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Newcomers Work Together For A Safer Neighborhood

— by Judith Doner Berne

Safer Rockridge, the local nonprofit that contracts with a licensed, bonded and insured private security company to promote public safety, is in new hands. The private patrol, initiated by Paul Liu in November 2013 to monitor the streets of Rockridge when crime in Oakland was rampant, has a new board made up of three relative newcomers to Rockridge.

eyes on Rockridge

Local residents Josh Aycock, Valentina Curbelo and Andrew Waterman volunteered to take over from Liu, Nathalie Jans and Dakin Ferris (who created Safer Rockridge), and have overseen its neighborhood patrol and grown its services for the past six years.

Liu, a straight-talking economist, made it a point to track and report the patrol's effectiveness. "Following the initial patrols, we found that burglaries and robberies declined in Rockridge by 30 percent, with no statistically-meaningful spillover effects into adjoining neighborhoods."

Originally designed to patrol the streets of lower Rockridge, Safer Rockridge expanded to provide vacation watch services, a security alarm response service, a security escort service (see sidebar, page 9) and newsletter with over 1,000 subscribers. Currently, more than 250 ongoing contributors and a list of commercial sponsors make it free for those who can't afford it.

"I think they're doing a major service as roving neighborhood eyes,

Eyes on Rockridge, page 8



The new Safer Rockridge team of Josh Aycock (second from left), Valentina Curbelo (center) and Andrew Waterman (far right) meet up with their security patrol's president Nate Cook (far left) and patrol woman Jamila Sherman (second from right).

Photo: Kathleen Aycock.

Lower East Side Comes to Rockridge

— by Anna L. Marks

Boichik Bagels is open for business, and this is really big news. Just ask Emily Winston who has been planning to open her shop for more than a year in the original Noah's Bagels storefront. While enduring the lenghty permitting and inspection process, she garnered lots of media attention including articles in *The Mercury News, SF Chronicle*, *The Daily Cal*, the *East Bay Express* and other print and online journals. Why all the fuss? After all, Noah's has been a local institution for 30 years, and Beauty's Montreal-style bagels have been available in Temescal since 2012. Perhaps it is the magic of bringing youthful experiences back to life by recreating a real NY bagel.



Locals lined up around the block to get bagels on the shop's first day of business.

Photo: Anna L. Marks

Winston fondly remembers H&H Bagels in NYC and how devastated she felt

Lower East Side, page 10

Celebrate the Holidays with Help from Market Hall

— by Market Hall Marketing Manager, Marshka Kiera

Market Hall has become a community focal point for Rockridge residents since it first opened in 1987. This European-style food marketplace offers up fresh coffee, baked goods, fresh fish and meats, specialty foods, wine, flowers, as well as a home for our own Oliveto Café & Restaurant.

Many residents will swing by to fulfill their holiday needs, and here is a sampling of this year's offerings:

Market Hall, page 6

Rockridge Holiday Fair & Event

— Submitted by the Rockridge District Association

To kick off the holiday shopping season, the Rockridge District Association is hosting a free public celebration at the Rockridge BART Plaza on Saturday, December 7, noon-4pm.

The event will include a visit from Santa to entertain the children. The Dancing Christmas Trees are also scheduled to perform along with Solid Gold Strangers, a neighborhood group that performed at the Rockridge Out-and-About to rave reviews.



Crab season is set to open on December 15.

Market Hall will also host a Holiday Fair, and Cole Hardware will be serving up hot cider, as they have each year since their store opened on the Avenue in 2015. For more information, visit www.rockridgedistrict.com. ■

Councilmember Kalb Among Speakers at Next NCPC Meeting

The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) will hold its bimonthly meeting on Thursday, December 12. We'll meet at 7:30 PM in the Rockridge Library upstairs conference room.



In addition to our usual Oakland Police presentation and discussion of neighborhood crime and issues, we'll have two speakers. Paula Hawthorn, the new District 1 representative to the Community Policing Advisory Board (CPAB), will introduce herself and speak briefly about the CPAB. Dan Kalb (see photo above), the city councilmember for District 1, will attend the meeting. He plans to speak briefly, provide a few updates, and answer questions on public safety matters. Hope you'll be able to join us. ■

AC Transbay to Increase Fares in January

AC Transbay bus services will be increasing fares by an additional 50¢ effective January 1, 2020 to a rate of $2.50 for a single adult ride. AC Transit has added new double-decker buses and additional trips to help reduce travel times, alleviate overcrowding and reduce Bay Bridge Congestion. Visit www.actransit.org and search for "fares" for more info. ■



Fire Safety Article Correction:
In November's article on Fire Safety, the link to a map that rates structures in California for relative fire risk was incorrect. The correct link is: https://tinyurl.com/vpahxt6.

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Contact us at one of the following: Editor: editor@rockridge.org; www.rockridge.org; The Rockridge News, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611.

Articles 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.

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. To reprint a Rockridge News article, contact the editor.

Newsletter advertising deadline for January's issue is December 19.

Advertising rates are $26/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or email joellis1@hotmail.com. RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad it deems inappropriate. (Classified ad contact: page 14.)

