THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
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New Laws for Accessory Dwelling Units Expand Housing Options for Homeowners

— by Loni Gray

If you've been following the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) movement, then you know that as of January 1, 2020, many significant legal changes take place across California. These changes, combined with those that began in 2017, enhance a family's right to build what is needed, so they can thrive and strengthen our community in the long term.

Three years ago, the California legislature took a major step. It gave us the right to build an ADU on any residential property, and it eliminated most added parking requirements. If, for example, your property is a half mile from a bus stop, additional parking cannot be required.

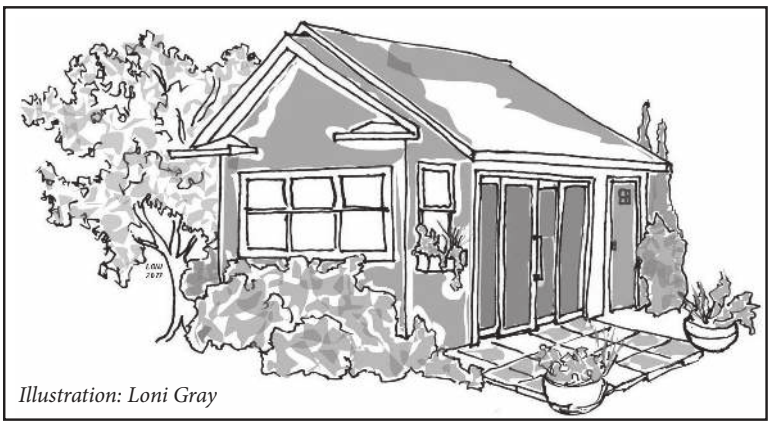


Illustration: Loni Gray

It's still an expensive affair to build a new dwelling, but the 2017 law did make some efforts to reduce cost, limiting the fees to reflect the scale of what was being built. And it encouraged people to convert underutilized structures like garages and studios by "grandfathering in" structures already

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Rockridge Community Planning Council Needs Board Members Like You

— by Leonora Sea, RCPC Chair

Have an idea for enhancing Rockridge? Looking for a way to use your talents and experience in service to our community? Then running for a seat on the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) just might be right for you. Serving as board member is an excellent way to work on consequential issues relating to transportation, communications, parks, land use, and community-based grant projects.

To quote the RCPC bylaws, the purpose of RCPC is 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 for community interests."

Board members are elected "at-large" so each represents all residents within RCPC's boundaries. The 2020 election of board members will be held at the April 16, 2020, Town Hall. Six seats are up for election. To qualify, a candidate must be 18 years or older and live within RCPC boundaries. (See www.rockridge.org/boundaries.)

To be considered as a candidate, email info@rockridge.org no later than close of business Wednesday, February 26. For further information, contact chair@rockridge.org.. ■

SAVE THE DATE:

RCPC Town Hall with Ryan Russo on Thursday, January 16th

All are welcome and encouraged to join the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) at the first Town Hall of the year. The meeting will be held on January 16, from 7:30-9pm, at the Rockridge Library, 5366 College, in the upstairs meeting room.

January's event will feature several topics of interest. To start the evening off, Brooke Levin, former Director of Public Works at City of Oakland, will briefly introduce Oakland Measure Q, a parcel tax to clean up our local parks, waterways and recreation areas. The homeless crisis will also be addressed.

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson will also be on the agenda to discuss the importance of the 2020 Census for our community, and how his office is working to make sure an accurate count of all of our residents is obtained.

Our main Town Hall speaker will be Oakland's Department of Transportation (OakDOT) Director Ryan Russo, who will provide an overview of OakDOT, its successes, opportunities for the new year, and other highlights. Come prepared to learn more about transportation in Oakland and how it has changed since OakDOT's formation. ■

New Laws Go Into Effect In 2020

This year, Governor Newsom signed over 1,000 new bills. Here are some key new state laws coming your way:

Online Privacy
The Consumer Protection Act gives internet users the right to delete their data, and to know what personal data is being collected.

Harassment Reporting
The statute of limitations for reporting workplace harassment has been extended from one year to three years. Additionally, sexual harassment training is now required for companies with at least five employees.



Contract Workers
Only when a worker is free from the direct control and direction of the employer and work outside of the company's core business, can they claim to be independent contractors.

Nursing Mothers
New law requires accommodations for lactating mothers in the workplace including penalties for violations.

