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Chabot Elementary Hosts Fall Carnival

— by Lara Coffin

The Chabot Elementary Fall Carnival has been a Rockridge tradition for years. Although the event is a fundraiser for Chabot Elementary School, all residents and neighbors are welcome to join in the fun and festivities. As always, admission is free.



Photo: Sara Pietras Photograhy

Carnival offers fun for kids of all ages.

The event will be held Sunday, October 20, 11am-3 pm, on the school campus at 6686 Chabot Road. Attendees will enjoy a family lunch provided by the Dad's Club, offering a new expanded menu with vegetarian and gluten-free options in addition to their famous pulled-pork

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Grassroots Group Mobilizes Community

— by Judith Doner Berne

For years, they have worked half a block away from one another on College Avenue within sight of California College of the Arts (CCA). Still, architect Kirk Peterson and game designer Nicole Lazzaro had never met.

eyes on Rockridge

That changed after Lazzaro stood up at a community meeting held by Emerald Fund and Equity Community Builders, and questioned their development plans for the historic four-acre property that CCA is vacating.

Eyes on Rockridge, page 8

No Tricks, Only Treats at The Rockridge Halloween Parade

— Submitted by RCPC

Continuing our neighborhood's great, ghoulish tradition, the Rockridge District Association (RDA) and the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) invite you to celebrate Halloween on College Avenue. On Sunday, October 27, from noon-2pm, participating merchants will host trick-or-treating along both sides of College Avenue, from Alcatraz to Broadway.

To join the costumed procession, meet at Halloween Central in front of the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue. At noon, we'll kick off trick-or-treating, leading the first group along the avenue.



At 1pm, return to Halloween Central for spooky storytelling and silly, scary sing-alongs. A storyteller from the Storytelling Association of California will spin Halloween yarns in front of the church, and a singer will serenade the crowds.

Join this holiday fun for kids of all ages, rain or shine. ■



Participants in last year's parade enjoyed meeting College Avenue merchants.

Photos: Don Kinkead

Claremont Auction Makes A Bid for Donations

— by Michelle Quinn

Local donations have historically helped bridge the gap in funding shortfalls for local public schools. This year is no different, and the Claremont Middle School invites the community to contribute to their online auction and annual PTA fundraiser. With the theme "Heroes and Villains," the fundraiser runs from October 10 through October 23, and is open to all.



Photo: Claremont Middle School

Come to the Heroes and Villians party on October 26 in Temescal.

The community is also invited to the school's auction party on October 26, which will be held at the Temescal Works neighborhood co-working space, 490 43rd Street.

Rockridge and Temescal merchants have already generously donated to this year's auction. Included among the many restaurant and merchant gift certificates to bid on, the Claremont auction will offer a plethora of tickets to the San Francisco Ballet and Symphony, outings for children, and getaways in Tahoe. There will also be tickets to see the A's and rapper Post Malone at Oracle; tickets to a suite at a Raiders' game; and signed memorabilia for the San Jose Sharks, Giants, Warriors, A's, and Post Malone. A Kona UTE cargo bike, generously donated by Tip Top Bike Shop, will also be available for bids.

"The great thing about Claremont is the wonderful teachers and the excellent academic and elective classes — and the auction supports all that," said Caroline Stern, a parent at Claremont Middle School and the auction chair. "It's a community effort to keep our schools thriving. We can't do it without the community."

Under the leadership of Principal Jonathan Mayer, Claremont has become a sought-after middle school with a waiting list. A big part of its success has been the efforts of the PTA, which raises more than $200,000 annually for the school. Claremont is the only school in Oakland named as a California Distinguished School in 2019 by the State Department of Education.

There is no charge to take part. To find out more, please contact auction@claremontms.org, or visit https://claremontms.schoolauction.net/auction2019/. ■

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Articles and letters submitted for publication may be emailed to the editor or sent to the address above. Submissions are limited to 600 words, must include the author's name, phone number, email address, and city or neighborhood of residence, and are subject to editing for clarity and brevity at the editor's discretion and without notice to the submitter.

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Newsletter advertising deadline for November's issue is October 17.

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.)

Rockridge Community Planning Council Land Use Committee

The next Land Use Committee meeting will be on Wed., October 23, at 7:30pm at the Rockridge Branch Library. The agenda will include updates on the CCA campus redevelopment proposal, use of Safeway settlement funds, Shops at the Ridge Phase II, and the Rockridge Housing Study. Please check on https://rockridge.org one week prior to confirm meeting's date, time, and place.

RCPC Land Use Committee Update – October 2019

California College of the Arts Campus Redevelopment Proposal

(5200/5276 Broadway, between College Avenue and Broadway Terrace)

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) needs to be prepared to study this large project's environmental effects, and the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing (postponed from several weeks ago) on Wednesday, October 16, at 6pm, at City Hall, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, to consider what environmental factors should be studied before this project can proceed. The community is encouraged to participate and help the Commission determine the depth and breadth of community concerns.