Rockridge Community Planning Council Land Use Committee

The next Land Use Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, January 22, 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; and 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—December 2019

California College of Arts—Oakland Campus Redevelopment Proposal

(5200 block of Broadway [between College Avenue and Broadway Terrace])

The Committee reviewed the Planning Commission's public hearing on scoping for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to be prepared. The Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Directors that RCPC retain a traffic and transportation consultant to become familiar with the situation at the CCA site and to be prepared to evaluate and critique the EIR's analysis of transportation issues. Other issues that might be worth consideration were historic and cultural impacts and impacts on architecturally significant buildings.

Shops at the Ridge Shopping Center

(5100 Broadway)

The RCPC Board has authorized sending a letter to the City, with copy to TRC (the shopping center's developer), pointing out the blighted conditions at the area set aside for Phase 2 of Shops at the Ridge, and asking that it take steps to address and remedy that situation.

Rockridge Housing Study

The Committee discussed a meeting that had occurred in late October involving RCPC representatives, housing consultant and volunteer Darin Smith, and Oakland City staff from the Planning Department and the Mayor's office. That meeting had been arranged by District 1 Councilmember Dan Kalb. At the meeting, RCPC explained the basic idea of the housing study (to evaluate options for promoting new housing opportunities in Rockridge), and Smith presented the results of his preliminary feasibility analysis.

Those results indicate that rezoning residential areas of Rockridge to allow 4-5 story multifamily buildings would be unlikely to trigger any new projects because land costs are already so high that even market-rate projects wouldn't pencil out, making even entirely market-rate projects infeasible or unattractive to developers.

However, in the commercial areas, and especially for larger parcels, there may be opportunities to encourage new residential development, depending on incentives provided. City staff shared some of their current ideas for incentives, which overlap with options being analyzed in the housing study. It is hoped that study results will be available for presentation at RCPC's Annual Meeting in April. ■

Please Remember RCPC in Your Year-End Giving

If you live in Rockridge, the Rockridge Community Planning Council is *your* voice, informing City Hall about community's concerns and trying to keep Rockridge the valued community that it is. RCPC funds are used to host public forums; co-host the Halloween Parade with the Rockridge merchants (RDA); produce and distribute *The Rockridge News*; support local programs including the Paint The Town street murals, schools and more. We work with the City and other parties to ensure land use and transit-related projects are designed and implemented in ways that serve and enhance the neighborhood.

Checks may be sent to: RCPC P.O. Box 311, Oakland, CA 94611. Donations can also be made via PayPal online at https://rockridge.org. The annual financial statement from the RCPC can be obtained by writing to the treasurer at the same address. ■





Letters to the Editor

CCA Launches Plans to Sell Off Oakland Campus for High Rise Development

Dear Editor:

The historic California College of Arts in Rockridge, on a 4+ acre wooded site, is threatened by sale to make room for a high-rise housing development. The CCA board, chaired by artist Stephen Beal, is initiating an EIR process, to gain approval for entitlements for the project, prior to the sale to Emerald Fund and Equity Community Builders.

The proposed project is environmentally disastrous: demolishing eminently repurposable buildings, some of relatively recent vintage, for a mammoth, high rise housing project is an incredible waste. The loss of this arts school, where nationally and internationally-known artists like Viola Frey, Robert Arneson, Manuel Neri, Peter Voulkos, Raymond Saunders, David Ireland, Robert Bechtel, Squeak Carnwath, and M. Louise Stanley were alumni, would be a devastating blow to Oakland's cultural heritage.

The proposed project is also a terrible blow to the physical setting of the campus, with its mature landscaping, where the school has existed for 93 years. Nearly all the trees would be removed—some oaks will be "transplanted," and only historic Mackey and Carnegie Halls, and some of the distinctive grand staircase and portion of the adjoining wall along Broadway, would be saved.

As longtime residents of North Oakland, we have been active in land use/preservation efforts to redevelop and restore such local landmarks as the Old Merritt College Building (now UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute) and the Temescal Library (both designed by noted architect Charles Dickey). As founders of North Oakland Voters Alliance and STAND (Standing Together for Accountable Neighborhood Development), we have weighed in on land-use and neighborhood issues for decades.

Promoting a project with 24,000 square feet of "affordable art space and live/work space," and 6,300 square feet of "affordable" art-related office space, is simply lipstick on a pig.

The proposal for one 19-story building and five more buildings 6- to 14-stories in height, 586 apartments in total, is dramatically out of scale for the area. This latest eruption of skyscraper-itis underscores our concerns expressed in person to BART representatives and Councilperson Dan Kalb at a public meeting about the MacArthur BART 24-story building. We suggested the BART tower would be precedent for other high-rises nearby. Kalb vociferously denied the claim, saying the tower there was a "one-off." Of course, it wasn't.

A better way to approach adaptive reuse of the campus, if an art school cannot exist there any longer, would be to initiate a planning process similar to what unfolded for the Presidio in San Francisco, after the base was decommissioned. This process included blue ribbon panels and a Presidio Trust governing body with many stakeholders, public hearings, and an extensive visioning process. The results have been spectacular.

