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Thanksgiving Feast: A Rockridge Tradition

— by Rev. Monte McClain

For 40 years, the College Avenue Presbyterian Church (CAPC) has been hosting a neighborhood-empowered annual Thanksgiving Day Community Meal. The brainchild of a College Avenue merchant, birthed when the Rockridge Community was emerging from the shadow of the neighborhood transformation caused by the building of Highway 24 and the BART Station, the meal continues to provide a space for community relationship building and solidarity. It makes a place for us to use our skills, resources and time to serve others: renewing our muscle memory of compassion, altruism, and empathy.

This Thanksgiving, CAPC will once again be hosting its annual Thanksgiving Day Community Meal on

Thanksgiving Meal, page 9

Photo: Rev. Monte McClain



Volunteers prep for Thanksgiving meal.

A Labor Of Love: Establishing The Temescal History Archive

— by Pamela Magnuson-Peddle, Past President, Oakland Heritage Alliance

(This article is reprinted with permission from the Oakland Heritage Alliance Newsletter, Nov. 2019 issue.)

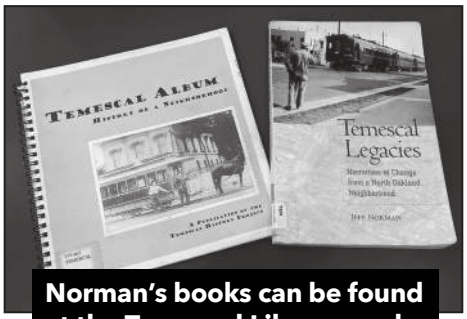
In the spring of 1997, local artist and historian Jeff Norman found himself standing on a sidewalk in Temescal wondering what the neighborhood looked like before there were any buildings. Two decades later, he's making it possible for all of us to answer that question with a gift to the Temescal branch library in honor of its 100th anniversary — an archive of the neighborhood's history.

Accepting the Temescal History Archive collection for the library, Steve Lavoie (himself a historian and researcher) described Norman as a community artist and graphic designer known for his historical accuracy and the integrity of his content. In particular, he described Norman's book *Temescal Legacies* as a "monumental piece of work that set a new standard for what local history can be."

Norman moved to Temescal in 1984 and, as a visual artist and writer, was

Temescal Archive, page 12

Photo: Anna L. Marks



Norman's books can be found at the Temescal Library, and are available for checkout.

Volunteer Donates Unwavering Support… And Sweets to OPD

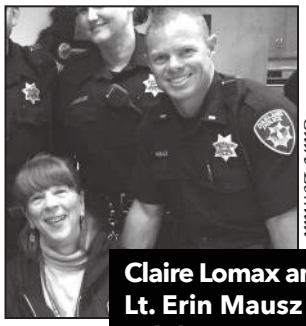
— by Judith Doner Berne

Claire Lomax is a one of a kind person with a one-of-a-kind passion. The long-time Rockridge resident — she lives on Harwood Avenue in a 1913 bungalow first occupied by her grandparents — is happily spending her retirement years as the Oakland Police Department's (OPD) only administrative volunteer.

eyes on Rockridge

"It's a calling," she said of her decision to use the administrative skills she honed working at UC Berkeley, to support the day-to-day needs of the general crime patrol units with whom she spends the most time. She goes in for three-hour or so shifts several days a week, all at her own choosing. A bonus, for them and for her, is that she loves to bake.

Photo courtesy of Clare Lomax



Claire Lomax and Lt. Erin Mausz celebrate at the OPD on Thanksgiving Day, 2017.

"I've wanted to do this for years and practically had to kick down the door because I'm not the kind of volunteer the coordinators are used to dealing with." She was referring to volunteers "who help out with public events, including handing out teddy bears, etc."

"Not my thing," Lomax said. "I'm good at administrative support. They saw I had a lot of business writing experience, and I'm a passable baker —

Eyes on Rockridge, page 8

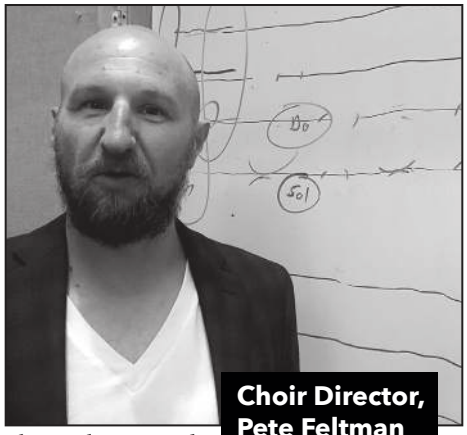
Community Choir Seeks Members

— by Alona Rivord, Friends of the Rockridge Library

A new community choir has formed in Rockridge and is seeking members. Participation is free and open to all ages and skill levels. Organizer and choir conductor, Pete Feltman, led the first rehearsal at the Rockridge Library on October 9, and the group plans to continue meeting one evening per month.

"I love libraries almost as much as I love music, so I thought it might be fun (and slightly ironic) to see if a community choir could exist in a library," said Feltman. "Singing together has a special way of creating bonds in a community and I definitely feel like we could all use more of that these days."

The first rehearsal began with a rapid introduction to music terms and the elements of sheet music. The dozen or so participants then practiced singing scales, first in unison then in four part harmony, with the assistance of a guitar accompanist. The 75-minute session ended with the group practicing a piece of classical music as well as a "do-wop" song.



Choir Director, Pete Feltman

Photo: Alona Rivord

Feltman has been singing in choirs since age five. He is the choir director at College Avenue Presbyterian Church and teaches music lessons at Acme House of Music. He contacted Adult Services Librarian, Ally Hack, about starting a choir at the branch after hearing about unconventional uses of the Oakland Public Library during a recent NPR broadcast.

"Library programs offer the opportunity to learn something new and feel connected to others in your community," said Hack. "I'm always excited to try new programs, especially those that I think will enrich the lives of participants. I love the idea of bringing all ages together to create something positive."