Circus Animal Ban
Exotic animals including elephants are no longer allowed in circuses as a result of the Circus Cruelty Prevention Act.

Gun Laws
SB-61 requires a 30-day waiting period between buying semi-automatic rifles. AB-12 allows employers, workers and teachers to get a restraining order on someone for guns if they fear that person will cause harm.

Medical Cannabis
Children with medical conditions who are treated with cannabis will now be allowed to use the medication in school with proper compliance and a medical professional's approval.

Private Prisons
All private detention facilities and prisons must be phased out by 2028, with no new contracts being renewed.

Street Food Vendors
Local governments are now prohibited from banning sidewalk food sales, and are required to set up a licensing system if they want enforcement options other than citations or fines.

Arbitration Agreements
Employers are now prohibited from requiring employees to sign arbitration agreements.

Hair Styles
A person can't be discriminated against, at work or at school, as a result of their hair style. This includes hair that is afro-styled or braided.

Electric Scooters
The speed limit for scooters has been raised from 25mph to 35mph, and helmets are no longer required when navigating city streets.

New Laws, page 13



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

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 February's issue is January 23.

Advertising rates are $26/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at (510) 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.)

Stop Signs Returning to Shafter Avenue

— by Jason Patton, Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager, OakDOT, Safe Streets Division

The City of Oakland's Department of Transportation (OakDOT) will be reinstalling the stop signs on Shafter Avenue at Cavour, Clifton, and Hudson Streets. These are the locations where stop signs were removed in conjunction with the installation of traffic circles in November 2018. For the past year, OakDOT has been monitoring the traffic circles to understand how they are functioning.



Based on fieldwork and community comments, we have determined that reasonable people do not agree on who has right-of-way at the circles. Some people understand traffic on Shafter to have the right-of-way: because the side streets are stop-controlled Shafter traffic should go first. Other people are of the mind that the person who enters the traffic circle first has the right-of-way.

Both of these views have a basis — but they are incompatible with each other. OakDOT staff documented these kinds of interactions in field observations of "near misses." We also analyzed lines of sight and found blockages created by private landscaping and buildings. We are sympathetic to the complaints of pedestrians that fewer drivers are yielding to them as they cross the street.

Reinstalling the stop signs will clarify who goes first, and reduce speeds to diminish the likelihood and severity of potential crashes. It will correct the visibility issues noted above, having drivers stop at each intersection where they can clearly see each other. It will also help protect pedestrians crossing Shafter by reducing drivers' speeds and making drivers more likely to yield.

OakDOT recognizes that reinstalling the stop signs is not ideal for bicyclists. Shafter is a bike boulevard, and the purpose of a bike boulevard is to prioritize bicyclists, maintain local access for residents, but discourage cut-through traffic. While being mindful of these policy goals, OakDOT's decision to reinstall the stop signs is based on the practical and immediate consideration of keeping people safe on Shafter.

When making changes to the streets, there is often a "settling in" period during which people become familiar with the changes and adjust their behaviors. After one year, people have settled into incompatible behaviors. Thus, OakDOT will be reinstalling the stop signs on Shafter. The modifications will also include lowering the signs in the traffic circles to improve visibility, and replacing the "traffic circle" signs with signs that read, "Yield to Traffic in Circle." The work is planned for completion in February 2020.

For more information, contact jpatton@oaklandca.gov at the OakDOT Safe Streets Division. ■



"The Last Gift Box," A Free Community Workshop on End-of-Life Decisions

— by Patt Schroeder

The Caregiver Support Group of College Ave Presbyterian Church (CAPC) invites the local community to attend "The Last Gift Box Workshop" on Sunday, January 19, 2020, from 3–5pm, 5951 College Ave.

Tina Cole Kreitz, author of *The Last Gift Box, A Present to Those Who Follow Me*, will share the strategies available in her guide to help adult children and their parents decide how they wish to live and die. The discussion will include how to organize papers, how to make medical decisions, how to gift possessions, and more.

Tina's guide and workshop teaches families how to discuss the difficult issues included in end-of-life planning and motivates them to make decisions ahead of time, before a crisis occurs. Tina speaks on this topic from the perspective of deep personal experience, and with grace and a dash of humor. Some who have participated in her workshops consider her the "Rick Steves' guide for your last adventure."