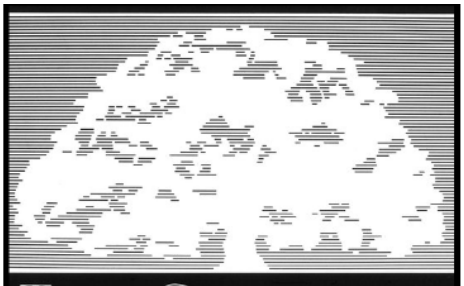
The same process needs to be initiated here while it is still controlled by CCA, before a particular developer with his own plans for the most lucrative project for the moment is selected.

We must also express our disappointment that developer Oz Erickson with Emerald Fund is the developer of record for the project. We remember Erickson for his brave role in promoting adaptive reuse for the old Montgomery

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Letters

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Ward Building in the Fruitvale.

Erickson proposed reusing the seismically sound, National Register-listed, Ward Building for housing, only a short walking distance from the Fruitvale BART station. It was a land-use disaster of monstrous proportions when that building was demolished—its leveling done on the fly, with toxic lead paint tossed to winds and waters, in order to construct two low-rise elementary schools on contaminated soil and next to a busy freeway.

This was a total demolition, and would likely be nearly repeated at CCA — a sacrilege.

— Robert Brokl and Alfred Crofts

Affordable Housing Given Low Priority

Dear Editor:

Oakland needs more housing, especially affordable housing. I started thinking deeply about this when I first learned about the proposed CCA redevelopment. At first, I was encouraged by the developer's portfolio which contains examples of historic building preservation with a sensitive approach. However, after attending all three public meetings I was struck by the scale, lack of affordable units, and a demolition hungry approach to "preserving" cultural and historic landmarks and surrounding landscape and clear cutting trees.

Top of mind with most neighbors I speak with is the lack of affordable units (only 35 affordable apartments, with 554 luxury ones). All affordable units would be converted student dorms across the street. We'd like to see a substantial increase in affordable housing at this site.

The developer provided no images of the 19-story tower from street level until the third community meeting. Additionally, the view from their version of the garden is not of the Bay and Alcatraz Island. Unless they raise Treadwell Mansion 2 stories, clear cutting the mature trees (some of which are 100 years old) along Broadway to give visitors a clear view of busy Broadway. To make matters worse Clifton is the only way in or out, and is not wide enough to accommodate the cars as they illustrated.

It became additionally clear that the developer illustrations contained several errors in scale, forced perspective, and omissions (the featured image on their website crops the 19-story tower off at about 14 stories). We were concerned that it is hard for families living next door to CCA in single-story bungalows to imagine the 5-8 story glass and steel box canyon surrounding Treadwell Mansion and a glass and steel tower that is six stories higher than the 26-story MacArthur BART tower. And unfortunately, the community feedback from their three developer-hosted community meetings is noticeably absent in the public records request.

Being an experienced digital designer/artist (The Sims, Diner Dash, Star Wars, Matrix games etc.) I naturally created visualizations to help non-architects sense the scale and other aspects overlooked in the developer's stylized watercolors. Given the lack of new images from the developer, I later created additional sets of images ultimately using a simple surveying tool to get the height right from multiple perspectives (the tower height is an additional two stories taller given the rise in elevation on the site itself).

Since the initial developer meetings, people gathered together to form Upper Broadway Advocates (UBA). It was Kirk Peterson who suggested the idea that we team up with our neighbors to form the group. We are hopeful that the developers will create new, more accurate renderings, and work with us and the City to ensure affordability and a sensible approach to traffic, safety, pedestrian activity, leveraging mass transit, and historic preservation. We want preservation of the registered landmarks and historic styling that honors the CCA tradition of being at the heart of the Arts and Crafts movement as well as the landmark Treadwell Mansion and Carriage House, and landscaping and trees.

The good news, for which I am grateful, is that so many residents attended our two truly public community meetings at the Rockridge Library. Each meeting had 100 attendees who submitted over 300 concerns and ideas. These are summarized on the UBA website. The community went on to submit over 80 letters to Rebecca Lind, Dan Kalb, LPAB, and the City Planners in response to the NOP for the EIR. Thank you!

If you would like to know more about the UBA's mission, read up on what other neighbors think about the project, peruse our growing library of links on affordability and city planning, join our mailing list for updates as we meet with the developers and city officials, future community meetings, or to simply express your thoughts please go to UBAOakland.org and sign up or volunteer.

— Nicole Lazzaro, Rockridge Business Owner 27 Years



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Welcome Yule! Christmas Revels Return to Oakland

— by Gary Carr

Now in its 34th year, the pageantry of the Christmas Revels will thrill old and young alike with the joyful music, dance, and ritual of favorite centuries-old Yuletide traditions. Each mid-winter, the Christmas Revels bring to life a grand celebration of traditions and cultures from around the world, and will entertain Oakland audiences for eight performances this December.

This season's theme, "A Solstice Journey Through Time," highlights the beauty of togetherness among generations and cultures. The journey recalls the favorite songs and dances from the tapestry of Christmas Revels… plus a dragon! Rockridge resident and Revels performer Mary Catherine Haug always looks forward to the event: "For 33 years, the Revels has been the way to start the holidays. When the days get short and the nights long, we look at how different cultures celebrate to drive the dark away."



Performers inspire and entertain for 34th year in Oakland.

The large cast, dressed in period costumes, generates joy and merriment by performing the songs, dances, and stories that are present in all cultures, and that mark the turning of the year in all its forms. The show will feature top Bay Area musicians, actors, and a 50-voice chorus with old favorites reappearing, including the mesmerizing "Antler Dance." Once again, the audience can join hands and become part of the delightful "Lord of the Dance." As always, children are welcome at all performances.

