 15

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Happy Autumn!!!



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Letters to the Editor

Think Before You Burn

Dear Editor:

Fireplaces in the Rockridge area are a luxury. We don't need them for heat or cooking. We surely don't need fire pits. Please, be aware of the health effects these can cause on your neighbors, as well as on yourselves.

If you are still burning wood in a fireplace or using a fire pit, please be aware that this produces microparticles of pollution. These are harmful to our health because of their size, which allows them to go deeply into the lungs and from there into the blood stream. They aggravate any respiratory problem, particularly asthma, and are associated with heart disease.

The smoke from these fires, which usually burn over a period of hours, can move quite a distance from the source. In the evening after a hot day, residents who don't have air conditioning may need to open their windows to cool down their homes. Smoke coming into your home from someone's fire is intrusive, aggravating and unhealthy.

— Mary Jane Makar

Opossums Are Our Friends

Dear Editor:

Thank you for publishing Michael Allaire's piece on opossums. I found it informative, well researched, and full of kindness and concern. I too, worry deeply about our urban wildlife. Increased housing density has destroyed much of the landscape necessary to sustain our fellow creatures, who, for the most part, are invisible to us because they roam and forage nocturnally.

My own garden has been habitat to opossum mothers and their babies for years now. I often leave small snacks out or them — a few grapes or orange slices, and a bowl of water. I am pleased that they have found my garden congenial and safe, and I am honored to share it with them. These sweet creatures have never been destructive in any way, and my heart goes out to them. They are quiet and respectful, very shy, and often suffer from near starvation. Their lives are short, three to five years, and I hope that others will notice their sweetness and take care to protect them.

— Sharon Osmond

Editor's Note:

Views expressed in articles and letters 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. We welcome your comments and suggestions, please send them to editor@rockridgenews.com. — Anna L. Marks

RCPC Welcomes New Board Member

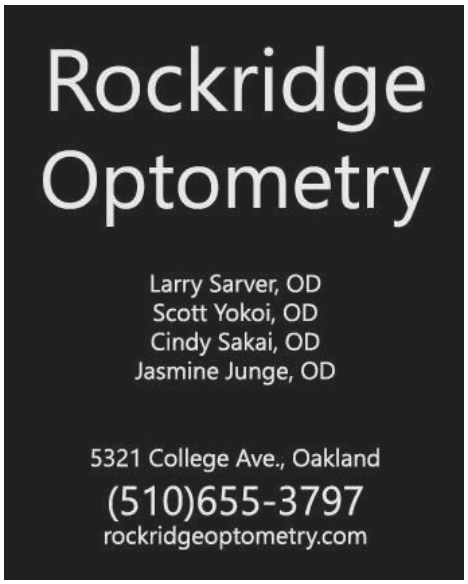
Michelle Boyd was appointed to the RCPC board during the August 2019 meeting. She has been living in Rockridge for six years while completing a one-year Americorps fellowship, first on Telegraph Avenue. For the past four years, she and her husband have rented an apartment in a 100-year-old converted Arts & Crafts in Fairview Park, where all her neighbors know each other, and each other's cats, by name. On the weekends, she enjoys tending her front-yard garden and traveling to the Sierras for backpacking and camping.



"As a younger person and a renter, I think it's important to have our perspectives included in the conversation about the future of our neighborhood," she told RN staff.

Michelle works as a Program Director at UC Berkeley's Terner Center for Housing Innovation where she runs a program to support entrepreneurs that are designing new solutions for the national housing crisis. This is the nation's first innovation lab exclusively focused on lowering the cost of housing. ■





Eyes on Rockridge

from page 1



Two Rockridge icons: Rockridge News founder Don Kinkead chose to have his photo taken in front of the Rockridge Café–a fixture on College Avenue since 1973–despite renovations to the building's exterior.

That's because she spent 18 years as founding publisher of the monthly newspaper *Bay Area BusinessWoman*, before moving first into digital media and then, her current enterprise, video graphics. Her company, Oaktown Video, records, edits and hosts video for business and nonprofits.

A native New Yorker, Marks relocated to the Bay Area after studying business and communications at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. In 1989, when she moved to a classic Boyd Street bungalow where she still lives, that street was not yet considered part of Rockridge. "For years I would say I live in Temescal." She is married to Julianne Sherback, a retired Kaiser pediatric hematology/oncology nurse and now full time gardener. They have two Chihuahuas, Moo Moo and Cookie.