Copies of her workbook will be available for purchase at the event, and those attending will be asked to make a small donation of $10. You can reserve your spot for free via Eventbrite at www.eventbrite.com/e/the-last-gift-box-workshop-tickets-84827534439

More information can be found online at www.capcoakland.org. ■

Letters to the Editor

NIMBY, YIMBY, SIMBY and The CCA Campus

Dear Editor,

California College of the Arts (CCA) is moving from Broadway and College to San Francisco. As you most likely have heard, CCA and the Emerald Fund plan to construct 554 new market-rate units in four 5 to 8 story buildings, and one 19-story tower, including 367 parking and 554 bike spaces. They also want to add one floor to the existing dormitory at Clifton, with 35 units, reserved for low income artists (six percent of the total project units). The project requires re-zoning and Master Plan revisions to change the 35 feet height limit to up to 190 feet.

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The City and its consultants are currently working on the environmental impact review (EIR), which will take six months to a year to complete. Upper Broadway Advocates (UBA), a neighborhood group, conducted two public meetings earlier this year to elicit community response. From the masses of letters and comments, three main positions have emerged.

NIMBYs (Not in My Backyard) oppose any development that changes the status quo, such as upzoning, regardless of the impact. Their concerns about traffic, parking, views, and crime, etc. are often challenged as trivial or spurious. Their desire to protect their neighborhood outweighs any public benefits a project might offer.

YIMBYs (Yes in My Backyard) approve of any housing development, no matter how big or luxurious, regardless of neighborhood impacts. They argue that the extreme housing shortage requires large-scale development. They feel that people moving into market-rate units will free up older, cheaper units, and that the associated impact on traffic, parking, etc., and especially appearance, are insignificant compared to the public benefit obtained.

SIMBYs (Smart in My Backyard) welcome reasonably dense "smart" development that benefits the neighborhood and the city. The majority response from the meetings was that the tower is wildly out of scale as it offers too few affordable units and disrespects both the community and the site (which includes two landmarked buildings). Many think the project would further gentrify the neighborhood. Fears about fire safety, very strong since the 1991 Oakland Hills fire, should not be dismissed lightly.

What Next?

UBA's position is that 19 stories is too tall, 35 affordable units is too little. Ultimately, these policy issues will drive the City Council's approval or rejection. Downtown has been the preferred place for high-rise buildings (more than 7 or 8 stories). Along the Broadway corridor, from Uptown to College Avenue, new mid-level housing is the norm. The two developments nearest CCA are 5 and 6 stories tall (Baxter and Merrill). The City's *Guidelines for Corridors and Commercial Areas* assert that new development should "achieve a compatible transition between areas with different scale buildings."

But what kind of transition is there between Broadway's mid-level buildings and the 19-story tower? The pretty pictures on the developer's website do not adequately show the full height of the tower, nor its position on the hill, nor its relation to surrounding buildings. Is it not possible for Emerald and CCA to build attractive housing that integrates with the community, instead of a Salesforce-like tower that looms over it? Isn't there a smarter solution?

California requires communities

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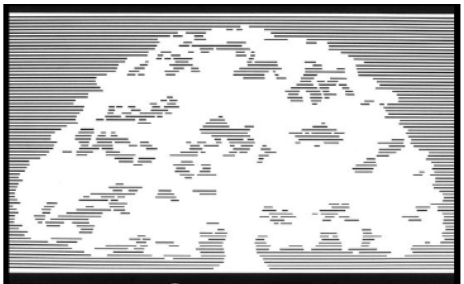
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to set housing goals and report on progress. Oakland has more than met its goal for the well-off and dramatically missed its goal for everyone else (see below). Clearly, Rockridge, with its beauty, walkability and transit, is a very desirable place for developers who prefer projects with a high return on investment — luxury with views. The City Council's continued approval of large housing projects with few affordable units indicates they buy into the "trickle-down" theory of housing — as the affluent move into market-rate housing, they free up older and cheaper units for poorer people.

Income Level	Unit Goal for 2018	Units Issued Permit	Progress
Very Low, Low, Moderate	6949	1,319	19%
Above Moderate	7816	15,622	200%
Totals	14,765	16,941	

* City of Oakland 2018 Annual Housing Element Progress Report

This myth doesn't work in cities with expensive land and ever-growing demand from new and old residents. Surely the Council can require a reasonable number of affordable units. Isn't there a smarter solution?

Residents of North Oakland and Rockridge, what do you think? What kind of smart development would you support? Contact UBA at UBAOakland@gmail.com, and visit our website UBAOakland.org for links to City documents and other resources.