Tickets range in price from $15-70 for adults, discounts are available for those under 25, and for groups of 10 or more. The show runs December 13 and 15, and December 20 through 22. (there is no performance on December 14). Show times are Friday at 7:30pm, Saturdays at 1pm and 4pm, Sundays at 4pm and 7:30pm. The First Congregational Church of Oakland is located at 2501 Harrison Street, Oakland, 94612. For tickets or information, call (510) 452-9334, or visit www.californiarevels.org. ■



Market Hall

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Holiday menus from **Market Hall Foods** and the **Market Hall Bakery** are available in store as well as pre-ordering for Chanukah, Christmas, New Year's Eve and any other special holiday gathering.



Pumpkin cheesecake is just one of the tempting items offered at Market Hall this holiday season.

Holiday platters for parties and events are available from **Market Hall Caterers**. Order online and pick up at the store.

Hapuku Fish offers an elegant Hapuku Holiday Menu available to pre-order through December. Don't forget that crab season opens December 15.

Truffle season is just around the corner. Fresh Italian truffles arrived around late November, so call in for your order today.

The first olio nuovos (new harvest olive oils) have started to arrive in store. These spectacular green and herbaceous extra virgin olive oils are in store within a week or two of milling, and customers are encouraged to consume them within two to three months of purchase. Séka Hills is the first to arrive in store, with more Californians to arrive soon… the Italians to follow.

Our Panettone shipments have started to arrive from Italy and some are already in store — always a customer favorite.

Market Hall will be participating in the **Rockridge Holiday Fair** (see page 2) on Saturday, December 7. Come on by for mulled cider, raclette and Mariage Frères Esprit de Noël Tea tastings.

All holiday menus are available online at https://rockridgemarkethall.com. ■

Not All Heroes Wear Capes: Oakland Nonprofit Champions the Incarcerated

— by Jorja Siemons

For 13 years, Oakland's UnCommon Law has brought hope to the hopeless by providing mental health and legal counseling to men and women serving extended sentences in California prisons. The law firm especially focuses on people serving "life with the possibility of parole." This means that these individuals can stand before the California Board of Parole Hearings after completing an amount of time served to work towards spending the remainder of their sentences on court-supervised release.



Julie Hess, UnCommon Law Deputy Director, and her husband Alameda County Deputy Public Defender and UnCommon Law Board member Satch Slavin are Rockridge residents.

As a staff attorney at Berkeley's Prison Law Office, Keith Wattley received a letter from a stranger who needed help with a "lifer hearing" in 2000, and realized that parole was rarely a reality for anyone. Wattley, now UnCommon Law's founder and executive director, partners with individuals to help them through this complicated legal process.

Providing resources such as parole hearing representation, written and in-person consultations, and even class action litigations representing those with life sentences, UnCommon Law seeks to meet each individual's needs. However, lawyers and staff members also recognize the challenged backgrounds of many clients and provide care that is trauma-informed and healing-centered.

"Most of our clients have childhood histories of abuse and neglect," says Rockridge resident Julie Hess, UnCommon Law's Deputy Director. Hess has spent her career working at the intersection of foster care, youth mental health, and juvenile justice — developing therapeutic wraparound services to help children entangled in California's justice system.

Particularly for female clients, much of this abuse stems from years of being sexually trafficked. In California alone last year, the National Human Trafficking Hotline received 1,315 calls from victims and survivors, and those are only the reported cases.

In addition to carrying emotional burdens, many incarcerated individuals also face financial difficulties, lacking the extensive funds needed to propel them through the justice system. That is why UnCommon Law is working towards a 100 percent pro-bono model, meaning that services would be free.

To achieve this goal, the firm holds an annual fundraiser "UnCommon Heroes," as well as accepts donations from a host of patrons. Recently, they began receiving some larger foundation grants as a result of Keith Wattley becoming an inaugural Obama Fellow for his work developing UnCommon Law's method of rehabilitative justice. Though the fellowship does not offer financial compensation, it does offer mentorship and access to The Obama Foundation's network of resources.

With a small yet dedicated staff, the nonprofit also relies on a board of experts in the fields of criminal justice and law. One such member is another Rockridge resident Satch Slavin, a Deputy Public Defender in the Alameda County Public Defender's Office.

After meeting at a training session and realizing their children went to the same school, Slavin and Wattley became friends, prompting Slavin to voluntarily represent an UnCommon Law client in court. Having spent over a decade watching many young people "be discarded into cages with little hope for actual rehabilitation," helping a client reach freedom motivated Slavin to join the firm's team permanently.

To date, UnCommon Law has supported 240 people in securing their

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Eyes on Rockridge

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supplementing our understaffed police department," said Karen Ivy, Secretary of the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC).