Knight, a freelance graphic designer, is a native Oregonian who holds a bachelor of fine art from the University of Oregon. Her clients range from small nonprofits to large companies.

She met her husband, Dave Pistoni, a freelance multimedia producer, when both worked for Bank of America/Creative Services where "I learned the ropes of layout design and production." They have two adult daughters, Hayley and Abby, and "full disclosure, I live in Montclair."

Both women, whom I interviewed in a shady corner of Marks' eclectic backyard garden, are dedicated to helping "maintain the identity of Rockridge" through its newspaper. "It's a pretty tight and very friendly community," Marks said. "There are a lot of old timers, although there were many more Italians when I first moved here and a struggling commercial area. Now, "I love the walkability, the access to transportation, the climate."

Kinkead Leaves a Legacy

Rockridge Café seemed a perfect venue for an exit interview with Kinkead. We sat at the same back table at which we had a memorable session with Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf during her first year as mayor. And it was the spot where he and others who worked to shape Rockridge early on would gather.

"Proofread everything," was the only advice Kinkead gave Marks and Knight, saying both are highly experienced. As background, "I did tell them the approach the paper took to local issues and the process. Anna has been doing papers for years. And Valerie is an accomplished graphic designer. They have my support and backing."

He will miss working with people who submit articles and stories, and not miss the deadlines and recurring pressure. His favorite part of the job was layout. "It's fun to take this blank page and at the end of an hour you've got stuff all over it," he told me. In fact, when he responds to people who complain, it's often: "Where were you when the page was blank?"

Kinkead has always downplayed his role in the paper's founding, insisting it was a group effort. "There would never have been a newsletter without the distribution system," the block-by-block, doorstep-to-doorstep blueprint co-developed by his wife Bobbie Kinkead, and then-RCPC Chair Barbara Anderson.

What were the paper's most important stories? "Well, they were all

See Eyes on Rockridge, next page

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6/7/2019	5	3	5333 James Avenue	$2,525,250	$2,525,250	0	$2,525,250
6/10/2019	3	3	5705 Ayala Ave	$1,150,000	$1,150,000	11	$1,500,000
6/12/2019	3	1	375 62nd St	$1,249,000	$1,249,000	15	$1,815,000
6/13/2019	3	2	5715 Oak Grove Ave	$1,495,000	$1,495,000	12	$1,740,000
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Eyes on Rockridge

from previous page

important in their own way," he said, ever the careful wordsmith. When pressed, "Probably those which covered large development plans drew a lot of interest on both sides."

For specifics, I turned to Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) board member Stuart Flashman.

Redevelopment

from page 2

- Buildings no more than five to eight stories tall
- A minimum of 20 percent affordable units — especially 2-3-bedroom units for families.
- Vibrant community space that continues the artistic heritage of the site and preserves the mature trees and landscaping
- A sincere attempt to plan regionally with the empty lot at The Ridge shopping center
- Community benefits that mitigate traffic, parking and transit congestion

UBA doesn't claim to have all the answers, and acknowledges that there are a variety of interests to be heard and taken into account, yet our community meetings indicate that a majority of people do not want what is currently proposed.

The written comment period for the public has been extended to October 18, 2019. A review of the project will be completed by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (on September 23, 2019 – 6pm at City Hall); and at the Planning Commission where it was decided to table the item for discussion until next month (October 16, 6pm, at City Hall). The public is welcome and invited to speak at both events.

We continue to meet with the City, CCA, the developers, and the community to ensure the best use of the site is assured. And we welcome more comments, ideas and volunteers. Please join us at UBAoakland.org. ■

"Through the years," Flashman said, "The Rockridge News has become the voice of our neighborhood — informing people on what's going on and what they can do. It focused on numerous land-use struggles, including those over Market Hall, the Dreyer's Building, and the two



Valerie Knight and Anna Marks prepare for their collaboration.

Safeway projects. It also helped organize efforts to build the Rockridge branch library and establish FROG (Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt) Park.

Today, Flashman said, Rockridge faces issues including traffic, pedestrian safety, crime, keeping College Avenue retail vital and, most recently, the California College of Art Campus Redevelopment proposal and what Rockridge can do to help address Oakland's shortage of affordable housing.

"Don deserves a lot of credit for The Rockridge News' continued vitality," Flashman said. "We got a lot of interest when we advertised for his replacements, and that's a tribute to his work. I'm sure that Anna and Valerie will continue the job of keeping the community informed and active."