RCPC submitted a scoping comment letter, and both the scoping letter and pre-application documents downloaded from the City website have been posted online at: https://rockridge.org/news/california-college-art-redevelopment-pre-application-documents-available-line.

Shops at the Ridge Shopping Center

(5100 Broadway)

Formerly known as the Rockridge Shopping Center, this project was approved by the City in 2013 as a two-phase project. Phase I, which included a new Safeway, a single-story commercial "strip mall" section and a new Chase Bank building, was completed in 2016. Phase II was delayed because asbestos was discovered covering the cables that were holding up the former bank's roof structure. It was not until the spring of 2019 that the building's demolition was completed. At that point, however, "bricks and mortar" retail projects had lost favor in the development community.

The current developer, TRC Inc. of Newport beach, concluded after further study, that a mixed-use retail, office, residential project made the most sense. However, the property's owner, a family

Land Use Committee, page 6

Coming Soon, But Not That Soon

— by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee Chair

It's hard to miss RadUrban's large crane looming over the construction site on Telegraph between 51st St. and Claremont Ave., but if you've passed by lately, you may wonder what's happening.

The project at 5110 Telegraph (no name on the signs yet) will include 204 residential units — making it the biggest approved residential project in the Rockridge area. It is also the first project in Rockridge to use the state's Density Bonus law. By offering 17 very-low-income units (3 studios, 8 one-bedroom units, and 6 two-bedroom units), it is allowed by law to add an additional 35 percent density (53 extra units). The Density Bonus also allowed the building to exceed the normal height limit (65 feet) by one story. In addition, there will be roof greenhouses for a commercial gardening operation.

According to Project Manager Brian Caruso, the modular unit installation will be completed by November, with substantial completion of the residential portions by June 2020, and leasing within a month or two after that. The commercial spaces and the roof gardens have their own construction schedule, and according to Caruso, will likely take considerably longer.

The building has reached its full height — except for the rooftop greenhouses — and its frontage along Telegraph Ave. is looking more like a finished building. The backside of the project however, with townhouse apartments on Clarke Street, has yet to be built. Ditto for the first floor commercial spaces, which will include an Amazon/Whole Foods store, so Rockridge's Whole Food addicts will have to wait a bit longer for its local store to open. ■



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Dear Diary Art Show Series

— by Caroline Stern

Rockridge-based Deco Art, located at 5495 Claremont Ave., will host the first show in a series by the local artist collective Dear Diary titled "Oakland Playground Edition" on November 1, from 6-9pm.

What did we lose and what did we gain by trading in handwritten notes for emoji-filled commentary? How did the ways in which we used to communicate, and the aesthetics that came with it, influence our interactions with technology today? This show attempts to answer these questions through what may be the last generation of artists who feel nostalgic for a time pre-widespread social media.

Also this month, Deco Art will host an interactive book-making workshop on October 18, from 5-8pm, which aims to create a dialogue about art spaces and art making in North Oakland.

For more information about these events, visit Carolinestern.com. ■

East Bay Mini Maker Faire Celebrates 10 Years of Creativity

— by Chris Miller

Celebrate a decade of joy at the 10th annual East Bay Mini Maker Faire on the campus of Park Day School in Temescal, on Sunday, October 27. The day-long faire is a giant family-friendly festival featuring rockets and robots, digital fabrication, DIY science and technology, urban farming, alternative energy, hand-made crafts, live music, and local food. It's a blast and you won't want to miss it.

Fun and interesting exhibits, activities, and creations will spark joy in attendees of all ages and backgrounds, and each of the Makers will be thrilled to provide you with a memorable hands-on experience. They love sharing and going deeper about what inspires them, how they do what they do, and how you can do it too.

Learn about Artificial Intelligence in a hands-on workshop; meet the man who won the Paper Airplane World Record; enjoy a presentation on simple home coffee roasting; explore a real shanty boat and talk about the Secret History of American River People; and hear the Grammy-nominated Alphabet Rockers at the performance stage.

Marianne Mah, 12, has been attending the East Bay Mini Maker Faire for several years and finds something new each time. "It never gets boring. The time goes by so fast and at the end of the day I always wish there was more time. I think if someone hasn't gone before, they really should because it's going to be better than they expected."

Peter Bristol, 12, remembers being

Mini Maker Faire, page 11



Young Maker learns how to print a silk-screen t-shirt.

Photo on file



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Letter to the Editor

Our Public Schools Are Not for Sale

Dear Editor:

The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) school board has an agenda that does not align with teachers, parents and students. They have a blueprint plan to close more than 24 of our public schools across Oakland.

For example, they voted to close one of our District 1 schools, Kaiser Elementary, a few weeks ago — a high performing school with 70 percent children of color, and a wait list serving youth from across Oakland (leaving that particular North Oakland Hills neighborhood without any public gathering space especially in times of emergency such as a fire or earthquake). The board members are not forthcoming with their plans for the site.