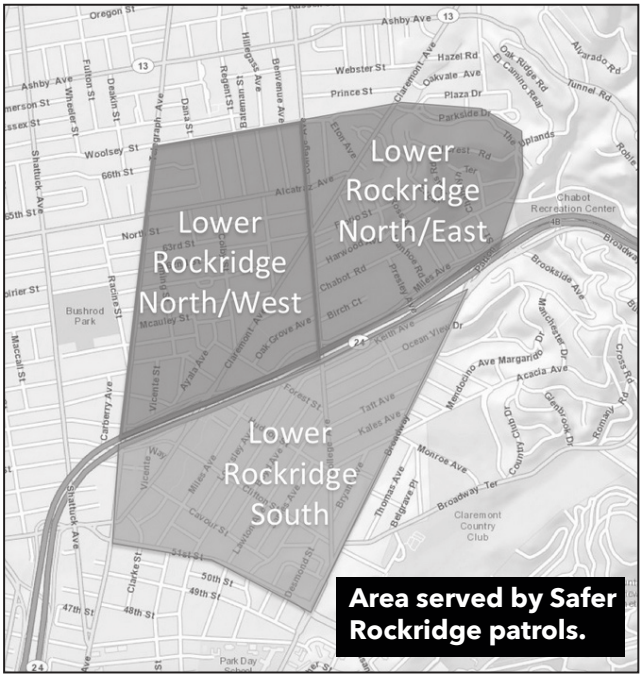
Aycock, Curbelo and Waterman didn't know one another. Each separately answered Liu's plea for new leadership — without which, he warned, the service would have to shut down. "I met Valentina and Andrew at the transition meeting," explained Aycock.

All three see taking on Safer Rockridge as a way to both bolster the safety and become part of the community. They began by setting up a Safer Rockridge booth at Rockridge Out & About this past October. Although the need for contributions to keep the patrol going is ongoing, "It was more for us to meet people," Curbelo said.

"We want more community engagement," she added. "Our first 100 days, we're out to get to know the community," Aycock echoed. "We want to understand what's going well and what's not," Waterman said. "So far, Safer Rockridge has been a great idea executed well."

To gain further facts about crime in Rockridge, they have also attended NCPC meetings and met with Oakland Police Department Community Resource Officer David Mac, Oakland City Councilman Dan Kalb and Nate Cook, who heads Intervention Group, Inc. (IGI) — Rockridge's paid patrol.

"Oh my goodness, they're fantastic," said Cook, after his interactions with the new board. "I've dealt with a lot of security committees (IGI serves at least 15 local area neighborhoods). They really want to understand what the hot topics are for the entire community."



Their mission "to make Safer Rockridge stronger" continues at the first Subscriber Appreciation Day, scheduled Wednesday, December 11, from 6 to 8pm. There, they want community input and suggestions on making services more accessible and user-friendly. To attend, visit their website at SaferRockridge.org for meeting location.

"Unfortunately in Oakland the police are spread thin," Waterman said. "That's where Safer Rockridge as a private patrol service is needed to fill that gap and send a signal to would-be criminals or troublemakers that someone in our neighborhood is watching them."

Waterman runs a data science/machine learning consulting firm out of his home that allows him to sample Rockridge's various coffee shops nearly every day. A soccer coach for his two boys William and Kenny, and a competitive tennis player, Waterman and his Berkeley-born wife Kristin Jones have lived in Rockridge for six years.

"I always felt like where I grew up — in Maryland, close to Washington D.C. — had a similar urban/suburban feeling to Rockridge," Waterman said. "But since moving to Oakland I've been disappointed by the "normal" we're supposed to live with — frequent break-ins to our cars/garages/homes in the middle of the night, laptop thefts at coffee shops, phones stolen on the walk home from BART. Having kids makes it more apparent. Why do I have to teach my five-year-old about the 'bad guys' out there?

"On a trip abroad this summer, I took advantage of Safer Rockridge's Vacation Watch service for my home and I was quite appreciative. When they asked for help, I heeded the call."

Curbelo, who was born in Uruguay, moved to Rockridge in 2016 with her husband Nate Baca, an Oakland native. They rented, and then purchased that home. She works in finance for an international corporate housing company and describes herself as "an avid kayaker and occasional triathlete who loves long walks along Broadway with my dog Toothpick."

"I love Rockridge," she said, "It's the

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Eyes on Rockridge

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perfect combination of suburban peacefulness and a little bit of city, and being so close to a college campus." Nonetheless, she was shaken after the house next door to her was burglarized twice after its residents died but before it was put up for sale. "So when I saw the email that Safer Rockridge was possibly disbanding, I wanted to get involved."

Aycock is a former mid-westerner and baseball fan who works in finance in San Francisco. He and his wife Kathleen have lived in Rockridge for two years. Like Curbelo, they rented first. And like Curbelo, they have a dog — a bulldog mix, named Hash Brown. "After recently buying a place on a real cool block, I started thinking long-term about the community," which led him to volunteer for Safer Rockridge.

"How do we know we are getting what we pay for?" Aycock posed. The answer: "We have the ability to monitor the service by tracking on a GPS the routes the patrols take. They average about 50 miles per day, and they really do circle every street." On the docket are ride-alongs with the patrol staff.

"Right now," Aycock said, "current subscriptions are keeping the service going, but subscribers move away. So new members are always needed. We shouldn't take this (the patrol service) for granted," he said. "If we left it untended, it wouldn't last."

"Reducing crime needs to happen from all angles," Waterman said. "That means strong locks on the doors, visible police presence, smart habits at night, cameras and security signage, responsive 911, and of course catching criminals."