"Don was so much fun to work with," said Jo Ellis, assistant editor and advertising manager, who along with business manager Susan Montauk, will continue in their roles. "It was a pleasure to watch him nurture the paper until it matured and he was ready to hand it off to someone else."

"I know Anna is going to do a splendid job," Ellis said, "and Valerie, who I've worked with before, is fast and creative. I think the new collaboration will take The Rockridge News proudly into the future."

"Anna lives on my block," Montauk told me. "It's nice to have her nearby. Both she and Valerie are super competent. But, I am going to miss Don. He's been the whole paper."

"Don is amazing," Marks agreed. "He's really been a steward. We want to honor Don's legacy, continue in a similar vein and see how things develop."

"It was his baby," Knight said. "There's integrity there." ■

Your comments on this column and suggestions for future stories are welcome by emailing judyberne@att.net.



Let's Talk Trash — A Scenic Streets Tale

— by Robert Firehock

It's not scientific, but your Scenic Streets volunteers — the folks in bright yellow vests who work to keep the Claremont Avenue entrances onto Highway 24 looking presentable — do get a weekly glimpse into the bad habits of the drivers using the on- and off-ramps at Hudson and Claremont.

There's always a beer bottle or two, and often a mini-liquor bottle, but plastic water and soda bottles still lead that category. Styrofoam packing material is, in fact, insidious. Getting the pieces when they are still larger and 'pickable' is the key. Napkins are common, and a variety of fast-food containers usually make an appearance over the course of several weeks. Odd little rubber bumpers and stray nuts and bolts testify to gradually deteriorating vehicles all around us.

Cigarette butts are far and away the most common throw-away item. We guess more people still smoke than we thought, or maybe the downturn in useable ashtrays in cars spurs pre-highway disposal? We're actually surprised we haven't seen a brush fire. One-offs are just that, from car fenders to seat cushions to backpacks and even an unexpended .38 caliber round (the CHP came and picked that up).



Scenic Street volunteers remove trash and bottles from on-ramp

Photo by Lee Patterson

It may be our imaginations, but over the years it seems as if there is less trash tossed along that ramp. Maybe seeing us there Wednesday mornings on a weekly basis, or just having the ramp area cleaner, discourages some offenders.

If you'd like to be a part of making our neighborhood a bit nicer, and you have an hour or two to devote to that, get in touch with Lee at lee.scenicstreetsoakland@gmail.com. If not, your Scenic Streets team will certainly appreciate a grateful honk or two as you pass by. And please use your car's ashtray, or better yet, quit smoking… it's bad for your health. ■

Tennis Anyone?

— by Judy Berne

If you are a tennis player, you may have noticed more action on the public tennis courts throughout Oakland from early July to mid-August. That's because the 260-plus members of the Chabot Canyon Racquet Club (CCRC) at 7040 Chabot Road in Rockridge, fanned out to courts as remote as the iconic Davie Tennis Stadium and as close-by as Chabot Park while their facility was getting a "court-lift."

The member-owned nonprofit club, which dates from 1973, re-opened last month with six completely resurfaced courts, LED lighting, and an updated clubhouse.

"We also recently invested in LED light fixtures which not only use 70 percent less energy, but provide better coverage and 1.75 times more light per square foot," said Stephen Squire, club manager and head pro. "No more dark spots in the corners or waiting 20 minutes for the lights to warm up."

"The courts are wonderful," said Wendell Pierce, College Preparatory High School tennis coach, who has been one of CCRC's pro for more than 30 years. "The speed is just right. And the color — blue courts surrounded by a green border — is easy on the eyes. It makes you feel good about going out and playing tennis."

Squire encourages visiting CCRC's website at www.chabotcanyon.org where you can click on the webcam to see the new courts as well as learn more about the club. Or better yet, stop by and see for yourself. ■



Chabot Canyon Racquet Club members gather for group photo on new courts

Photo by Victor Ingrassia

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WHO'S WHO IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE

Out & About

from page 1

Chronicle, Temescal Works, Goodlife-roots, Oakland Magazine, East Bay Express, BART and the City of Oakland. ■

— Rockridge District Association

Additional event details can be found at RockridgeOutandAbout.com. Those interested in sponsoring, please contact festival co-producer Samee Roberts, samee@rockridge-outandabout.com or call (510) 550-4804, ext. 1.