Our District 1 school board member supports the agenda to close schools and has acted on it at every opportunity. They say it's not about resources, yet our classrooms rank near the bottom of the state for allocation of resources, even when they are allocated.

The school board's response to the 2019 Grand Jury Report describing the OUSD culture as broken, populated with nepotism, no-bid contracts, and gross fiscal mismanagement wasting millions is to shrug it off and say that they're doing their job by closing schools.

They throw salt into our wounds as they say it's not in their jurisdiction, yet have conversations behind closed doors that shutter our schools. They are not representing their constituents.

Our public schools belong to everyone. Please join us as we work to Save Our Schools. Come to school board meetings. SOS.

— Caroline Stern

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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

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Library program details/hours: Calendar, page 15

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Carnival

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sandwiches, hot dogs and pizza.

Attendees may also want to satisfy that sweet tooth by grabbing a treat from the Benefit Bake Sale or candy giveaways at the DJ/Dancing booth. To burn off some of those calories, the carnival offers a variety of games for kids of all ages — plan on winning some prizes by testing your bravery on the Jumpy Slide and decorating pumpkins and sugar skulls. There will be free balloon animals and an inflatable slide.

Don't miss the dance lesson at 12:30pm, followed by great music with live DJs, and costume and dance contests. Rockridge resident (and Chabot dad) Paul Erskine will be bringing back the amazing Wobbly Toggle Puppet Show for its third year with two performances, at noon and 2pm, in the library.

Special thanks to the event sponsors for supporting the Chabot community: Maxi Lilley at Red Oak Realty; Hope Broderick at The Grubb Co.; Adventure Time; 1st United Credit Union; MPR Financial; Piedmont Dental by Design; and Yovino-Young, Inc.

All proceeds benefit the Chabot Elementary PTA and its fund-enrichment programs including the library, music, art, science, Spanish, the garden, as well as numerous after-school programs and help in the classrooms.

For more info contact Lara Coffin at laracoffin@gmail.com. ■

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Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate

Bake Your Own Bagels in Rockridge

— by Anna L. Marks

It used to be difficult to find good bagels in the Bay Area, but fortunately that is no longer the case. Many local entrepreneurs took it upon themselves to make sure finding a good bagel here is easy, and over the years, several bagel bakeries have found a home in Rockridge. This includes the soon-to-be-open Boichik Bagels, which, if all goes well with construction and permitting, will open later this month at College and Alcatraz in the original Noah's location.

Of course, buying a bagel is much easier than making one, but that only encouraged Rockridge resident, Laurie Leiber, to open up her home to bagel-making workshops for those wanting to take the leap and bake their own. When asked why she thought her workshop was popular, Leiber said that people feel so passionately about bagels.

"No one is neutral about what a good bagel should be, but preferences vary tremendously. One student met his new partner because he posted pictures of his homemade bagels on his dating profile. Another student brought her mother to the class when she was visiting because she could not find bagels at her home in India."



Leiber's students discover the tips and tricks of bagel making.

Photo: Laurie Leiber

The traditional way to make bagels involves boiling them in water (sometimes the water is sweetened) and then baking them in a wood-fired oven. Leiber adapted her recipe from one she found in Nancy Silverton's *Breads of La Brea Bakery*.

"The key is the starter, and time. Great bagels take three days, although most of that time you are doing nothing while the dough ferments. I have also taught workshops on how to make lox, hamantashen, crackers and crisps, hummus, and matzo ball soup. I'd love to teach more, but I've also got a thriving Pilates practice and there are only so many hours in the day."

Her hands-on workshop can fit up to six students in her kitchen for a fee of $85 per person. She prepares ahead, so the 3-day process can be compressed to a 3-hour time slot. All participants leave with bagels in hand, some of them to be boiled and baked the next day, and a starter that they can use on their own to make even more.

"We usually make poppy seed, sesame, and my Oaklandish mix (poppy, sesame, and fennel seeds). Onion can happen, but it adds an extra step so I play it by ear. No blueberry, sorry… not sorry. My favorite moment is when we take the bagels out of the oven and everyone says 'Ahhh' when they see them."

Most of Leiber's workshops are offered through Airbnb Experiences, and you can find her schedule online at www.bakeyourownamazingbagels.com. ■

Land Use Committee

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company established by the late Alvin B. Chan of San Francisco, was (and remains) adamantly opposed to allowing residential use at the site.

At present, the situation appears stalemated and the site has become an eyesore. The committee voted unanimously (6-0) to recommend that the RCPC send a letter to the City to have this condition remedied.

The next Land Use Committee meeting will be on Wed., October 23, at 7:30pm at the Rockridge Branch Library. The agenda will include updates on the CCA campus redevelopment proposal, use of Safeway settlement funds, Shops at the Ridge Phase II, and the Rockridge Housing Study. Please check on https://rockridge.org one week prior to confirm meeting's date, time, and place. ■

Scenic Streets of Oakland

Who'll Start the Rain?