Speaking for the three of them, Waterman said: "Take advantage of Safer Rockridge's service. When you'd like an escort, when you see something suspicious, when you go on vacation, or when you're afraid, we're here to help."

To reach IGI about an incident, big or small, call (877) 272-8765. Patrol cars often arrive in less than five minutes. To learn more about Safer Rockridge's services or to contribute, visit SaferRockridge.com. ■

If you have questions about this column or suggestions for future columns about Rockridge, email judyberne@att.net.

Weigh in on the 2020s for Rockridge

Do you have your Eyes on Rockridge for the next decade? We'd love to hear what you wish for or project will happen to our community for the 2020s. Please limit your answer to three paragraphs or allow us to edit your response so we can get in as many ideas as possible. Please include your name and how long you have lived in Rockridge. Email judyberne@att.net by Friday, Dec. 13. We can't wait to hear what you think. ■

Safer Rockridge Patrol Services

Safer Rockridge Security Patrols, provided by Intervention Group Inc (IGI), monitor local streets and public spaces to deter criminal activity and provide Oakland police with observations to assist them in law enforcement. They offer additional services for paid subscribers. For a suggested fee of $30 per month, they offer the additional services below.

Escort Services: Give them a call and request an escort service if you don't feel comfortable walking home alone from BART or even the grocery store. The service can be arranged at any time, but they prefer at a least a couple hours' notice when possible. During patrol hours (Monday-Friday, 3-10pm) they can be dispatched fairly quickly, normally within the time it takes the dispatcher to receive the request and contact the patrol.

Vacation Watch: Let them know when you are going on vacation for them to keep an extra eye on your house. Fill out the form online to participate.

Alarm Response Registration: Add IGI as a contact for your alarm company to call in case it goes off, and they will in turn contact you. Fill out the form online to participate.

Call (877) 272-8765, or visit www.saferrockridge.org to find out more about their services. ■





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The Times They Are A Changing

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
11/01/2019	3	1.5	6080 Ocean View Dr	$1,295,000	$1,295,000	51	$1,230,000
11/05/2019	4	3.5	6409 Benvenue Ave	$1,695,000	$1,595,000	26	$1,595,000
11/06/2019	3	1.5	5868 Ocean View Dr	$1,395,000	$1,395,000	30	$1,590,000
11/15/2019	2	1.5	5261 Miles Ave	$995,000	$995,000	19	$1,375,000

While properties this month sold an average of 7% over list, 50% of them sold under asking or required a price adjustment. Additionally, homes are taking longer to sell.

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Lower East Side

from page 1

when they closed the shop located next door to Zabar's on the Upper West Side in Manhattan. She was determined to bring that experience with her to Oakland. "The New York Jewish bagel experience that I grew up with, I'm recreating out here. I've got Dr. Brown sodas in the case already, and I plan on bringing Joyva halvah. I'm kind of taking memories and mixing them with the high-end California modern foodie culture."

Winston has found a lot of local fans, and nearly 20 of them have personally invested in her vision. "It's wonderful. A number of them were complete strangers who just believed in what I was setting out to do, and tried the bagel and loved it enough to write a large check. It's pretty cool."

One special local fan, Noah Alper, founder of Noah's Bagels, offered her encouragement as well. "He tipped me off about this space. I was introduced to him about two years ago, and gave him some bagels. He loved them. Then, maybe a month later he called me. He said corporate closed his original store and that I should take it. I like to call it a historic bagel location."

Winston firmly believes in sourcing locally whenever possible. She is planning to use organic flour from Central Milling in Petaluma and will be using whole wheat flour from Community Grains (co-owned by Oliveto founder, Bob Klein) for her whole wheat bagel. "It's very rare to get a 100 percent whole wheat New York style bagel. I've actually never seen it done. It's tasty." She sold samples of the bagel at a pre-opening event at Oliveto last month, and sold out all 150 within an hour.

Her coffee will be brewed in a Ground Control Cyclops coffee machine — the world's first full immersion batch brewer — which was invented right here in the Bay Area by Voga (founded in San Francisco and built in Oakland). McLaughlin is her coffee bean supplier, and they are local too. Turns out that McLaughlin had been the original coffee supplier to Noah's.

"Our paper products distributor, it turns out, was Noah's paper products guy 30 years ago," added Winston. Pointing to the display of photos on the wall, Winston said, "I got those delightfully embarrassing photos from my bat mitzvah printed up at The Photo Lab in Berkeley and the owner said they had printed out the photos for this store 30 years ago. I'm like, this is where I'm supposed to be. It's *beshert*.

"The neighborhood has really been so wonderful and delightful, I could not be happier with the reception I've gotten here from everyone, and everyone walking by and constantly, constantly peeping in the windows, and very excited and very supportive. I'm glad to be here."

Winston likes the neighborhood so much that she recently took the apartment located above the shop. "I think that's really how it used to be. It's old school. It's like the Lower East Side. I'm bringing it to Rockridge." ■

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Coming: 742Cragmont.com ~3,000 sqft Tudor, 4BD 2BA + 1BD 1BA inlaw, pano views $2.1m
Broadway Terrace condo, Ocean Ave 2 homes/1 lot, Telegraph Ave mixed use property
December is awareness month for Worldwide Human Rights and Safe Food, Toys & Gifts
Thankful for family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, health, home and joy for a wonderful year!