Those interested are encouraged to attend the upcoming choir rehearsals at the library Community Room on November 13 and December 11, 6:30-7:45pm. ■

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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 enhance the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood; promote the health, safety and quality of life of its residents; furnish a forum for community involvement; and provide leadership and representation of neighborhood interests.

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Newsletter advertising deadline for December's issue is November 21.

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.)

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Rockridge Community Planning Council Land Use Committee

The next Land Use Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, November 20, at 7:30pm at the Rockridge Branch Library. Agenda will include updates on CCA campus redevelopment proposal; use of Safeway settlement funds, Shops at the Ridge Phase II; the Rockridge Housing Study. Please check https://rockridge.org one week prior to confirm the meeting date, time, and place.

RCPC Land Use Committee Update — November 2019

— by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Board Member

California College of Arts Oakland Campus Redevelopment Proposal

(5200/5276 Broadway (between College Ave. and Broadway Terrace)

After the long-delayed Planning Commission Hearing, the RCPC Land Use Committee reviewed the scoping comments for the EIR on the California College of Art Oakland Campus redevelopment project.

At the beginning of the hearing, the project planner, Rebecca Lind (510-238-6472; email RLind@oaklandca.gov) asked speakers to limit their comments to identifying areas the EIR needed to address, to not repeat others' comments, and to not voice their opinions on the project's merits.

Most speakers ignored those requests. There were about 70 speakers, divided seemingly equally between those supporting and those opposing the project — although most of those who said they were Rockridge residents opposed.

Opponents objected primarily to the 19-story tower, the relative paucity of affordable units, and expected parking and traffic impacts. A few comments identified non-obvious areas the EIR needed to address – e.g., specific buildings of historic or architectural importance that the project proposed to demolish; issues around emergency access and evacuation with only a single vehicle access point into and out of the campus; the need for back-up mitigation plans; and the need for project phasing to ensure that before full build-out occurred, mitigation measures would actually be effective at avoiding significant environmental impacts.

Project supporters pointed to the spread of commuters into the greater Bay Area including Tracy and beyond due to the lack of sufficient local housing, and argued that the project would, by providing 600 new units, help reduce that commute traffic and associated impact.

Nearly all (95%) of this project's units proposed are market-rate, but these units are not affordable for low- and middle-income commuters who are the bulk of the new outer East Bay residents.

College Ave. Safeway Settlement Funds

Committee members briefly discussed proposals for use of the $400,000 of Safeway Settlement funds. At a second meeting, RCPC representatives, along with two other community groups involved in the settlement, reached a consensus to recommend that Safeway provide funding for several pedestrian/bicyclist safety improvements and address cut-through traffic caused by the Safeway project on Hillegass Ave.

Subject to approval by petitions from residents of the blocks involved, these improvements would include: Installing speed bumps on remaining blocks of Hillegass; placing pedestrian/bicyclist-activated LED beacons at the crosswalks on Alcatraz at Colby and Hillegass; and placing bulb-outs at the crosswalk across Alcatraz at Hillegass.

Lower priority projects to be considered, pending funding availability and residents' approval, include: A new crosswalk and bulb-outs across Alcatraz at Benvenue; speed bumps on Benvenue; and placement of a pedestrian-activated beacon on Alcatraz at Lewiston (this would accompany a to-be-installed crosswalk across Alcatraz).

A number of other potential improvements proposed by community members were rejected due to limitations placed by Safeway on how the funds could be used — primarily, they had to directly address a problem created or exacerbated by the Safeway project, yet not already addressed in the EIR for the project.

These proposed improvements still need final approval by the RCPC board before they are submitted to Safeway. ■





Letters to the Editor

High Rises In Rockridge?

Dear Editor:

Readers of *The Rockridge News* know that developers are proposing a 200-foot tower at the California College of Arts (CCA) site. Did you also know that this tower will be encircled by 60- to 90-foot glass and steel buildings, and will abut Broadway? Have you heard that BART will be proposing a 6-story building on the Rockridge BART parking lot? (Note: The new MacArthur BART high-rise started as an 8-story proposal.)

There is no master plan for North Oakland like the one in preparation for downtown Oakland. Rockridge residents need to wake up to the impending building boom. We need to get organized now to ensure this will add value to the community and is not just a win for developers.

The most important point here is that we need to have input, and that those supporting development without restrictions are ahead in the game. Rockridge residents may decide to support high towers. However, we need discussion and need to decide through a process that doesn't put current residents at a disadvantage.

Why does this matter? For two reasons:

1) The process favors lobbyists and people who know how the system works. The developer pays the EIR consultant, but the Oakland Planning department must approve the choice of consultant before the city reviews the consultant's work. Developers count on support for the development from local groups, including ones that receive free office space from developers.

2) The ultimate decision about future Rockridge development has the potential to be controlled by those who live outside the area. The ultimate vote that matters is the Oakland City Council vote. Because the CCA site involves General Plan amendments, including a change in zoning from 35 to 200 feet, and, because it is a nonprofit site turning into a residential complex, the project will have to go for approval before the City Council.

Based on what I have heard at the Planning commission over the last few months of meetings, the City Council members can expect to hear speakers say Rockridge should have high-rises due to restrictive local laws written 100 years ago; that all new Rockridge residents who can afford market-rate apartments will all take public transit, and will not have cars; that 200-foot towers in an area of single-family homes won't impact anything; and that the project should be approved as is, with no account for parking, traffic, number of affordable units, or its effect on the neighborhood. I, along with other Upper Broadway Advocates (UBA) members, would like to see new development that maintains our area as a place where people want to live.

What can you do? Write Dan Kalb at dkalb@oaklandca.gov. Dan has said he has not gotten much opposition to the tower or the upzoning of College Avenue. Ask to meet with him.