— by Robert Firehock

As summer fades and days shorten, the Scenic Streets landscapers cast our eyes longingly at the coming "wet season." Originally conceived with extensive irrigation infrastructure (including Caltrans legacy piping and installed drip systems), community plans to beautify the Hwy 24 on- and off-ramps ran smack into the drought years.



Photo: Robert Firehock

Scenic Streets volunteers make the highway ramps beautiful.

So, a reset was called, and we began to turn our focus to drought tolerance while fighting to preserve much of what had been already planted. Over the last several years we've managed to cut our losses, and have transitioned gradually to more hardy plantings that won't rely on piped water. You may have seen us hauling water jugs from time to time, which we do in small batches to get new plants established.

And this brings us back to the anticipation of rain. A good year will allow us to establish a new round of planting with minimal watering. We've learned to temper our ambition and focus on sustainability. When the ground softens and gray skies beckon, look for a few new spots of green as we continue to add a bit of color and variety to the ramp experience.

If you'd like to be a part of making your neighborhood a bit nicer, and have a couple of hours a month to devote to that, please join us. Get in touch with Lee at lee.scenicstreetsoakland@gmail.com. ■

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Eyes on Rockridge

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Then, "several people came by including Kirk Peterson."

Peterson, who was born in Oakland, has headed his architectural firm, Kirk E. Peterson & Associates, from a storefront at 5253 College for 25 years. He is currently in the process of building his home directly behind it. And, as a former member of the city's Landmark Preservation Advisory Board, "I've been working with Oakland for decades. This (the CCA development) could be a model, not just a dumb project."

Lazzaro, who said "I grew up all over the place" including Iran for five years, started XEO Design 26 years ago out of her former Rockridge apartment. As she became nationally and internationally known, she moved the business to her current second floor suite at 5273 College Avenue.

The two launched a grassroots steering committee — Upper Broadway Advocates (UBA) — made up of a dozen or so people, most of whom didn't know one another. After hours of deliberation, they came up with the following mission:

- Promote neighborhood evolution that is a model of beauty, sustainability, affordability and density;
- Aspire to reflect the diversity of Oakland and the character of Rockridge;
- Pursue a substantial increase in affordable housing;
- Focus initially on redevelopment of the CCA Campus and surroundings;
- Continue the artistic heritage of the site and trees.

Nearly 200 people turned up at UBA's two July meetings to discuss the proposed development, details of which can be seen at www.5212broadway.com. Although opinions differed, a survey showed most concerns centered on traffic including access by fire and police; aesthetics; insufficient affordable housing; and spot re-zoning that could increase density and encourage more extreme height buildings.



Photos: Judy Berne

Residents packed a pair of meetings at the Rockridge Library to evaluate the proposed CCA development.

"I loved the energy in the room, the process of creating a solution in concert with the city and developers," Lazzaro told me when we met in her technology and toy-steeped offices. For her, the CCA site itself reflects Oakland.

"The redwoods, the eucalyptus, the hills — it was the center of the California Arts and Crafts movement. We're not trying to block its development. We want to help create an Oakland that works for everyone," said Lazzaro.

To illustrate how the new development will look from various angles and views within Rockridge, she photoshopped images into the proposed plan — particularly the 19-story glass and steel residential tower. Those, and other details, are available on the UBAOakland.org website. "More communication about the project is important to the community," she said.

Here are written snapshots of the other neighbors on the UBA steering committee:

Helen Brainerd: Retired art teacher, 25 years in Rockridge. "I got involved with UBA through Kirk Peterson, who I have known for many years. My wife Abby (Pollak) and I have always been active in our neighborhood. As an art teacher at Piedmont High School, I sent many students to CCA…and I took continuing education evening classes there for many years. Thus, I am

Eyes on Rockridge, next page

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especially sad to see the campus and its many resources leave Oakland."

Janis Brewer: Former nonprofit manager, works for affordable housing architect, 22 years in Rockridge.

"I got involved with UBA because we should demand more from our City when it comes to development. We need more affordable housing, not luxury housing. The CCA site has cultural significance that must be preserved and honored. We can do better than what the developers are offering. UBA is a great catalyst for collective impact."

Nicole Chapman: Architect, works at Peterson's firm, 18 years living in Rockridge.

"As an architect, I believe in thoughtfully modifying zoning ordinances to increase density in the communities surrounding San Francisco. But I am vehemently opposed to the idea that a tower in the middle of a one- and two-story residential district is thoughtful urban planning… There is no area-specific plan for North Oakland. It is time to do one. It's not in Oakland's best interest to react to the wishes of one developer and one property owner. Oakland must guide its own future."

Leslie Correll: Artist, 20 years on Pleasant Valley Ave.

"My parents bought the home I live in now in 1972 so my artist father could have a bigger art studio and be near CCA, an art supply store, and a community rich with other artists. I even had an exhibition of my own artwork there in the Isabel Percy West Gallery. I inherited the house, but also their activism in social justice and community issues. As I have watched prices soar and diversity dwindle around me, it seems only natural to be out championing affordable housing, eco-construction — and good design."