— *Submitted by Upper Broadway Advocates*

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Dear Editor,

Last week, I met a new neighbor, which is a rare treat in my aging, low-turnover neighborhood. I was intrigued to learn that they had moved into an ADU down the street, much like the one I live in. I didn't know there was an extra home in that backyard, but now I'm delighted to have a new face to greet in the morning. More neighbors make our neighborhoods friendlier, safer, and lovelier. More neighbors means more support for local businesses, more transit use and less freeway traffic, and more neighborhood characters to create neighborhood character.

However, we can't welcome more neighbors without building more homes. Though I live nearby, and though we may have seen each other on College Ave, I do not live in Rockridge. I love the neighborhood, but I simply have not been able to find an affordable home. Opening Rockridge to small apartment buildings and moving forward with the renovation of large sites into hundreds of homes, as is planned for the old California College of the Arts campus, will create space for more neighbors and maintain the colorful streets and diverse businesses we love. But above all else, it means there would be more housing options at more price points.

For readers of The Rockridge News that haven't had to find a new place to live recently, it is a challenge everywhere, but especially in Rockridge. There aren't many apartments here. And even though newly built apartments may sound expensive, consider that a 30-year mortgage on a bungalow in Rockridge costs more than $6,000 per month — if you can put together a down payment.

New apartments let people move in without pushing others out, and they can bring benefits that help the community in specific ways. For example, my partner is an artist and, like most Bay Area artists, she struggles to find stable studio space. One of the unique aspects of the new homes at CCA is they are also bringing new affordable workspaces to artists in the East Bay.

But it's not just big buildings that can help us make a more welcoming Oakland. We should be doing more to encourage mom-and-pop contractors to build naturally affordable small apartment buildings rather than flipping cottages into multimillion dollar luxury single family homes. Duplex conversions could be a new bread-and-butter for these small businesses, creating new homes for our growing city and new income opportunities for empty-nesters who want to stay in their family house.

I can't comment on housing without recognizing my own privilege as someone with a white-collar career and a family that hasn't been subject to the injustices of redlining. This letter is not a complaint about my housing challenges. It is a plea for our broader community to consider how harrowing this process must be for our neighbors trying to grow a family, for our neighbors dealing with slashed hours and short paychecks, for our neighbors scrambling for

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Letters

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emergency housing after a crisis, for our neighbors trying to find an apartment that is wheelchair accessible, or for any one of the 350,000 people in our region dealing with housing insecurity.

Oakland hasn't always been a welcoming and inclusive city. Like the United States writ large, we have a history of racial and economic injustice that we cannot look away from. However, I know that Oaklanders and Rockridgers today love our city because of its diversity and inclusiveness, its opportunity and openness. Let us all extend that welcome to our new neighbors. I look forward to saying hello, and I hope you do too.

— Logan Williams

An Opportunity for Progress

Dear Editor,

In response to the CCA site redevelopment proposal, a new organization in Rockridge called the "Upper Broadway Advocates" formed and mobilized hundreds of residents with extraordinary speed. Their concerns are legitimate (e.g., traffic, trees, affordable units), approach thoughtful, and intentions seemingly in the right place. The headline on their website pleads: "Asking for your help in preserving Oakland." So what exactly are we intending to preserve?

Our dramatically increasing homeless numbers on doorsteps and in storefronts, lack of residential units of all kinds, vacant retail shops on College Avenue, and soon-to-be declining school enrollment numbers? Or an idealized version of the past, one where everyone has access to a single-family home, walking access to BART, and unobstructed views from their back porches (Rockridge as "A Little Hamlet" as described by a Rockridge News contributor last year)? The former is unsustainable, and the latter, impossibility.

Urban centers across the country (in our state specifically) are changing dramatically, few more than Oakland itself. Indeed, Proposition 13 is something we all must grapple with, none more than aspiring renters and homeowners with nowhere to go. The CCA redevelopment is an opportunity to set a positive example for all communities in the Bay Area while moving Rockridge forward with a sound moral compass.

Instead, we are throwing up roadblocks and grinding development once again to a standstill. Robert Brokl and Alfred Crofts wrote an opinion piece in last month's Rockridge News that, in addition to UBA's efforts, highlights a surprisingly naked NIMBY sentiment and set of ideas (The Presidio, a federally owned National Park property, as example? How many affordable units are there in the Presidio?) that largely ignore the realities we face as a community, and will ultimately be self-defeating in the mid- to long-term with declining tax revenues, under-enrolled schools, and a lack of home-care workers to serve Rockridge residents aging in place.