Get involved. Join UBA's email list and volunteer at UBAOakland@gmail.com. Help us fund new architectural visualizations. Visit UBAOakland.org for ways to help. Attend RCPC committee meetings, or join the board. There are several vacancies available.

Join the debate. Participate in city hearings that will review these materials. Read and post your comments and suggestions on Nextdoor. Write to The Rockridge News with your input.

The new buildings have the potential of overwhelming Rockridge before citizens realize what is happening. Rockridge residents have worked hard to create a neighborhood that is livable, pedestrian-oriented, and celebrates the Arts and Crafts architecture. We need to make a decision about the future and advocate for what we want. Otherwise, others will decide for us.

To hear the Planning Commission speaker comments from October's meeting, visit the Oakland Planning commission website https://www.oaklandca.gov/boards-commissions/planning-commission.

That's my input. Join the discussion and let residents have a say in the future.

— *Kurt Scherer*

Room for More in Rockridge

Dear Editor:

Rockridge is a wonderful neighborhood, but with a median home value of $1.4 million in the 94618 zip code, it is completely unaffordable. There has been no significant new housing built here for decades.

Rockridge as a community has been viewed as being uniformly opposed to new housing, and as being more concerned about parking and traffic than addressing the housing crisis.

The neighborhood's history of exclusionary housing policies has kept other

Letters, next page

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Letters

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Oaklanders out of our great schools, out of our neighborhood businesses, and out of our lives. Recent discussions about the proposed California College of the Arts (CCA) site in the pages of *The Rockridge News* have done little to change that image.

There are many Rockridgers, however, who see things differently; who believe that our community should be part of the housing solution. They welcome more housing, bigger buildings, and more neighbors.

They know a dense CCA project will help our local shops and restaurants thrive, and that housing on the scale proposed at the CCA site matches the scale of our responsibility to our greater community to tackle the housing crisis and live our values of inclusion and diversity. Indeed, more than 100 community members — Rockridgers and, yes, people from outside Rockridge — have signed the "East Bay for Everyone" petition for a dense, housing-rich CCA project that prioritizes access to open space and transit, pedestrian and bike safety, and affordability.

Our neighbors should know there are other views out there and that Rockridge's "traditional" views against new development are changing.

— *Justin Horner*
East Bay for Everyone

Building for Our Future

Dear Editor:

I write in cautious support of the proposed development on the CCA campus on Broadway in Oakland. I know there is strong opposition from some residents, especially those who have lived in Rockridge for many years, and I truly admire their activist spirit and genuine concern for the neighborhood — it's one of the reasons I moved here seven years ago.

I am concerned, however, that some of those sentiments were drummed up by scare tactics without proper context. I'm referring to drawings published by *The Rockridge News* that were not submitted by the developer, misleading readers about the appearance of the tower. The person responsible for that misrepresentation then founded an opposition organization (UBA), and *The Rockridge News* dedicated several pages of its latest issue to their cause. I hope you plan comparable space for those who support the project.

After attending multiple presentations and reading from various sources, it's my understanding that the cost of developing that site requires a minimum number of units to make it worthwhile to any developer. A plan can reach that minimum through dense mid-height buildings without any public open space, or with lower buildings, and one higher tower to allow for open space and preservation of Macky Hall. I strongly prefer the latter.

I also really appreciate the efforts to maintain CCA's arts heritage by providing for nonprofits and studio space. The proposed Arts Walk on Clifton could be really lovely, and make that corridor even more public friendly than it is now.

I would like to see more demographic diversity in Rockridge, and it's not clear to me whether this will bring it or not; but doing nothing certainly won't. I am still skeptical of any developer (their bottom line will always be their top priority) and I will attend future meetings with an open mind for all neighbor concerns, but Emerald Fund and Equity Community Builders have a pretty good track record and I encourage neighbors to visit their building sites at 5212broadway.com and ecbsf.com for a full picture.

We all know we need more density around mass transit, and to me this looks like a much more appealing and respectful project than some others I've seen.

Thank you for your time and your good work!

— *Stephen Cole*

Editor's Note:
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— *Anna L. Marks*

Tool Lending Library Lends a Hand to Do-It-Yourself'ers

Since 2000, the Oakland Tool Lending Library has been an excellent resource for residents and homeowners in Oakland, Emeryville and Piedmont. Located behind the Temescal Library at 5208 Telegraph, they loan power, gardening, construction, and DIY tools for home projects and home improvements.

All the tools are rented free of charge with proof of home ownership or residency. For more information, call (510) 597-5089.



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OpEd

Stop Giving Out Awards Like Candy

—by Jorja Siemons

I was the worst player on my middle school basketball team. Save me no sympathy and stop shaking your head, I am not exaggerating. I scored only two baskets during the whole duration of my four seasons competing.

At the final party, when everyone gathered at a teammate's house to eat watermelon in itchy jerseys, the coaches handed out plastic medals hanging from thick blue ribbons. I hung back, playing with my braids and averting eye contact. Then I heard my name.

I had won the "most improved player" award, but I most definitely had not improved. There is something to be said for improvement, but I would not be the one to say it. Still, I had won a medal. Everyone did that day.

In today's society, this situation is repeated over and over again on the field, court, and on the stage. Children these days simply receive too many trophies, awards, and "certificates of excellence." You have permission to call me blunt or pessimistic, for the typical anxious teenage stereotype fits me well. But my childhood made me realize how important it is to experience failure.

The simple truth is that when children are as over-praised, as I had been, and told consistently how "special" and "excellent" they are, they do not know how to deal with setbacks. I am not saying that failure is a good thing, or that children should be brutalized by criticism. Nevertheless, not everybody is good at everything.

My childhood made me realize how important it is to experience failure.