Joe Johnston: Retired, 20 years on Pleasant Valley Ave.

"I was introduced to UBA by an acquaintance, Nicole Lazzaro, whom I met at the meeting about the CCA project sponsored by the developers at Oakland Tech. I'm opposing this project because of the proposed 19-story tower, which I believe would be a better fit downtown."

Jennifer McElrath: Entrepreneur, 18 years in Rockridge.

"The CCA site is an urban gem. If we can't have a community art center like the Palo Alto Art Center, or the Marin Museum of Contemporary Art, can we at least have residential development that doesn't desecrate the site, especially since there's plenty of room on the adjacent empty lot (half-vacant shopping center) to build tons of dense, affordable housing? Partly what makes denser and taller development work in European cities are the open plazas and parks every few blocks. With city planning we can have it all."

Nancy Morton: Retired, 25 years in Rockridge.

"I learned from my parents the importance of community service/involvement and found Rockridge an easy place to get involved. The seeming absence of planning in Oakland has been a craw in my jaw as Rockridge morphs with time. Horrible roads, ridiculous roundabouts, traffic, unexecuted development of Safeway site (Broadway at Pleasant Valley), all steered me to UBA."



Kirk Peterson and Nicole Lazzaro are working to promote more thoughtful development of the California College of the Arts site.

Abby Pollak: Retired professor and translator, 25 years in Rockridge.

"I'm the de-facto organizer of the Rockridge Boulevard Neighborhood Association. I saw Kirk Peterson's query on Nextdoor, and joined the team at our first meeting. Oakland needs a development plan that includes increased affordable housing, traffic and safety ameliorations, preservation of green spaces, etc., so the CCA redevelopment issue seemed the perfect segue."

Kurt Scherer: Business consultant, 16 years in Rockridge.

"I got involved because I think local residents should have input on projects that impact the neighborhood. The Oakland Planning Commission is approving every McHighrise before their board. I think Rockridge residents need to wake up to the fact that developers, politicians, and groups supporting growth are ready to put up large, ugly towers that will clog streets with traffic, make parking impossible, and ruin the beauty of the neighborhood."

Speaking to the dedication and skill sets of each of the ad hoc group's members, Peterson said, "They are amazing. I throw balls in the air — and sometimes they're caught." ■

To comment on this column, or make suggestions for a future column pertinent to Rockridge, please email judyberne@att.net.

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Rockridge Out & About
Was All That... And More





Hundreds of neighbors and friends turned out for last month's annual Rockridge street fair to enjoy music, food and local merchant offerings.

Photos: Andrew Zhou Photography







Puppy Playground Gets A Makeover

— by Linda Zunas

Hardy Dog Park volunteers took most of the summer off from the monthly park cleanups, so a big event was held on Saturday, September 21 to unite with thousands of others around the Bay Area to participate in Coastal Cleanup Day and Battle of the Bay.

Volunteers cleaned the park, refilled bag dispensers, collected toys, and pressure-washed the concrete and green Astroturf. Volunteers also began building new bag collection bins for both entrances.

How can you help? Community members are encouraged to donate empty newspaper bags (please, due to rodents, no bags that held any food) or drop by the park with your old tennis balls.

Join other volunteers and help clean the park on the first Saturday of every month at 9am. When you drop by with your dog, help take donated bags and refill the dispensers, pick up poop and tell others about your neighborhood Hardy Dog Park Group.

For more information, email HardyDogPark@yahoo.com. ■

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Strong Rockridge September Market

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
9/4/2019	3	1	5587 Lawton Ave	$1,050,000	$1,050,000	7	$1,650,000
9/6/2019	3	2	5231 Coronado Ave	$1,195,000	$1,195,000	14	$1,400,000
9/6/2019	3	2.5	5370 Miles Ave	$1,325,000	$1,325,000	7	$1,800,000
9/6/2019	3	2	5524 Lawton Ave	$1,449,000	$1,449,000	14	$2,006,014
9/13/2019	1	1	320 51st St	$625,000	$625,000	14	$650,000
9/23/2019	1	1	475 McAuley Street	$595,000	$595,000	5	$635,000
9/24/2019	3	2	5832 Presley Way	$2,395,000	$2,395,000	37	$2,200,000

Homes sold in September closed 20% over the asking price on average.

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Support Rockridge—Join the RCPC Board

— by Leonora Sea, RCPC Chair

The Rockridge Community Planning Council is looking for community members to join its Board of Directors and help further RCPC's mission to "preserve and enhance the unique character of Rockridge, and to promote health, safety and quality of life for its residents." Due to board term limits and members relocating away from Rockridge, several board positions are open.

Serving on one of the 12 seats on the board is an opportunity to work closely with neighbors who bring to bear a wide array of professional and other expertise. The board is specifically looking for new members who would like to take the lead on special projects.

RCPC focuses its efforts through ongoing committees (Land Use, Transportation, and Schools) and special projects, such as the Kevin Faughnan Memorial Community Grants program; and was instrumental in the creation of FROG Park, and support for the construction and enhancement of the Rockridge Library.