Why not push for even more vertical development on the site with higher standards for design, and along with it argue for even more green space? Why not push for a set of beautifully designed and developer-funded Navigation Centers for homeless, knowing that these centers are associated with reduced homeless numbers in the immediate proximity — not to mention it being the right thing to do? Why not use efforts like these to gain greater involvement and subsidies from the city, county, and state to re-imagine Broadway and College Avenues as shining examples of micro-mobility and access to major transportation hubs?

Let's find ways to imagine and progress toward better futures instead of clinging to preservation practices of the past. Our future depends on it.

— Gabriel Kleinman

Editor's Note: Views expressed in articles and letters accepted for publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Rockridge News, its editor, or the board of directors of the Rockridge Community Planning Council. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send them to editor@rockridge.org.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

May 2020 bring much joy and happiness and successful home sales!



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RCPC Welcomes New Board Members

RCPC is pleased to announce the appointment of three board members to fill the current vacated seats.

Eric Lombardo

As a young person, renter, environmental professional, rider of transit and bikes, and advocate for/member of the LGBTQ community, I am excited to have this voice and bring these perspectives to the board.



At my day job, I raise funds for the Sierra Club's national work on clean energy, public lands, and outdoor access. I've also done some volunteering for housing/tenant rights and for public education.

I have lived in Rockridge with my partner, Alex, since early 2018 and spend much of my personal time exploring our regional parks on foot — Redwood Regional, Sibley Volcanic, Huckleberry Botanic, Claremont and Wildcat Canyons, and Lake Temescal — are nearby favorites of the more than 30 East Bay Regional parks I've had the fortune to visit thus far.

I look forward to meeting more of my neighbors and the Rockridge community. Say hello if we cross paths at a cafe on College, on a local trail, or in the neighborhood.

Robin Zimpfer McDonnell

It was The Rockridge Kitchen Tour 2019 that drew me to the organization where I volunteered my assistance and enjoyed getting to know my wonderful neighbors. I've had a personal interest in design, and was able to put that interest to work in designing and building a Modern Craftsman house and remodeling a century-old Craftsman house prior to moving into our circa 1914 Craftsman house here in Rockridge.

The bulk of my professional career spanned 23 years working for Riverside County. Before retiring, I was the Assistant County Executive Officer of Economic Development. Our department had a broad portfolio including housing programs and community development. Since retiring I have pursued a certificate in interior design. My husband and I have four children, seven grandchildren and, amazingly, a great-grandchild on the way. Our three youngest grandchildren are here in the Bay Area.

Finally, we love our dogs (replacement children) and we train together in dog agility classes. As a recent transplant to Rockridge, I look forward to contributing to our wonderful community.

Matt Levy

My background is in public policy and data analysis, having received my master's degree in policy from Stanford University. Previously, I have worked on strengthening institutions of governance internationally and have been increasingly interested in applying my expertise at the local level.



I currently manage an analytics team at High Lantern Group, applying data science to the practice of issues management where I regularly write and think about key issues impacting the country and the implications for business. I'm also working as a data science consultant for the Judicial Council of California on a team seeking to improve digital services for those going through civil and family law matters without a lawyer.

My legal partner, fur baby, and I have been living in Rockridge since May 2018. We often think about extending park cleanups to the actual neighborhood given the vast amounts of trash littered everywhere that inevitably is making it into the Bay and the broader ocean. We love the area, and enjoy long walks around the neighborhood regularly. I'm eager and humbled to play a part in our community's future. ■

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 discussion of the Legislature's further consideration of transit area up-zoning through a revised SB 50 (Wiener/Skinner) and an update on the Rockridge Housing Study. Please check https://rockridge.org one week prior to confirm the meeting date, time, and place.

Turner Moves on After 15 Years As Block Captain

— by Susan Montauk

Block Captain William Turner is moving on soon from his home on Cavour. He has enjoyed delivering *The Rockridge News* to his neighbors for 15 years, but now he hopes one of those neighbors will take over his job. Thank you, William, for playing an important part in making Rockridge a truly neighborly community. We wish you lots of luck in your new digs and new endeavors.