I like to think of failure as a learning experience that provides children with knowledge equally valuable to what is learned in a classroom. Initially, failure does not seem beneficial in the slightest. It makes children sad, annoyed, and even angry. But contrary to the popular belief that all children should be coddled with rainbows and unicorns, it's essential for kids to learn the width and breadth of all the emotions they will experience.

The more young people face sadness and frustration, the more they will come to accept failure as a learning experience — each time becoming less upset. If adults continue to give out awards like candy, children's emotional maturity will be held back and delay them from entering adulthood.

The truth of the matter is that the world is unfair. To clarify, that's not the same thing as saying that nothing should be done about it. In actuality, this fact reveals that aspects of our world are horrifying — sexism, racism, homophobia, etc.

Parents often coddle their children because they worry harmful truths will pressure kids to give up. Maybe this will happen, but only for a little while. Being complacent gets tiring when you realize change doesn't just happen by itself. So children will opt to pick themselves up and try to transform the world that hurts them. This is called joining society.

You may think your kids love their "best benchwarmer" or "most memorable" award, but in reality they only appreciate what they think they have truly earned. Do not sugarcoat the world for your children, or force rose-colored glasses onto their faces. Let them experience failure and help them through it. In the long run, they will thank you. ■

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COMPASS

New Online Marketplace Allows Neighbors to Directly Support Local Merchants

—by Anna L. Marks

Do you love the convenience of shopping from home, but would prefer to support your local stores instead of lining the pockets of online giants? One Oakland-based company has made this possibility a reality.

Co-Founded by Ashesh Patel and Sanjay Garje, IAmLocal.io aggregates products from local small businesses, and hosts an online eCommerce platform that allows customers to order any items listed on the site for on-demand same-day delivery, or pick up at local stores.



Co-Founders Ashesh Patel and Sanjay Garje

"It is clear that the convenience of online shopping is hurting local shops, and most of them find it difficult to build a competitive online web presence on top of running their physical shop. Our aim is to provide the same cutting-edge technology to our local businesses as the large companies have, so they can compete on a level playing field," said Patel.

On the IAmLocal.io website, visitors can search products across all local area retail stores' inventories, shop for items across different stores, and then check out all at once. Customers can choose to pick up the items in the shops or have them delivered by a friendly IAmLocal delivery person from the neighborhood.

"By unifying all local shops on a single online platform, local shops can provide consumers the online convenience they love — knowing they have supported their local community directly. IAmLocal.io enables all these stores to be united and offer customers the convenience of one-stop online shopping without being worried about the online marketplace stealing their product ideas," said Garje.

The Rockridge district is well represented on the site, with a growing list of local retail shops to choose from, offering a wide variety of goods.

Need a beautiful scarf from Lesley Evers, baby moccasins from Bird & Bean, or a new office chair from Rockridge Furniture? These shops, and others including Golden Bug Shoes, Bella Vita, Maison d'etre, and Stitch & Sparrow, are all currently available, (or will be available shortly) on the website.

Emily Goldenberg of Golden Bug Shoes is intending to be a client as soon as her sister store, GoldenBug Kids, opens on Fourth street.

"What I love about this platform is that it would be the same kind of concept as a miniature Amazon. We started as a brick-and-mortar store specifically so that we would get people in the door.

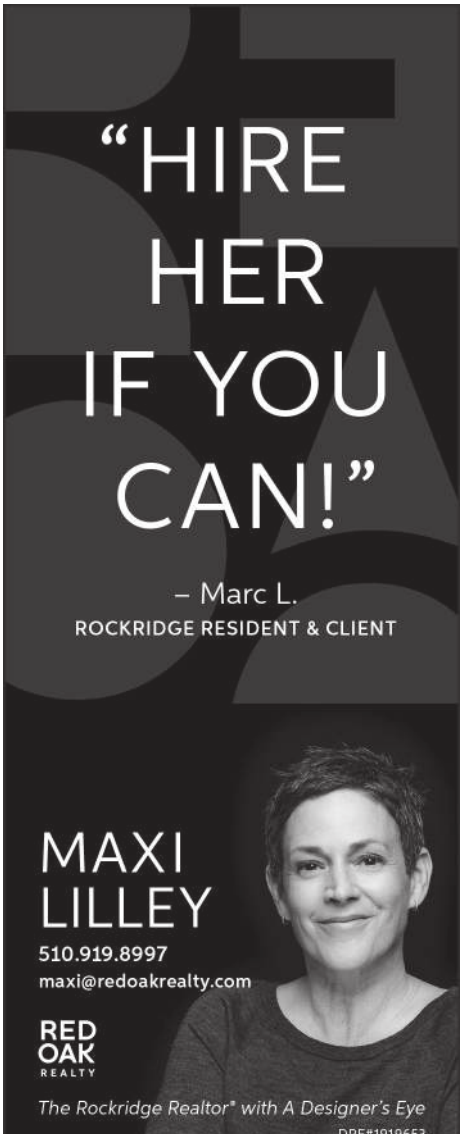
"I do think, however, that there are parents who just want to do their shopping at 11 o'clock at night, so why turn that away if I don't have to? Who has time to bounce around to five different stores hoping to find the specific thing you're looking for? We, especially as parents, have so little time to get things done," Goldenberg explained.

Think you'll pay more for this convenience? According to Patel, "We don't do anything to product pricing. Except for the delivery fee, the online

Online Marketplace, page 14

Remember to Shop Rockridge!





Eyes on Rockridge

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that's what I wanted to do."

Carving out her role wasn't easy. "I had to undergo a very thorough background investigation, which is expensive and time-consuming for the department." But by the time it was complete, "I'd already proven myself dependable and committed to helping them."

"She's a spreadsheet wizard," said Lt. Erin Mausz. "She reviews a lot of reports for grammar, accuracy, punctuation. She goes back and forth between the downtown police headquarters and our Eastmont substation (in East Oakland). Wherever she is, she's figured out ways that she can be of assistance."