Board members are required to attend monthly board meetings as well as some volunteer time. To serve on the board, one must live in Rockridge, and be 18 years or older. For more information, please send an email to: chair@rockridge.org. ■

Mini Maker Faire

from page 4

a little skeptical at first, but ended up enjoying the day. "I saw a lot of things that were homemade — archery, a spiny ride, you could make your own oils that smell good — all pretty cool stuff. [The faire] broadens your creativity and allows you to think in different ways."

The East Bay Mini Maker Faire allows you to engage as much or as little as you want. If you just want to look around, grab a bite from the on-site food truck court and see performances, you'll have a great time. Or if you want to be more hands-on and sew something, or screen-print something, or build something, you can do that too. You'll come away with a sense of wonder and possibility, and explore the idea that each and every one of us is a Maker.

Park Day School is located at 360 42nd Street. Tickets are on sale now at Eventbrite. Advanced tickets are $19 for adults; $15 for children, students and seniors. Tickets will cost a bit more at the door ($23/$18), so all are encouraged to buy tickets in advance at https://eastbay.makerfaire.com/. ■



Faire attendee learns how to navigate a laser maze.

Photo on file

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Redwood Mural at Martin & Ayala Draws A Crowd

—by Gabe Kleinman

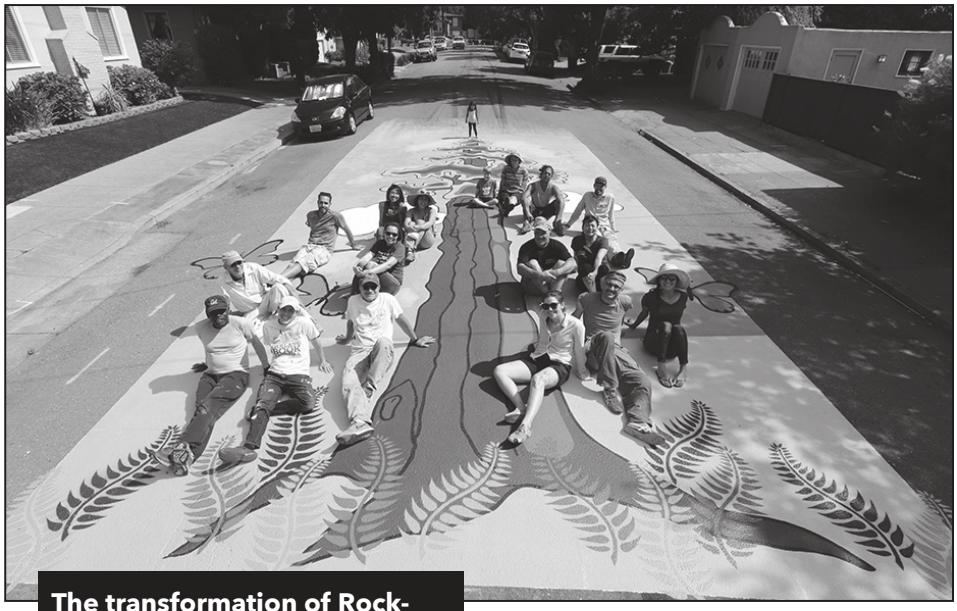
Building on the success of last year's project at the corner of Hermann St. & Ayala Ave., the creative team behind "The Oaks" mural came together once again to take on a busier intersection in the neighborhood: the infamous Martin Avenue cut-through between Claremont and Telegraph.

The mural was the second of two projects, both of which were funded with support from the RCPC's Kevin Faughnan Memorial Community Grant program. Whereas the first mural at Hermann and Ayala features oak trees and California poppies, this new mural brought to life redwoods, butterflies, and streams.

Led once again by Andy Waggoner, project leads Molly Dickens, her father Harry, and operations guru Erin Lehnert, this scrappy team of Rockridge residents made it all happen — working with OAKDOT's Paint the Town team, raising money, and galvanizing more than 50 residents over the course of two days.

In a happy coincidence, The Rockridge Kitchen Tour led guests through this same neighborhood where they could see first-hand volunteers painting the mural on the street surface that transformed the concrete slab into a traffic-easing tapestry.

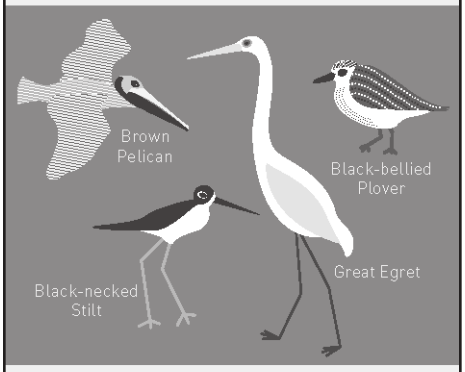
It's an incredible community, folks. ■



The transformation of Rockridge's southwest gateway continued this September with another brilliant mural project.