The Rockridge News relies on the support of residents to deliver the newsletter each month to neighborhood homes. Who will take his place? If you live on Cavour or nearby please consider helping out with this monthly 20- to 30-minute paper route. There is one other route that needs to be covered as well:

- **Route 15A:** Delivers newsletters along both sides of Cavour between Manila and Miles.
- **Route 22C2:** 500 block of Forest Street and 500 block of Martin Street.

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

2020 Vision for Rockridge in the Next Decade

— by Judith Doner Berne

eyes on Rockridge

Lots of national and world leaders are speculating on how the 2020s will affect the nation and the globe. But how will it affect our small corner of the world? As we enter a new decade, here's what some of our fellow residents, each involved in the community, expressed as their predictions and/or hopes for Rockridge.

Annalee Allen, City of Oakland tours coordinator:

I grew up just over the line in South Berkeley/Claremont neighborhood, went south for college and didn't come back until the late 70s. My husband and I first rented, then bought in Rockridge, and raised our family. We feel so lucky to live here, wishing the houses had remained the affordable modest places we once knew and sad that our now grown sons feel they have to go elsewhere to afford a home. What do I want to see in the next ten years? I want to see the affordability bubble burst so there could be affordable houses for all who want to live here. Maybe it is an impossible dream, but I still wish it were so.

Karen Ivy, Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Secretary:

In the new decade, I hope that crime, especially crimes against the person and auto break-ins, will decrease. But frankly, I don't expect that it will. Stealing smartphones and laptops is just too profitable for thieves. I hope that residents of Rockridge will be realistic about crime, and quit thinking that "it can't happen HERE," because it can happen here. The NCPC will keep reminding people not to leave anything in their cars — especially valuables.

I hope that I will stop seeing people walking down the street with their full attention fixed on a smartphone. I saw a woman walk past my house doing this the other day, in the dark, and I almost said to her, "You are a walking target." If I want to use a cell phone in public, I try to put my back against a wall somewhere, and when I'm done I put the phone back in my purse. Besides, if you aren't staring at your phone, you might make eye contact with a neighbor and say hello.

Chris Jackson, Rockridge Business District Association Operations Manager:

Empty storefronts give a false perception of the true story — College Avenue has a very low vacancy rate. Our district continues to generate well over a million dollars in tax revenue and this is a testament to our small businesses. I'm pleased to share that the much talked about building sandwiched between La Boulangerie and Pegasus Books (#5550 through #5510) is now scheduled for renovation.

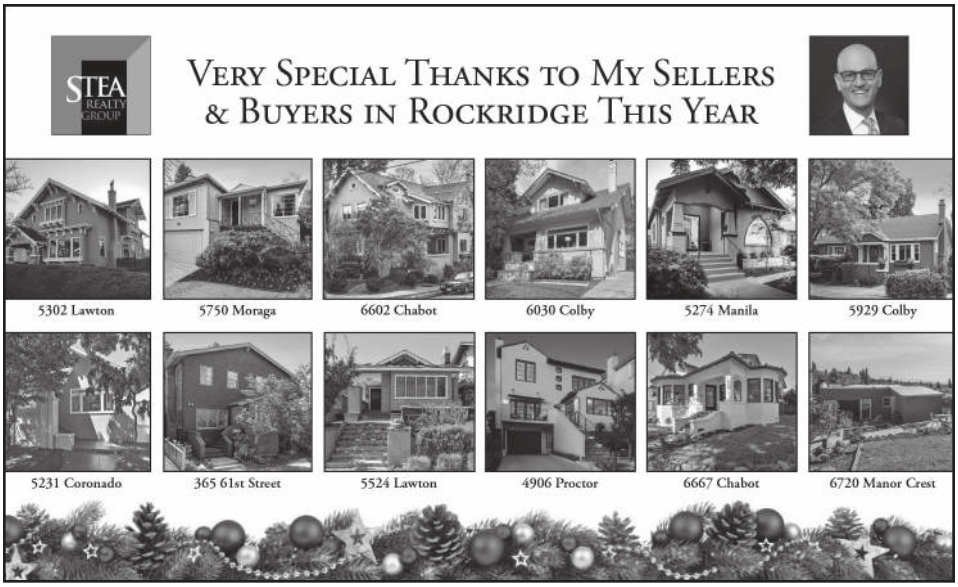
Dan Kalb: Oakland City Council member, District 1:

As residents of Rockridge, Valarie and I cherish the walkability of the neighborhood, the beautiful tree canopies on many of our streets; restaurants and the vibrant shopping district along College Avenue; amazing hot chocolate at the Chocolate Dragon Bittersweet Café; convenient access to BART; the Temescal Farmers' Market; two independent book stores and an awesome branch library; the beautiful Craftsman architecture in which so many of us take pride; and of course, our wonderful neighbors.