Mausz, who said he worked as a civilian in animal control before he joined the force, recounted plenty of volunteers in that department because "everyone loves animals." But over his 20-year OPD career, "What Claire does is unprecedented. We don't have a robust volunteer program that would give people perspective and point of view at the ground level. We're severely understaffed. If I could clone her and duplicate her, I would."

"She reviews some of our paperwork," patrol Sgt. Antoine Owens said. "It's good to have that second pair of eyes." In addition, "She's very personable, knowledgeable and reliable. She's more than a colleague, she's a friend, and she's an extended family member of the OPD. I'm glad we have her."

And then there's the food factor. "She loves to bring in food," Mausz said. "She's a specialist with butter. She makes blondies and brownies. That creates bonds."

While Mausz says that he tries to watch his weight (she brings in pistachios for him), Owens owned up: "I have a sweet tooth. Claire takes it upon herself to make sure we have these treats. For the holidays, she'll have something to eat for the line-up for all three shifts. (Officers generally work 10-hour shifts, starting at 6am; 2pm; and 10pm respectively.)



Photo: Judy Berne

Claire Lomax accompanies her baked goods with decorations to brighten up the holidays for Oakland police who work Thanksgiving and Christmas shifts.

Along with food, a decoration Lomax has fashioned for past OPD Thanksgivings features quotes taken from the Nextdoor website in which respondents thank police for coming through for them.

"The officers are so very thankful for any words of support, in person or like those I forward from Nextdoor," she said. "Even the veteran officers, who've seen and heard it all, tell me that a few words to tell them their work made a positive difference for someone blocks out the negativity.

"Unlike the average citizen, I see first-hand the huge volume of work, the number of calls they handle daily, how long they take, how many officers they tie up," Lomax detailed. "They don't know until they show up how serious it is. I see the crushing amount of administrative work sergeants and lieutenants have to grind through with no help besides me. "

And it goes both ways. "There isn't a day I'm there when I'm not thanked, sometimes by people who barely know me," Lomax said. "I'd be there anyway, but

Eyes on Rockridge, next page

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Eyes on Rockridge

from previous page

the thanks do help keep the Rice Krispie treats (the officers' favorites) coming on days when my energy's going."

Indeed, she started out bringing in her homemade cookies, but two knee replacements early this year have limited her time on her feet. So brownies and Rice Krispie treats are quicker to make.

"The OPD took such good care of me when I had my knees done. I got texts throughout the night from the group I work with. Someone was there when I came home from the hospital. They brought me food," said Lomax.

"This department is my family," Lomax said. So she questions why the OPD website lets you click to criticize officers but not to show appreciation.

"I would like Rockridge residents to know how much this job takes out of those who do it," Lomax said. "Because they are understaffed and overworked, they can't always do the job they would like to do. I'm not speaking for, or representing OPD in any way apart from trying to give a sketch of how few there are for a city of more than 400,000 with this level of constant violence. They live with the constant expectation of the unexpected." ■

To comment or to make suggestions for future columns pertinent to Rockridge, please email judyberne@att.net.

Thanksgiving Meal

from page 1

Thanksgiving Day, November 28th, from 11am-1pm, at 5951 College Avenue. The meal is a joint project that includes diverse members of our Rockridge Community, including congregational members, local merchants and local residents.



Photo: Rev. Monte McClain

Last year's meal was enjoyed by many.

In the emotional exhaustion of today, it is an opportunity to gather as a community to respond to the needs of those struggling with hunger, solitude and joblessness. The meal generally serves between 200-300 people with the assistance of a multitude of volunteers, all gathered in the shared desire to make this event possible. The meal is open and free for everyone.

Donations of money and food are gratefully accepted and needed. We spend approximately $5 for each meal served with all the fixings. This totals to roughly $1,500 — made possible due to generous donations from neighborhood locals.

Volunteers are also very appreciated and needed. The most help is needed on Tuesday, November 26th, and Wednesday the 27th, to prepare, set up and decorate the church gym for the next day. Significant assistance is also needed the day of the event to set up, cook, serve and cleanup. The latter shift requires the most work, and often is the one with the fewest volunteers, so we could really use a few more hands.

Visit www.capcoakland.org/thanksgiving-meal to sign up for a volunteer slot or to make a donation via PayPal. You can also contact the church by email at capc1@sbcglobal.net, or by calling (510) 658-3665. ■

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Fall Market Skyrockets in Rockridge

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
10/01/2019	3	1	5318 Manila Ave	$1,050,000	$1,295,000	22	$1,295,000
10/08/2019	2	1.5	5499 Kales Ave	$995,000	$995,000	12	$1,450,000
10/10/2019	2	1	6532 Dana St	$898,000	$898,000	13	$1,515,000
10/15/2019	3	1.5	400 McAuley St	$1,250,000	$1,250,000	23	$1,362,000

Homes sold in October closed 34% over the asking price on average.

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Fire Safety and PG&E Shut-Offs in Rockridge

— by Stuart Flashman, RCPC Board Member

Wildfire season has arrived again, and this year it comes with the threat of electrical shut-offs, courtesy of Pacific Gas & Electric. The first such shut-off happened a few weeks ago, and fortunately, most of Rockridge (except the very upper-most reaches) were not affected. However, more power outages are likely until the fire season ends.

For those concerned about fire safety, a map was recently released by UCLA that rates every structure in California for relative fire risk. Most of Rockridge does pretty well — except, once again, the upper areas and hills of Rockridge, which, not coincidentally, were the areas that were burned in the 1991 Hills Fire. Residents in that area need to pay special attention to clearing "defensible space" as well as having a fire-resistant structure. The map is also online at shorturl.at/ADMS7. ■

Riding the Slopes of Rockridge

—by Robert Firehock

Working on the on-ramp, your Scenic Streets volunteers have long appreciated the steepness of the landscaped areas, in some parts bordering on treacherous footing.