Photo: Courtesy of a local volunteer

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Local Business Raises Money for Women With Cancer

– by Anna L. Marks

This month, Rockridge-based clothing company In Full Swing, located at 5937 College Ave., will be donating two percent of all in-store sales to the Women's Cancer Resource Center as part of October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month and their "All-In for Women with Cancer" outreach program.

Sharon Silverstein opened the store in 1993 after moving from Union Square in San Francisco, and offers a wide range of independent designer collections and many popular brands for plus-sized women. Learn more at www.wcrc.org, and www.infullswing.com. ■

Kitchen Tour Offers Insights into Innovative Remodels

— by Leonora Sea, Rockridge Kitchen Tour Chair

Fortune favors the bold, and it's a bold idea to open nine kitchens to more than 250 guests over one September Sunday afternoon. For the 13th time, the 2019 Rockridge Kitchen Tour did just that — with delightful results.



Photo: Anna L. Marks

The Kitchen Tour is the principal fundraiser for the Rockridge Community Planning Council, and an exceptional community-building event that brings together homeowners, neighbors, architects, builders, artisans, and tour guests to celebrate neighborhood kitchens, homes, food, and friends.

The weather couldn't have been more perfect, and to quote Annette Floystrup, one of the two Kitchen Tour brochure writers (the other being Meredith Kaplan), "I've been really happy to see renovations in modest price ranges and real sensitivity to the architecture of the houses; and these really are cook's kitchens."

New to this year's tour were two garden cottages, also known as accessory dwelling units (ADUs), with one of them featured as the full-house tour, to show how it's possible to create a fabulous and functional kitchen in a small space. Several kitchens were part of larger remodels that improved the interior of the houses for 21st century living, while leaving the exteriors still in touch with their early 20th century roots.

The Kitchen Tour Committee would like very much to thank everyone who made the 2019 Rockridge Kitchen Tour possible — homeowners; architects; contractors; designers; artisans; our site visit team; our interviewers; the docents; and the tour guests.

We'd like to thank Valerie Knight, who designed the charming Kitchen Tour logo, banners, posters, postcards, and brochure.

Thanks also to our sponsors: Daniel Stea; Maxi Lilley; Fremont Bank; and Merrill Gardens. And, no tour would be complete without the delicious cookies donated by Semifreddis — thank you so much to Michael Rose and the Semifreddis' team.

Last, but certainly not least, thanks to the tired but also tireless Kitchen Tour Committee: Ronnie Spitzer, my Co-Chair; Robin McDonnell, Site Visit Team and Docent Coordinator; and Tina Chen-Chardonnet, Site Visit Team (and Kitchen Tour homeowner — how amazing is that?). See you in 2021. ■

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NCPC Crime Report Update

— by Karen Ivy, NCPC Secretary

As secretary of the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), I've been publishing reports on crime in beats 12Y and 13X, which include most of Rockridge.

The classification system we use was developed some years ago by a former NCPC chairman Frank Castro, and includes five categories: Crimes Against the Person; Property Crimes; Property Crimes–Auto; Quality of Life; and Other.

Unfortunately, both Crimes Against the Person and Quality of Life Crimes are up. In August 2019, beat 12Y reported 19 instances of Crimes Against the Person, which indicate that these are currently at the highest level when compared to five previous years of reporting. Quality of Life Crimes include vandalism, graffiti, some types of property damage, disturbing the peace, DUI, public drunkenness, selling liquor to a minor, and drug dealing. Quality of Life Crime increase was almost entirely vandalism.

Crimes Against the Person more than doubled (eight in July, 19 in August), with no focus on any single type of crime. These include any crime in which a victim is involved. Examples include assault (including sexual), battery, robbery (with or without a firearm), threats with the intent to terrorize, grand theft from the person, and domestic violence.

Crime in 13X rose slightly except for auto-related crime (1 in July, 6 in August). Property Crimes in 12Y are down by roughly half a dozen incidents from July's numbers.

Of course, numbers don't reveal the hardships these crimes create for victims who have to pay the emotional and financial costs for replacing car windows, car parts, personal electronics, or other possessions. It's on all of us to be aware of our surroundings, and inform police of any illegal activities.

All of the crime reports can be found at https://tinyurl.com/y28rmr87. ■

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

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 October 17. The November issue will be available November 1. For information: Email Susan Montauk at smontauk@gmail.com.

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Community Calendar

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

Greater Rockridge N'hood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

City auditor, Courtney Ruby, will address the meeting. Discuss crime and public safety with reps of OPD. **Meets on the 2nd Thurs, in even-numbered months, 7:30pm: Next mtg. Oct 10.** Rockridge Library, 5366 College (at Manila). Email the NCPC at chair@rockridgencpc.com if you have items you'd like to add to the NCPC agenda. Confirm mtg. at www.rockridgencpc.com

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

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

New program: Sing at the Library. Join the Rockridge Library's community choir. For all ages and skill levels. No auditions necessary. Selections will include folk songs and freedom songs. Second Wed each month: 6:30-7:45pm. For more information:

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.