Out & About Highlights:

Live music and entertainment dotting College Avenue including festival favorites The Clifton Street Regulars, Grand Avenue Soul, Floyd Pellom's annual Jazz stage, West Coast Blues Society Showcase and new this year: Dance performances with live band presented by Oakland's acclaimed Shabnam Dance company.

Land Use

from page 3

A study of cut-through traffic on local residential streets identified only one street where cut-through traffic had increased significantly — Hillegass Ave. (see post on https://rockridge.org.) While there are already some speed bumps on that street, more could be added if local residents want them. Another possible use remains placing pedestrian flashers at the crosswalks of Alcatraz and Hillegass and/or Colby.

The committee discussed possible uses, and agreed that pedestrian safety was the highest priority. That recommendation had already been approved by the full board, and will be brought to the next meeting in September where all three community groups can reach a decision.

Rockridge Housing Study – Update

Members of the RCPC Board, along with Rockridge resident and housing consultant Darin Smith, met with Council Member Dan Kalb and his staff person, Diedre Moss, to discuss the current status and plans for analysis of the Rockridge Housing Study. Dan was excited about the study and promised to work on arranging a meeting with the City's Planning Director and a representative from the Mayor's office to finalize the scope of work for the study's analysis. ■









Kitchen Tour Coming

from page 1

kitchen on the tour still keeps alive the Rockridge spirit of good food, warmth, and hospitality.

New to the tour in 2019 are delightful kitchens in two garden cottages. ADUs (accessory dwelling units) or in-law units, both of these kitchens are prime examples that small kitchens can be fully functional, beautiful, and fun to cook in. If you're contemplating adding another set of living quarters in your garden, these two small dwellings are brimming with ideas, and the Kitchen Tour's most compact ever full-house tour will take you all the way through one of them.



This Taft St. remodel boasts a sleek, modern style.

Photo by Ken Rice

Challenges faced by many of these homeowners were inefficient use of space and placement of appliances, lack of convenient storage, and cramped work areas. Others felt closed off from the garden or the rest of the house, and wanted the kitchen to be more integrated into the family living areas. One solution common to several houses on the tour was to rethink the interiors — moving from the many small rooms in a typical Craftsman to larger rooms with smoother traffic between the kitchen and the rest of the house.

Many of the kitchens on this Tour function as display spaces for art and the owners' collections. Several kitchens use highly-sustainable materials, including one that features a grey-water system in the adjacent laundry room.

Kitchen Tour guests will receive a copy of the comprehensive Tour Brochure, describing each kitchen a nd listing resources for those contemplating a remodel of their own. Docents with extensive knowledge of the remodels will also be on hand to answer questions about each owner's goals and challenges.

In addition to the tour on Sunday, September 22, from 12:30 to 5:30pm, please check out the free Kitchen Tour Expo on Tuesday, September 17, from 7-9pm at the Rockridge Library (where you can also purchase tickets for Sunday's tour). The Expo, which was well received in 2015 by both tour guests and vendors, is back this year to "highlight" the architects, designers, contractors, and craftspeople who designed, constructed, and decorated the nine featured kitchens. Here's your opportunity to meet the creative talent behind the kitchens you will see on Sunday, and get a more in-depth look at how these design professionals approach kitchen renovations.

For more information, see the website RockridgeKitchenTour.org. ■

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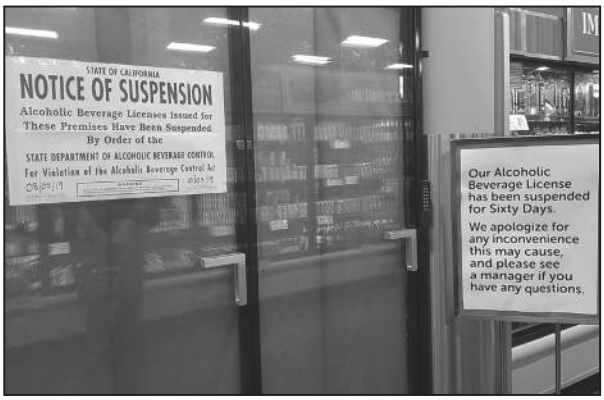
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Last Call for Tour Docents

The RCPC Kitchen Tour committee needs more volunteer docents for the Sunday, September 22nd Tour. Docents get tours of several of the houses during orientation ahead of Sept 22, and on the event day get free entry to the other Tour houses when not on your scheduled shift. To volunteer, contact Robin McDonnell, Docent Chair, at seashelter@me.com.