But we also face some serious challenges — including reducing crime, housing our homeless, and repairing damaged sidewalks due to city-owned trees. My hope and plan for 2020 is

Continued next page

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to protect and enhance the wonderful qualities of all neighborhoods including Rockridge, and to continue to work in cooperation with neighborhood groups and City of Oakland staff to address many of the challenges we face throughout North Oakland. I envision, and will continue working to realize, a year full of local economic vibrancy, improved safety in Rockridge and all of North Oakland, and a resilient community where neighbors help neighbors and the City is timelier in addressing problems big and small.

Don Kinkead, Rockridge News Founder and Newly-Retired Editor:

Forty years or so ago, Rockridge's future was bleak: The seemingly simultaneous constructions of Interstate 980 and BART had decimated whole neighborhoods — 500 homes and 22 business for the highway alone, according to an *East Bay Times* report — as both projects knifed through the once-prosperous business district. The tone of the neighborhood turned sour and merchants left for better locations, leaving many storefronts empty and boarded up.

In the early 1970s, BART and the City began eying homes around the Rockridge station for replacement by high-rise rental units. Outraged residents lobbied successfully for new zoning that would create a "pedestrian-friendly" shopping district that could revitalize the area and retain the mystique of the area's Craftsman homes.

Now, BART and other public sources seem set on bringing big changes to Rockridge. Contemplating the roots of today's Rockridge leads only to a decade to come (the 2020s) of like-minded people pulling together to insist upon, again, a role in the creation of their own future.

Jody London, Oakland Unified School District Vice President and Director, District 1:

My wish for Rockridge, and all of Oakland in the 2020s, is that our city is recognized as one where *all* children receive a quality education that recognizes and respects each child's history and heritage. Oakland must work to ensure our city is accessible to families that have been here, and those who wish to come, including the many students who arrive in Oakland every year from other countries.

My vision is a quality school system that serves all children. The schools in Rockridge are great schools, some of the highest-ranked and most in-demand in the city. Not every area of our city has schools like those we have in North Oakland. My vision is that every part of the city will have great schools and families will not be compelled to travel across town to access the education every child deserves.

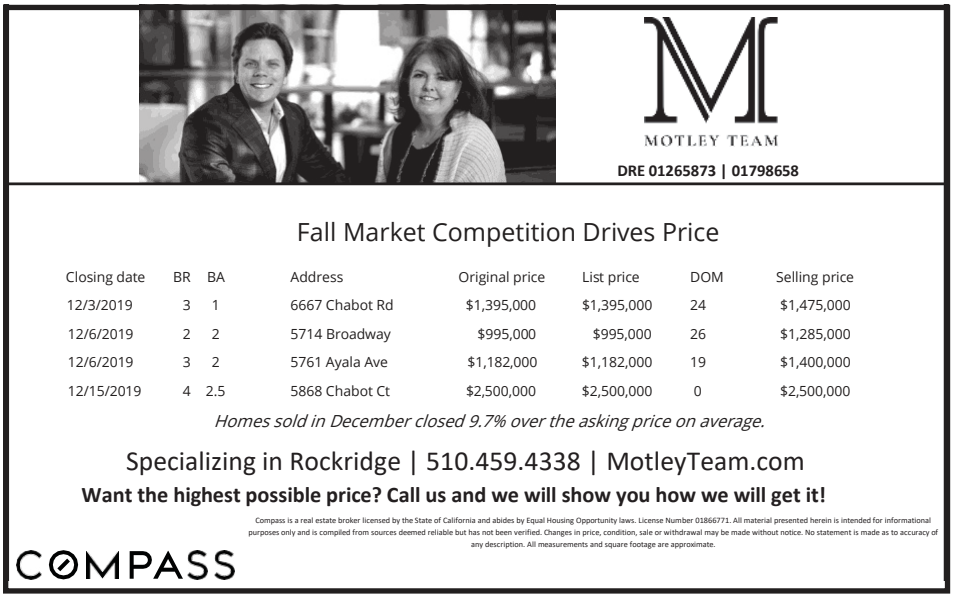
Leonora Sea, Rockridge Community Planning Council Chair:

PG&E has said that over the next ten years there will be more power shutoffs like the ones we experienced this past October. I hope this will give the Rockridge neighborhood the impetus to become, even more than it already has, a resilient community: more neighbors with power sharing their service with those without; more people taking emergency training; and more groups forming to check on each other and share resources during blackouts and other emergencies.