Kathryn and Patrick, Scenic Streets Moguls

Photo: Robert Firehock

Recently, someone anticipated a better way to navigate these slopes (see the trash treasure in the accompanying photo). We anticipate a milder winter than this unusual find among the litter suggests.

If you don't mind our local weather and would like to be a part of making your neighborhood a bit nicer, and have a couple hours a month to contribute to that, please join us. Get in touch with Lee at lee.scenicstreetsoakland@gmail.com. ■

Holiday Bazaar at College of Arts Campus

Every year during the holiday season, The Office of Student Life transforms the CCA campus into a bustling outdoor fair with food, music, glass blowing demonstrations, and a wide variety of art. Students, staff, faculty, and alumni of the arts school all contribute one-of-a-kind offerings including clothing, jewelry, ceramics and prints.

As part of their Homecoming Festivities, the "Half Century Club Celebration" runs earlier in the day, where CCA welcomes alumni who graduated from the college 50 or more years ago. The newest members being honored this year include the graduating class of 1969.

All are welcome to stroll the scenic campus at 5212 Broadway, on Saturday, November 23, for the fair (11am-3pm), homecoming celebration (9-11am), and the 112th Annual Lawn Bowling Tournament (1-3pm).

For questions or more information, please visit https://portal.cca.edu/events-calendar/ 2019-holiday-fair/ ■

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Save The Date: Frog Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & Celebration Party

— by Fay Gordon, FROG Park volunteer

After months of construction and years of fundraising and planning, Frog Park's Children's Lot is finally ready for 2020. Join Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt (FROG) members and the local community on Sunday, December 8 at 11am, to celebrate the new playground.

Over the years, many community members donated time, money and sweat to build a better play center for children. This event will be a true celebration of this valuable community effort. We'll cut the ribbon and toast (hot chocolate) in commemoration. All are welcome to partake in treats, children's games, and to join the party.

For those interested in being a part of the FROG Park Committee and supporting our treasured local park, please send an email to info@frogpark.org. ■





Newly added – a climbing merry-go-round spinner and a three-way see-saw.

Photos: Anna L. Marks

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Temescal Archive

from page 1

interested in how words can change the meaning of an image. The question of what his own neighborhood might have looked like in the past inspired him to approach his work differently. His first project, the Temescal History Project (1997), an exhibit in several contiguous storefront windows on Telegraph, explored the neighborhood's development. Working closely with neighborhood artists and historians, he created a video documentary of longtime residents and a walking tour guide published by the Oakland Heritage Alliance.

With this first project Norman created Shared Ground, a nonprofit arts initiative, under whose name he continued to work. Some of his projects were temporary: the Temescal History Project (1997), "Beyond the Pussycat: Nine Lives of a Neighborhood Landmark" (2000), "Follow the Creek" (2002); and "Faces of Temescal" (2005). Some are published works, such as his two books, *Temescal Album* (1997) and *Temescal Legacies: Narratives of Change from a North Oakland Neighborhood* (2006).



Historian and archivist, Jeff Norman

Other projects are permanent: "Fire Station 8 History Walk" (2003), a tiled walkway of images and text that tells the interweaving histories of Temescal's development and Station 8; "Postmark Temescal" (2004), a seating area on the Shattuck side of the post office in Temescal that incorporates interpretive elements about the neighborhood's social and natural history; and "You Are Here" (2004), a lobby map installation, window graphic, and interpretive marker revealing the history of 4811 Telegraph. "Reading History," at the Temescal

Temescal Archive, next page

Walk in the Shoes of A 20-Year Veteran Block Captain

— by Susan Montauk, The Rockridge News Business Manager

Volunteers have been the heart and soul of The Rockridge News home-delivery service, and it's really remarkable how so many have volunteered for over the years to bring you our local neighborhood news.

It's been almost 20 years since Rhonda Righter and her daughter Helen, who was 3 years old at the time, started delivering the newsletter to merchants on College Avenue. Although she says that she has thoroughly enjoyed delivering the newsletter all these years, Rhonda is going to be traveling a lot and must step down from her routes (she has two).

We have Rhonda's two routes to fill, as well as Mary Ann's Ocean View route which is also now available (Mary Ann is retiring this year as well). Thank you to Rhonda, Mary, and all those who continue to assist with deliveries.

Are you just the right person or family that lives nearby and would like to volunteer to be the Block Captain for one of these routes? Maybe one of them is on your block?

- **Route 22C2:** 500 block of Forest Street and 500 block of Martin Street
- **Route CAv:** College Avenue merchants from Hudson Street to the BART station
- **Route Cav1:** Businesses and Apartments (3 each) along College Avenue from Claremont Avenue to BART
- **Route 10D:** Even numbers along College from 5620, up Ocean View even numbers to 5656 Ocean View, across street to 5659 Ocean View odd numbers and then along College to 5540 College.

The newsletter is published the first weekend of each month except August, and Captain's bundles are delivered directly to your doorstep. Call (510) 547-3855 or email Susan at smontauk@gmail.com to grab your route today. ■

Temescal Archive

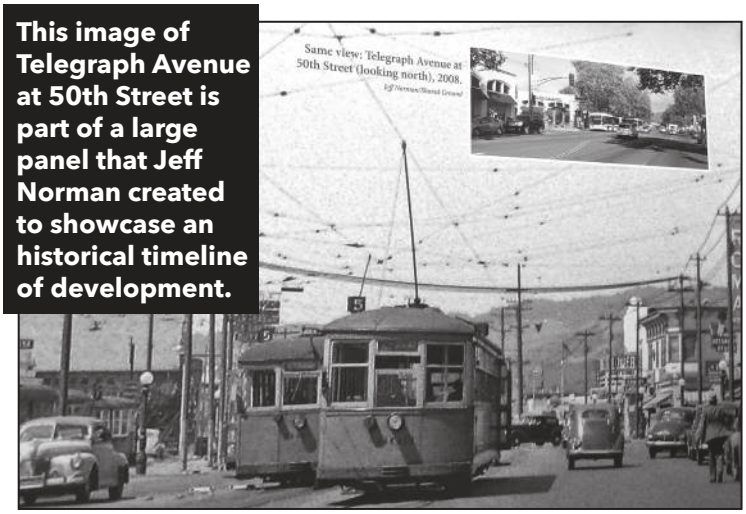
from previous page

Branch Library, is an exhibit of photographs, maps, documents, and timeline that shows the history of the library and the role it has played in the community.