No Beer, No Wine, at College Avenue Safeway

This past July, the Rockridge Safeway at 6310 College Ave had its liquor license suspended by the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) for two months as a result of selling alcohol to minors three times over the last three years. According to ABC, sales will likely resume in early October with a three-year probationary period thereafter. ■



Story and photo by Anna L. Marks

Ice Cream No More

— by Anna L. Marks

Perhaps due to increased competition in the neighborhood from shops like Smitten, Tara's, or Scream, or the current consumer expectations for higher quality and organic ingredients, Dreyer's ice cream parlor, located on the ground floor of the Corporate headquarters on 6028 College Avenue, closed it's door this past July for the final time.

The business has a long history here in Rockridge, and has been based in Oakland since its founding in 1928 —moving first into a small factory on Grand Ave., and then to College Ave. in 1946, where it built a manufacturing plant the following year. Although the ice cream parlor itself has been in operation for over 20 years, the plant has since moved its processing facilities to Bakersfield, CA, and Laurel, Maryland.

The company lays claim to the invention of Rocky Road, a popular flavor that contains miniature marshmallows and roasted almonds. (Note: this claim has been disputed by local purveyor Fenton's Creamery on Piedmont Avenue who claims it was Melvin Fenton, the grandson of its founder, who is responsible for the recipe; and is also in contention for its discovery by an Australian confection under the same name that was concocted in 1853 and sold to miners who traveled the "rocky road" to get the gold fields nearby.) Dreyer's also lays an undisputed claim to the invention of Cookies and Cream, created by their official taster John Harrison, in 1982.

When he retired in 1953, founder William Dreyer passed the business along to his only son, William Dreyer, Jr., who sold the company in 1977 to T. Gary Rogers and William F. Cronk for $1 million.

The new owners expanded the business nationally, and, in 1995, it was the leading packaged brand in the U.S. market. The company became a subsidiary of Nestlé in 1999, and completed a full buyout by 2002 for $3.2 million — becoming the world's biggest manufacturer.

Kate Shaw from Nestle's DC Corporate Communications office shared the company statement, saying, "For more than 20 years the Dreyer's Ice Cream Parlor has been a phenomenal part of the Oakland community. For a number of reasons, the business has decided to make some modifications and as a result the shop has closed. We thank the customers who stopped by for ice cream throughout the years, and look forward to a new tenant being announced." ■



Local neighbors found the ice cream parlor was closed for business.

Photo by Don Kinkead

Volunteers Needed for Walking Tours of Rockridge

— by Judy Berne

Oakland Heritage Alliance (OHA) is looking for volunteer guides to resurrect walking tours of Rockridge, one of which could be on its next summer's agenda. As part of its mission, the nonprofit membership organization, dedicated to the protection, preservation and revitalization of Oakland, hosts summer walking tours spotlighting the city's architecture, culture, natural resources and neighborhoods.

The two-hour tours take place Saturdays and Sundays throughout July and August at a cost of $10 for OHA members and $15 for non-members. This summer's itinerary included explorations of Broadway's Auto Row, Haddon Hill, Chinatown, Montclair Village, Uptown's mid-century modern architecture, and the Dimond district.

Rockridge hasn't been on OHA's roster since 2012, according to Alison Finlay, OHA's vice president and immediate past president. That's when guide Jane Powell, the Rockridge expert and Oakland author of books on renovating arts and crafts bungalows, passed away.

Past walks have highlighted the Fairview Park area, craftsman bungalow architecture, College Avenue, and the Chabot Road area. "We have some of the research (which she calls 'orphaned tours') that would be useful to prospective tour leaders," she said.

Anyone interested can contact Finlay either at (510) 599-2379 or email alisonfinlay@sbcglobal.net. For more information, see oaklandheritage.org. ■

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Construction Underway at Frog Park

— by Carol Behr, FROG Chair

A lot of work is going on behind the fenced area at Frog Park, located at the end of Hardy Street next to the dog park. If your children enjoy seeing bulldozers, sand piles and site-prep, come on down and see what's happening. We are pleased to announce more upgrades, and over the next three to four months, construction will be ongoing.

Contact info@frogpark.org with questions, or if you would like to volunteer. You can follow the construction process and park updates on Instagram at @FrogPark, or visit www.frogpark.org. ■

Coming soon to Frog Park:

- Toddler swings
- Two additional swings (one ADA compliant)
- A 3-way seesaw
- A climbing merry-go-round spinner
- New play surfacing
- One more bench
- Some landscaping rocks



FROG (Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt) was organized in 2001 and raised more than $100,000 from the community to create the greenbelt park.