Happy Holidays!!
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Scenic Streets Wraps It Up for the New Year

— by Lee Patterson

As we wrap up 2019, Scenic Streets of Oakland is pleased to welcome several new volunteers: thanks to Ann, Ethan, Kathryn and Stephanie for joining the team. Our current efforts continue on trash pick-up, aesthetic pruning and trying to get enough water to last season's plantings. Several are not yet naturalized and struggling with the drought. We welcome the rain, but still need to resort to self-help using our awesomely beautiful 'high-tech' water wagon (see photo), 2-gallon jugs and many hands.

If you are interested in contributing a couple hours a month to your community, please contact Lee at lee.scenicstreetsoakland@gmail.com. Tax deductible donations are welcome as well. Make out your check to Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation (memo: Scenic Streets), and mail to OPRF, PO Box 13267, Oakland, CA 94661. ■

Photo: Robert Firehock



Scenic Streets volunteer seems overwhelmed by technology.

Pooch Pictures with Santa Paws



Photo: Anna L. Marks

Cole Hardware has become a valuable community member, and as a way of paying it forward, the local branch hosted "Santa Paws — Pooch Pictures with Santa" last month to benefit the Milo Foundation.

Neighbors were invited to visit the College Avenue store with their furry friends for this fun opportunity to support this worthy cause. The $10 photo fee went directly to the local nonprofit that offers adoption and educational services for homeless pets.

For more information, visit milofoundation.org. ■

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5868 CHABOT COURT

This quintessential 2-story Craftsman on a quiet cul-de-sac received a highly competitive offer within 24 hours of the initial broker tour! Among its very desirable features is a gracious 2,500 sq.ft. (per public record) floorplan with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a laundry closet all on the upper floor. The open kitchen / breakfast nook / family room combination allows for casual family time on the main level with easy access to the elegantly landscaped rear garden. The detached and level-in guest cottage (with bathroom) is the crowning jewel of this highly sought after property! Very happy sellers!



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FROG PARK EXTENSION GRAND OPENING COMING SOON!

Celebrate the Frog Park Extension

Frog Park will welcome the new decade with a brand new playground extension. After months of eager anticipation, the finishing touches are almost complete on the highly anticipated play center. The new extension includes toddler swings, an ADA swing, a merry-go-round climbing spinner, a three-person seesaw, new play surfacing, benches and rocks.

It will be a true celebration of the community effort that went into the new playground extension. Please join us for treats, children's games and activities, and a hot chocolate toast.

If you are interested in being a part of the FROG Park Committee, and supporting our treasured community park, please email info@frogpark.org. We will announce the official opening date on the Frog Park website, www.frogpark.org. ■

Celebration Highlights



Kids' games (Fishing, Feed-the-Frog, painting fun and more) and play in the new playground.

Coffee and bakery goodies to be provided.



UnCommon Law

from page 7

freedom. This process takes time and energy, as people preparing for parole success need job offers and housing, as well as Relapse Prevention Plans, lined up prior to their hearings.

Even after release, challenges remain. Many of UnCommon Law's clients committed crimes in their youth — which is legally defined as 25 years old and younger — and have spent much of their adult lives in prison, making transitions difficult. And while UnCommon Law is proud of its less than one percent recidivism rate, this is one reason why the organization views success through a much wider lens.

"We like to see our clients not only surviving, but thriving," Hess says. "We believe in measures that include an assessment of psychological health, of love and belonging, of community connection, and of self-esteem."

This approach echoes the values of restorative justice, which differs from the United States' punishment-oriented retributive model by focusing on accountability and individualized needs. UnCommon Law's vision for a Restorative Needs Pilot Program would implement these themes within the existing prison system, and would employ those who have been through the process to guide others..

Additionally, the firm is excited about the current film series titled "UnCommon Justice: Stories of Resistance, Resilience, and Redemption from American Prisons." Viewings are held at The New Parkway in Oakland, as well as the Grand Lake Theater, The Roxie in San Francisco, and The Lark in Larkspur. Showings are always paired with panel discussions that feature people from the film.

Rockridge residents can support the efforts of UnCommon Law through donations and volunteering. However, Hess emphasizes that understanding is the key to being a better community member. "Understand that no one is born knowing how to commit violence; they are taught," she states. "Understand that as humans we have an amazing capacity to heal, and that when given the chance, even those convicted of the most violent crimes can become some of our greatest violence disruptors."

For more information, visit www.uncommonlaw.org. ■

Animal Rescue Celebrates 1,000 Adoptions

— by Adoption Center Volunteer, Alona Rivord

More than 1,000 cats and kittens have been matched with families since the Hopalong Animal Rescue adoption center opened at Pet Food Express Rockridge just over three years ago. A kitten named Chipper was the 1,000th rescued animal adopted from the store, located at The Ridge shopping plaza.

"Hopalong Animal Rescue's mission is to prevent euthanasia among adoptable animals in Northern California by finding forever homes for the animals in our program, so we're beyond excited that our mission is coming to fruition with our cat adoption center in the Pet Food Express Rockridge store," said Dani Clark, Hopalong Director of Volunteer Services.