Early on, Temescal was defined as a place by Temescal Creek, by whose banks the Huichin Ohlones lived. "Temescal" is a Nahuatl name for sweat lodge, a nod to both the early Native presence and the Spanish settlers, including Vicente Peralta who later built his adobe near the creek. Temescal was incorporated into Oakland in 1897.

An Italian-American community grew up around jobs at the Bilger rock quarry. This is reflected by many local names like Genova Delicatessen, Bertola's restaurant, and the Colombo Club, all of which gave the neighborhood much of its flavor from the 1910s through the '60s. The late '50s to early '60s construction of the Grove-Shafter Freeway (Hwy 24) divided the Temescal neighborhood, contributing to the loss of many local businesses.

For the past 10 years, Norman was working on another Shared Ground project: The Temescal History Archive. It has three components: a paper collection, a database of over 1250 digital documents with descriptive text, and a website that, when completed, will provide access to these digital documents. The paper collection consists of ephemera, maps, newspapers, photographs, and 20 years of oral-history transcripts, as well as maps of storm sewers, Rancho San Antonio, and the Temescal Creek watershed.



This image of Telegraph Avenue at 50th Street is part of a large panel that Jeff Norman created to showcase an historical timeline of development.

Photo: Ray Rainieri

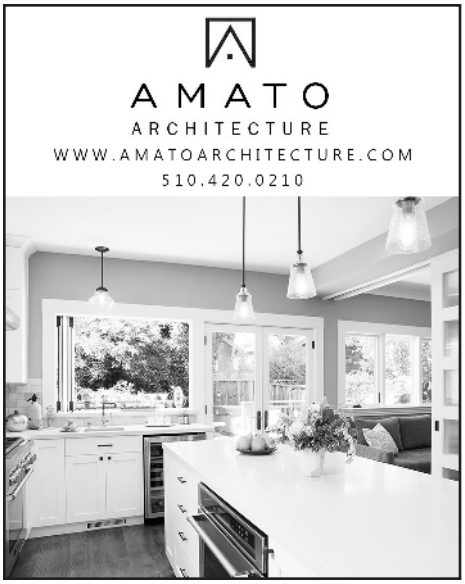
Newspapers in the archive include the local *Claremont Press* (1960s) and *Oakland Telegraph* (1950s). These papers were published when the Temescal Merchants Association, and, at its height, promoted their businesses. They ran ads for local businesses, but also included articles about the neighborhood's past. The collection also contains documents relating to such landmarks as G&G Hardware, the Pussycat Theater, Idora Park, and the Lusk Cannery.

Documentation of community efforts, with Norman's involvement, include materials about two groups: Temescal Neighbors Together (TNT), formed around the controversial reopening of the Pussycat Theater in 1989, and Standing Together for Accountable Neighborhood Development (STAND), created over neighbors' concerns about large mixed-use developments between 2005 and 2008.

Another key component of the Temescal History Archive is the planned Temescal Over Time website, for which Norman designed a prototype. (The website is in need of fundraising for a professional website developer.) It will allow for the user to learn about the history, geography and evolution of Temescal. It will also offer "Extras," such as the "ThenNow" feature, which provides 150 side-by-side photos of locations historic and current.

This archive is a rare gift. The combination of the paper collection, soon to be housed at the Temescal Branch Library, the digital database, and the website, is a special resource for historians and residents alike who are interested in this neighborhood and how it has developed, and in Oakland history in general. ■

Editor's Note: Jeff Norman died Aug. 24. It is a deep loss for our community, and we are grateful for the legacy he has left for future generations.





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 November 21. The December issue will be available December 6. For information: Email Susan Montauk at smontauk@gmail.com.

Celebrate the holidays! Penelope's Aesthetics is offering a full European facial w/eyebrow wax for $65! Relax and refresh for the holidays. Gift certificates available. What a fabulous gift! For yourself too. Call (510) 594-1552 or email penelopecalef.com

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Library program details/hours: Calendar, page 15

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Short-Term Rental Rockridge:
Spacious Furnished Mid-Century Modern Rockridge Home for Rent. 6mo. to 1year lease available Dec. 1. Remodeling your house, Need a short term rental? 5+ Bedrooms/ 4+ Baths. Continued next ad.

Short-Term Rental Rockridge Continued:
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Online Marketplace

from page 7

price of items is the same as what a customer would find in the store."

There are many products to choose from stores outside Rockridge as well, including Montclair, Temescal, Lakeshore, Piedmont and the Laurel District — and the offerings are growing every week as new businesses come on board.

"IAmLocal is a potential game changer for small independent retail," said Barbara Leslie, President & CEO of the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. "Oakland is fortunate to have a vibrant and entrepreneurial small business economy as well as a customer base that wants to shop local. IAmLocal will connect customers and small retailers to enable Oakland businesses to flourish, and sales tax dollars to stay in The Town."

Visit IAmlocal.io for more details about the local products available here in Rockridge. ■

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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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)

Meets on the 2nd Thurs, in even-numbered months, 7:30pm: Next mtg. Dec12. Discuss crime and public safety with reps of OPD. Rockridge Library, 5366 College (at Manila). Email the NCPC at secretary@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, (510) 597-5017
Hours:
Mon, Thurs & Sat: 10am–5:30pm
Tues, Wed: 12:30–8pm
Fri: 12–5:30pm
Closed: Sun; also, Mon, Nov. 11 and Thurs and Fri, Nov. 28 and 29.