Photo by Anna Marks

Rockridge News Seeks Block Captain Volunteer

Rockridge News has a brand new route in the area just west of Claremont that needs a Block Captain — just a couple of short blocks that would love to get The Rockridge News. Are you just that right person that lives nearby and would like to volunteer to be the Block Captain for our Route 22C2? The route covers the 500 block of Forest Street and the 500 block of Martin Street.

The newsletter is published the first weekend of each month, with the exception of August, and your route bundle will be delivered right to your doorstep. Call (510) 547-3855, or email Susan at smontauk@gmail.com to volunteer. ■

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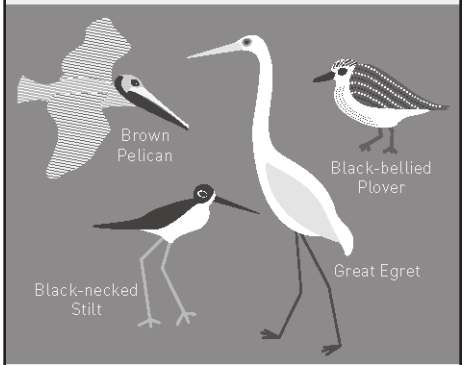
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Claremont Middle School Garden Yields More than Veggies

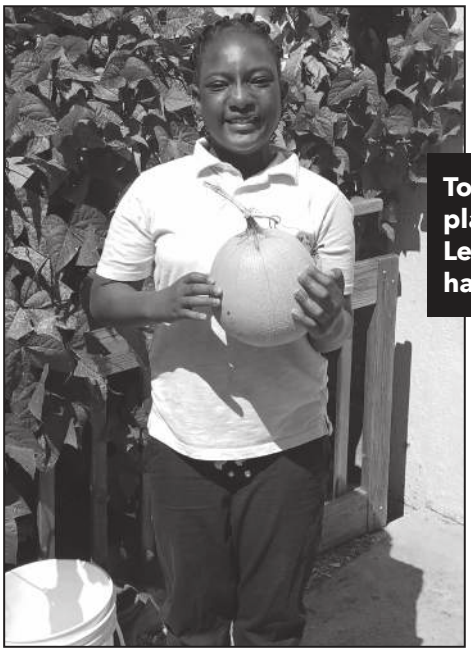
— by Rachel Hart M.S., Speech-Language Pathologist, Claremont Middle School

Last fall, students at Claremont Middle School Special Day Class planted vegetables, fruits and flowers in the garden outside of their classrooms at the end of the school year. Now back from Summer break, the students find themselves walking into a green space full of ripe-n-ready-to-pick produce.

All together, the students planted three varieties of pumpkin, tomatoes, zucchini, carrots, blackberry, sunflowers, artichoke, calendula, mint, borage, green beans and sage. One of the returning 8th grade students, Isaac, was so excited to see that his onion plant had reached over two feet in height, he exclaimed, "I want to name it Mr. Onion!" While another 8th grader, Yamni, smiled large when he saw a squash growing in the exact spot he had the buried seeds.



Photos by Rachel Hart



**Top: Rayna and Kylee plant carrots;
Left: Jayla with a freshly harvested pumpkin**

Many of the academic concepts the students are learning in their day-to-day curriculum can be applied to gardening and cooking. By the end of the school year, they will have had the opportunity to experience the whole process from soil-to-plate, and apply the insights and concepts they've learned from the classroom to the real world.

Last year, the garden had been unused and overgrown with weeds for as long as anyone at CMS could remember. High staff turnover and inconsistent resources made maintaining the garden a low priority over the years. It takes a certain amount of planning and commitment to maintain a garden, but seeing the children benefit from having such a beautiful space to food grow and practice functional skills makes it all worthwhile.

A special thanks to community members Frankie Juarbe, Tom Branca and Sukhjiven Dhesi for contributing time and resources to this project. Anyone interested in volunteering to help maintain the garden is welcome to contact Rachel Hart at rachel.hart@ousd.org. ■

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RN Classifieds

List your 36-word message here for only $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 next deadline is September 19th. The October issue will be out October 6th. For information: Email Susan Montauk at smontauk@gmail.com.