- **Puppet Show on Halloween Morning:** Toddlers & preschoolers invited to see **Puppet Art Theater** perform Cinderella instead of regular story time on Thurs, Oct 31, 10:30am. **Come in costume.**
- **1, 2, 3 Andrés:** Sing and dance with Uno, Dos, Tres Andrés - the Latin Grammy-winning, husband-wife team of Andrés and Christina, who perform bilingual English & Spanish songs for children. All ages welcome. Sat, 10/26, 10:30am.
- **Pumpkin Patch:** in the lobby on Wed & Thurs, 10/30 & 10/31. All ages.
- **Chess Club:** learn the basics; Instruction and chess sets provided. Best for ages 6 to 14 (all ages welcome). **Call to confirm day & time.**
- **Paws to Read:** Sandy's dog Scout loves to listen when kids practice reading aloud. You pick the book. All ages welcome. Every Thurs, 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 (and 5th) Tuesdays, 6:30-7:45pm.
- **Family Craft Night:** 2nd Tues each month (10/8; Papel Picado). 6:30-7:45pm.

FOR TEENS

- **Slime Cauldrons:** Make slime spooky. Wed, Oct 16, 3pm.
- **TeenScape:** Play video games, table top games, crafts, and general after-school fun. Weekdays, 3:30-5pm (Wednesdays, 1:30-5pm).

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. Call for details and book selection.
- **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.
- **Conscious Aging; Fall Workshop Series:** Facilitator **Janet Elaine Piggins**. Interactive workshop series explores ways of living a vital and engaged second half of life. Different topic at each session. Attend one or all workshops. No registration required. Mondays, Oct 14 & 28, 10:30am-12:30pm.
- **Create a Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Your Garden:** Presented by Alameda County Master Gardeners. Learn to create a habitat for the declining Monarch Butterfly population. Attendees will receive free milkweed plants and planting instructions. Sat, Oct 12, 11am-12pm.
- **Making Sense of Medicare:** Medicare options: learn the difference between Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Supplements & Traditional Medicare, and Prescription Drug Plans. Sat, Nov 2, 10:30am.

UPSTAIRS ART GALLERY:

October: Community Quilts: documents the partnership of Peralta and Hoover Elem Schools with the Bay Area Community Services (BACS) Adult Day Care Center at The North Oakland Senior Center.

East Bay Booksellers Book/Poetry Readings

FREE and open to the public.

- Wed, 10/16, 6:30pm. **Freud's Bar**: Talks by local Bay Area psychoanalysts/psychologists: **refreshments provided**. Presented by **Sarah Boxer**, author of *In the Floyd Archives*, a cartoon novel based on Sigmund Freud's case histories and its post-Freudian sequel, *Mother May I?*, based lightly on the works and lives of Melanie Klein and D.W. Winnicott.
- Sat, 10/19, 7pm. **Nia King**: New anthology, *Queer and Trans Artists of Color Volume Three*. Joined by several contributors including, **Anthony James Williams**, **Luna Merbruja**, **Paradise Khanmalek**, and co-editor **Maliha Ahmed**. **Free food for all in attendance.**

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

Wisteria Ways House Concerts

Teslim: The 7 Decades Project Featuring **Gari Hegedus**, **Elana Brutman**, **Kaila Flexer** and **Joshua Mellinger**. Modal music from Turkey and Greece and original compositions by Flexer in honor of her parents. Hear sample at www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvDAb05R_0I. Sat, Nov 2, 7:30pm. **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.

North Oakland Senior Center

5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way
Mon–Fri, 9am to 4:30pm.

Programs include: Arts/crafts; health counseling; dancing and exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's support groups, computer classes/more.

- **Free Blood Pressure and Health Screenings:** provided by Alameda County Public Health Nursing. Thursdays Oct 17, Nov 21, and Dec 19, 10am-noon in TV lounge.
- **Red Hawk Casino Fun Bus:** Thurs, Nov 7. Fundraising Donation, $35. Bring a friend and travel in comfort on a deluxe American Stage motor coach to the Sierra foothills. Flyers available at the Center. Call or walk in for more info.
- **Drug Collection Bin 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 597-5085.

Temescal Farmers' Market

Open Sundays, 9am-1pm **(all year)**. Locally grown fruits and vegetables; fresh ranch eggs; homemade bakery items; fresh cut flowers; unique prepared foods, fresh locally caught fish, handcrafts and more. Sample the goods; meet the grower. **Live music. Bring reusable bags.** 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Telegraph) at DMV parking lot.

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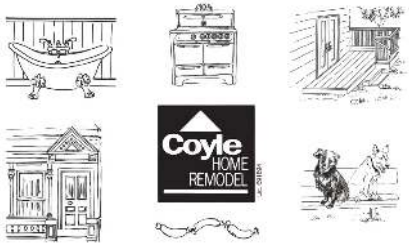
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