"Since we opened the adoption center in September of 2016, our adoption numbers at this site have far surpassed all of our other means for adoption. One thousand animals adopted from one place is such a huge number and we're happy to be behind that number," she said.

Pet Food Express generously provides supplies for the adoption center and for Hopalong kittens, puppies and dogs that are in foster homes awaiting adoption. Rockridge and other Pet Food Express locations also host dog and puppy adoption events throughout the year.

"This is our only adoption site that



is operated seven days a week by volunteers, and we owe the success of this adoption center in large part to the volunteers who spend their time caring for the kittens and facilitating the adoptions," said Clark.

Volunteers interested in a weekly two-hour shift at the adoption center can email dani@hopalong.org. ■

Changes Coming to Traffic Circles on Shafter

— by Theresa Nelson

In August and September, more than 500 names were collected on a petition to restore the 4-way stop signs and improve signage at the new traffic circles installed on Shafter last year. Many people in the area were concerned about the increase in accidents between cars, and with bicycles and pedestrians, and the many near misses that happened because the right-of-way issues were not clear to drivers. The NextDoor listserv had hundreds of comments expressing similar concerns. Many elderly and disabled neighbors had found it almost impossible to cross at these intersections because of speeding cars and lack of yielding.

In early October, the group of neighbors who collected petition names met with the director of the Oakland Department of Transportation, Ryan Russo, and Lisa Jacobs, an aide to Councilmember Dan Kalb. We learned that the city Transportation engineers had conducted a study of the situation, and would offer their conclusions at the end of October.

The good news is that the Department of Transportation will be re-installing the 4-way stops at the Hudson, Clifton, and Cavour intersections with Shafter. There will be more details coming from the Department of Transportation in the January *Rockridge News*, including about the timing of the work.

Thanks to all the neighbors who signed the petition, called or emailed the Director of Transportation and Councilmember Kalb. Your voices were heard and made a difference Thanks also to the neighbors who volunteered their time to walk the petitions around the area, who shared the community's concerns about safety: Chuck and Diana Chavez, Anthony Sperber, Maureen Alano, and Eduardo Gutentag. ■



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. ■

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 December 19. The January issue will be available January 4, 2020. For information: Email Susan Montauk at smontauk@gmail.com.

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Library program details/hours: Calendar, page 15

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Short Term Rental Rockridge Continued:
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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)

Dec 12, 7:30 pm. Discuss crime and public safety with reps of OPD. District 1 councilmember **Dan Kalb** will attend, along with the new District 1 rep for the Community Policing Advisory Board. Meets on the 2nd Thurs, in even-numbered months (next meeting on the 2nd Thurs in Feb, 2020) at the Rockridge Library, 5366 College (at Manila). If you have items you'd like to add to the NCPC agenda, email the NCPC at secretary@rockridgencpc.com. **Confirm mtg.** at: www.rockridgencpc.com.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, (510) 597-5017

Hours:

Mon, Thurs & Sat: 10am–5:30pm
Tues, Wed: 10am–8pm. (see **NOTE** below)
Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.
Closed: Sunday; also, Tues & Wed, 12/24 and 12/25, and Wed, 1/1/2020. **NOTE:** will close on Tues,12/31, New Year's Eve, at 5:30pm.

FOR CHILDREN

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

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

- **Chess Club:** Learn the basics; Instruction and chess sets provided. Best for ages 6 to 14 (all ages welcome). Fridays at 3:30, except 12/27.
- **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.
- **Winter Bingo:** Get your Winter Bingo Card to keep track of your indoor & outdoor activities and get a book prize. Program runs Dec 26 to Jan 18.
- **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 Tues each month. 6:30-7:45pm. 11/12; toilet paper tube puppet creatures; 12/10: magazine bead necklaces.
- **World Kamishibai Day:** Paper theater stories to celebrate the international event. Saturday, December 7, 10:30am.

FOR TEENS (Ages 12 to 18)

- **TeenScape:** play video games, table top games, crafts, and general after-school fun. Weekdays, 3:30–5pm **(Wednesdays, 1:30–5pm)**.
- **Snowflakes:** Make 3-D snowflakes. All materials provided. Wed, 12/11, 3pm.
- **Magazine Bows:** Make bows out of recycled magazines to make gifts brighter. All materials provided. Wed, 12/18, 3pm.
- **Felt Banners:** Make felt banners that speak your truth. All materials provided. Wed, 1/8, 3pm.

FOR ADULTS

- **2019 PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award Ceremony:** we celebrate Vernon Keeve III, James Cagney, and all of the winners of the PEN Oakland 30th Annual Josephine Miles Awards for Excellence. Sat, 12/7, 2pm.
- **eBook Help:** Work one-on-one with a librarian to download eBooks. Fridays, 2–3:30pm. Make appt. online or call 597-5017.
- **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.
- **Second Saturday Book** Club: 2nd Sat each month, 3–4pm. Call 510-597-5017 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 Sat each month,1pm; **wheelchair-accessible**. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.

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

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

Book Signing, Conversations, Tastings

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. Sun, 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/more.

- **Free Blood Pressure and Health Screenings:** Provided by Alameda County Public Health Nursing. Thurs, Dec.19, 10 am–noon in the TV lounge.
- **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: 597-5085.

Temescal Farmers' Market

Open Sundays, 9am to 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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