Penelope's Aesthetics presents "The Pillowcase"
A pillowcase that helps control sleep lines and moisture loss on sale now! Specially designed to not stretch or dehydrate skin, aiding nighttime rejuvenation from the stress of day. 510/594-1552. penelopecalef.com

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Sept + October Zen Retreat at Luxury Venue "The Land"
Ed Brown hosts students through meditation, Qi Gong, and more, with organic meals and luxury cabins among redwoods. Bob: 415/830-1478 or www.the-Land.us/coming-home.

NCPC Bids Farewell to Patricia Rose

— by Karen Ivy, RCPC Secretary

The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) bids a sad farewell to our long-serving Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Patricia Rose, who recently retired.

Rose accomplished a lot for the Greater Rockridge NCPC and the citizens it serves, and attended nearly all meetings – I can't remember her missing one. She publicized our bimonthly meetings, along with other local events of civic interest, to an email list composed of Neighborhood Watch block captains in Rockridge beats 12Y and 13X.

She notified us when local groups asked to address the NCPC meetings, which has brought us some very compelling, thought-provoking speakers. She also sent us notices of new active charitable solicitations in the area, as well as new applications for alcoholic beverage licenses.

In short, she did a lot of work on our behalf, and we appreciate her service and dedication. Clearly, we will miss her. We understand Neighborhood Services will be hiring her replacement, and we look forward to a new coordinator who will continue her good work. ■

COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS WITH COUNCILMEMBER KALB

Every first Saturday of the month, Councilmember Kalb offers Community Office Hours at rotating North Oakland cafes. Rockridge residents can sign up for a 20-minute slot by emailing Deidra Moss at dmoss@oaklandca.gov, or calling (510) 238-3557. Please include the topic of your inquiry or issue when you reserve a spot. The next available day is September 14, from 10am to noon.

When A Crime Occurs

If you see a crime in progress, call the police. Do not call 9-1-1. From a cell phone, call 777-3211 which routes directly to OPD dispatch. To report a crime that has already happened, call the non-emergency number at 777-3333, or fill in OPD's Online Crime Reporting form at www.oaklandca.gov/services/report-a-crime-online. If you do need to call 9-1-1, be sure to only use a landline.

Use these numbers to send OPD an Anonymous Tip:

Crime Stoppers of Oakland:	(510) 777-8572
Homicide / Robbery Tip line:	(510) 238-7950
OPD Sexual Assault Hotline:	(510) 637-0298



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

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.

- **Chess Club**: Learn the basics; Instruction and chess sets provided. Best for ages 6 to 14 (all ages welcome). Fridays 3–4pm.
- **Paws to Read:** Sandy's dog Scout loves to listen when kids practice reading aloud. You pick the book. All ages welcome. Thursdays, 3:30–4:30pm.
- **Mix It Up Family Game Nights:** All ages; bring your favorite game or try one of ours. Get to know other families. 1st, 3rd, & 4th Tues evenings, 6:30–7:45pm.

Family Craft Night: 2nd Tues evening each month. 6:30–7:45pm. 9/10; Robot Puppets. 10/8; Papel Picado.

FOR TEENS

- **TeenScape:** play video games, table top games, crafts, and general after-school fun. Weekdays, 3:30pm–5pm **(Wednesdays 1:30pm–5pm)**.
- **DIY Stickers:** Make stickers. Wed, 9/18, 3pm.
- **Super Smash Bros. Preliminary Tournament:** Wed, Oct 2, 3pm. **The top two finalists will receive preliminary prizes and will get a chance to compete in the Final Tournament on Oct 12 at the Main Library's TeenZone.**

FOR ADULTS

- **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: 510-420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Conscious Aging; Fall Workshop Series:** interactive workshop series explores ways of living a vital and engaged second half of life. Mondays, Sept 16 & 30, Oct 14 & 28, 10:30am–12:30pm. Facilitator **Janet Elaine Piggins**: worked in gerontology, aging, and hospice. Each session will focus on a different topic. Attend one or all workshops. No registration required.
- **Learn to Create a Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Your Garden:** Presented by Alameda County Master Gardeners. Attendees will receive free milkweed plants and planting instructions. Sat, Oct 12, 11am–12pm.

UPSTAIRS ART GALLERY:

September: Paintings by **Darril Tighe**.

LIBRARY HOURS:
Mon, Thurs & Sat: 10am to 5:30pm.
Tues, Wed: 12:30 to 8pm.
Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sun; also, Mon 9/9.

East Bay Booksellers Book/Poetry Readings

FREE and open to the public.