****New program: Sing at the Library. Join the Rockridge Library's community choir.** All ages and skill levels. No auditions necessary. Selections will include folk and freedom songs. 2nd Wed. each month: 6:30–7:45pm. See story, page 2.

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). **Call Erica**, (510) 597-5017, **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 Thursday, 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:** All ages. 2nd Tuesday each month. 6:30–7:45pm. 11/12; toilet paper tube puppet creatures; 12/10: magazine bead necklaces.
- **World Kamishibai Day:** Saturday, Dec. 7. Ask Erica for details about this event; esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org or (510) 597-5017.

FOR TEENS

- **TeenScape:** Play video games, table top games, crafts, and general after-school fun. Weekdays, 3:30pm–5pm **(Wednesdays 1:30–5pm)**.
- **Pinecone Craft Animals:** Make cute and lovable animals using pinecones and felt. All materials provided. Ages 12–18. Wednesday, Nov. 20, 3pm, in the TeenZone.

FOR ADULTS

- **eBook Help:** Work one-on-one with a librarian to download eBooks. Fridays, 2–3:30pm. Make appt. online or call (510) 597-5017.
- **Second Saturday Book Club:** 2nd Saturday 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 reading/discussion (OK to come empty-handed). 3rd Saturday each month,1pm; wheelchair-accessible. Info: (510) 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.
- **Making Sense of Medicare:** Medicare options: learn the difference between Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Supplements & Traditional Medicare, and Prescription Drug Plans. Saturday, Nov. 2, 10:30am.
- **NaNoWriMo:** November is National Novel Writing Month. Write at the library every Saturday, 10am–noon and every Tuesday, 6–8pm throughout Nov. **Teens also welcome.**
- **Empowerment Self Defense:** Introductory workshop for women and non-binary individuals. Learn defensive strategies and fighting techniques to protect yourself. Saturday, Nov. 23, 2–4pm. Advance registration recommended. Visit or call (510) 597-5017 to register.

UPSTAIRS ART GALLERY
Nov: Artwork by **Sarah Stricherz**

LOBBY DISPLAY CASE
Nov: Lori Anne Fischer: Dolls from Children's Hospital

East Bay Booksellers Book/ Poetry Readings

FREE and open to the public.

- Sunday, 11/3, 6:30pm. **Bushwick Book Club, Oakland:** Presents a free performance of original songs inspired by *There There* by **Tommy Orange**. More info at www.ebbooksellers.com/event/bushwick-book-club-oakland-there-there.
- Thursday, 11/7, 7pm. **Mary Ladd**: *The Wig Diaries*; joined in conversation by **Julia Scheeres**.
- Tuesday, 11/12, 7pm. **Shira Erlichman**: Debut book of poetry *Odes to Lithium*. Joined by **Monica Sok**, **sam sax**, **Safia Elhillo**, **Charif Shanahan**, & **Hieu Minh Nguyen**.
- Wed, 11/13, 6:30pm. **Freud's Bar**: Talks by Bay Area psychoanalysts/psychologists: **(refreshments provided)**. **Topic:** Mourning Freud. **Madelon Sprengnether, Ph.D.** examines the losses of Freud's early life and their impact on his theorizing and explores how psychoanalysis has developed post-Freud and how Freud himself might have extended his thinking into the 21st century.
- Thursday, 11/14, 7pm. **Katherine Silver**: *Echo Under Story*.
- Friday, 11/15, 7pm. **Cherrie Moraga**: *Native Country of the Heart: A Memoir*.
- Sunday, 11/17, 3pm. **Jami Attenberg**: *All This Could Be Yours*. Joined in conversation by local author **Jasmine Guillory**.
- Tuesday, 11/19, 7pm. **Tomas Moniz**: *Big Familia*.
- Thursday, 11/21, 7pm. **Scott Duane**: *Nonbinary: Memoirs of Gender and Identity*.
- Sunday, 11/24, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Marcia Falk**: *Inner East: Illuminated Poems and Blessings*, and **Steven Rood**: *I Say Your Name*.

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

Book Signing, Conversations, Tastings

- **Catherine Fallis** presents her new book *Ten Grapes to Know: The Ten and Done Wine Guide* on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2–4pm. Hosted by Paul Marcus Wines, Rockridge Market Hall, 5655 College Ave.
- **John McReynolds**, culinary director of Stone Edge Farm in Sonoma, presents his new book, *Stone Edge Farm Kitchen Larder Cookbook*.

Taste a few sample recipes and discuss seasonal recipes for the pantry and table. Sunday, Dec 8, 2–4pm. Nathan & Co, 5636 College Ave. More info: (510) 601-1677 or https://nathanandco.com.

Neighborhood Square Dance

First and third Fridays of every month, 8–10 pm.
Live music and calling. All levels welcome; all dances taught on the spot.
$5–10 sliding scale donation.
The Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. Info: squirrellystringband.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 and more.

- **Free Blood Pressure and Health Screenings:** Provided by Alameda County Public Health Nursing. Thursdays (Nov. 21 and Dec. 19), 10 am–noon in TV lounge.
- **Medicare and Annual Enrollment Counseling:** Monday, Nov. 18, 10am–2:30pm in computer room.
- **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: (510) 597-5085.

Temescal Farmers' Market

Open Sundays, 9am–1pm **(all year)**. Locally grown fruits and vegetables; fresh ranch eggs; home-made 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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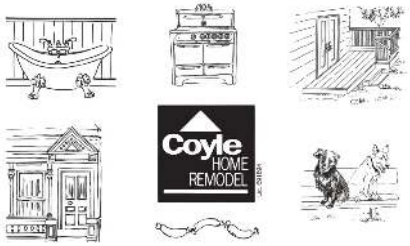


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