- Tues, 9/10, 7pm. **Carolyn Jung**: *East Bay Cooks: Signature Recipes from the Best Restaurants, Bars, and Bakeries.*
- Thurs, 9/12, 7pm. **Marika Lindholm** and **Cheryl Dumesnil**: *We Got This: Solo Mom Stories of Grit, Heart, and Humor.*
- Sun, 9/15, 4pm. **Matthew Zapruder**: new poetry collection; *Father's Day*.
- Tues, 9/17, 7pm. **Sofia Grant**: *Lies in White Dresses* and **R. H. Herron**: *Stolen Things.*
- Wed, 9/18, 7pm. **Sarah Broom**: *The Yellow House: A Memoir.*
- Sun, 9/22, 3pm. **Poetry Flash: Jeffrey Thomas Leung**: *Wild Geese Sorrow: The Chinese Wall Inscriptions at Angel Island*, and **Brian Komei Dempster**: *Topaz.*
- Tues, 9/24, 7pm. **Maria Tumarkin**: *Axiomatic.* In conversation with **Ismail Muhammad**.
- Wed, 9/25, 7pm. **Nancy Au**: *Spider Love Song and Other Stories*; joined by **Natasha Dennerstein**, **Tomas Moniz**, **Kimberly Gomes**, and **Carson Beker**.
- Thurs, 9/26, 7pm. Local author **J. D. Moyer**: *The Guardian.*
- Tues, 10/1, 7pm. Local author **Jasmine Guillory**: *Royal Holiday*.

East Bay Booksellers, 5433 College Ave. More info abt. the authors, books and other events: 510-653-9965 or info@ebbooksellers.com.

Book Signing, Tastings, and Conversations

Allison Arevalo presents her new cookbook, *THE PASTA FRIDAY COOKBOOK: Let's Eat Together*, joined by the culinary team at Market Hall Foods. Sample recipes from the book; learn when and why to use fresh or dried pasta and how to sauce. Sat, Sept 28, 2 to 4pm.
Market Hall Foods at Rockridge Market Hall, 5655 College Ave. More info: 510-250-6005 or rockridgemarkethall.com.

Wisteria Ways House Concerts

*****New World String Project: Sun, Sept 22, 3pm** (house opens 2:15pm). Celtic, Nordic & American Folk Traditions. **Aryeh Frankfurter**, **Lisa Lynne**, **Stuart Mason** and **John Weed**. See and hear samples at newworldstringproject.com.
Outside venue; yard, not portapotty, is wheelchair accessible. (Bring: something to sit on—blanket or lawn chairs; hat, sunscreen and a picnic.)
*****Cindy Kallet and Grey Larsen: Sun, Oct 6, 2:30pm.** Original songs, traditional Irish music, Scandinavian fiddle duets, old-time fiddle and guitar tunes from southern Indiana, and new music that Cindy and Grey are inventing together. See and hear samples at kalletlarsen.com. Inside venue: not wheelchair accessible.
$20–25 donations for musicians (cash only, at the door). 383 61st Street. More info and reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 510-698-2456.

Bambino Thrift Shop's Semi-annual Clearance Sale

Fundraiser for UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. Begins Sat, Sept 14 thru 19, with 50% off store wide (some exceptions). On Friday, Sept 20, clearance sale items will be 75% off. Sat, Sept 21, the sale concludes with a bag sale—purchase as many bags as you want for $5 each and fill each (shop provided) bag with as much clothing, shoes, purses, belts and scarves as you can fit in. Regular hrs. Tues thru Fri, 10am–3pm; Saturdays, noon to 4pm **(exception: Sat, Sept 21 sale day, open noon to 3pm). No donations will be accepted on sale days** but donations of clothing, household items, books, records jewelry and more are gratefully accepted any Tues, Wed, and Sat. 5290 College Ave: more info at 510-658-7473 or bambinothriftshop.com.

North Oakland Senior Center

5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way
Mon–Fri, 9am–4:30pm. **Programs include:** Arts/crafts; health counseling; dancing and exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's support groups, computer classes/more.

- **Voter Registration**, Wed, Oct 2nd, 10am–Noon. **Check out new voting machines on display.**
- **Drug Collection Bin now available in the Center.** Put your old medications in a plastic baggie to dispose safely. Do not flush or pour down the drain. Sponsored by EBMUD.

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 510-597-5085.

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.

No NCPC Meeting in September

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