I predict that as the city of Oakland repaves streets in the neighborhood, especially College Avenue, residents ultimately will find they have better infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians. I hope this comes true, and that additionally, we have improved bus transit through Rockridge. That could mean many fewer cars, creating even safer streets and more street space available for disabled and elderly residents who absolutely depend on their cars for daily living in Rockridge. ■

I want to thank those who made time to contribute to this column during this busy holiday season and for their continuing contributions to our community. Happy New Decade!

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





ADUs

from page 1

located on lot borders.

In 2020, the law takes a leap forward and encourages ADU building by allowing just about any residential property owner to build not only one, but both an internal and an external ADU unit, if desired. It extends this right to multi-family owners as well. It eliminates some wasteful construction requirements in order to facilitate better design and less costly construction. It even establishes size and siting rules that limit the local jurisdictions' use of certain land-use tools.

Further, it makes clear that these infill dwellings are meant to add to our long-term housing stock, and so the law restricts their use as short-term rentals of less than 30 days. (As an ADU advisor, I'll gladly explain all the new policy details to anyone interested in using this powerful tool for housing development.)

But beyond the policy details, what's truly significant about this state law is its intent: it empowers families to build these appropriately-scaled dwellings in all of our neighborhoods. Plus, it *explicitly forbids* local jurisdictions from making the law more stringent locally — they can only make it less so. Pretty remarkable!

So now we can have a place for an au pair or caretaker, a rental unit for some supplemental income, or a smaller, easier place to live for ourselves. It allows us to invite an aging parent to share our place without the loss of our privacy or their independence. Likewise, we can share our property with our adult kids, keeping them and their kids close to us.

But even more importantly, I think these sweet, infill places let families stay and put down deeper roots in our community. We can get involved locally and benefit directly when we know we will remain in our community no matter what stage of our lives we are in. This makes both our families and the communities we invest in more resilient.

No, the ADU law is not perfect. We need more allowable height to let property owners with small yards participate by building over garages. We need more financing and design options to drive down the costs so more of us can access the benefits. Those of us working to make the ADU law better continue to engage on these issues.

Lastly, the ADU law has a powerful impact in a much broader sense: It gives us permission to choose what else could be situated on our properties, beyond the solitary single-family dwelling, that might make living easier and better. And it allows us each to ask: "How do I want to live more intentionally as a part of my community?" ■

Loni Gray is an ADU advisor and project catalyst. Her background in home rehabilitation, small home and collaborative housing design, finance, and housing policy gives her a unique lens that she brings to her clients in her firm All Things Housing.

This is the first of two articles on the new ADU law that will be formally introduced on January 1, 2020. This new law is a blend of three bills (AB 68, SB 13 and AB 881) that have already been signed by Governor Newsom. Our second article, to appear in February, will cover more details of the bill, and we welcome reader questions and comments for our future coverage of this topic.

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Happy New Year!!

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Mysteries Solved at Hardy Dog Park

— by Linda Zunas

This fall we had several mysteries at the Hardy Dog Park, so let's investigate three of them:

1) Where did all the chairs go?

One week in November, all the chairs disappeared from the dog park. Only the three benches that our volunteers built and bolted to the ground remained. After some searching locally, the chairs were discovered in two homeless camps and in a vacant chatting circle in another area in the park. The chairs left unused in the circle were returned, but the other chairs were left for the homeless folks to keep and use. If you have extra plastic lawn furniture that has no cracks or breaks, please donate it to the park.

2) Where did the trash cans go?

On another week in November, all the trash cans were removed from the dog park. After the Hardy Dog Park group reached out to the City of Oakland, it was discovered that Public Works had removed the trash cans from the area. Once we found out what had happened, we worked with Public Works to have them returned to their proper locations. We know that in the rain people don't want to walk across the park to reach a trash can, so having more is better for everyone. Thank you to Greg Tarver at Public Works for resolving this issue in a timely manner.



3) Why did the park flood after Thanksgiving?

Our dedicated group of volunteers with the Hardy Dog Park group had not been doing flood control maintenance for the past few months due to other commitments. We did hold our regular monthly cleanup the first Saturday of December and re-dug the drainage ditches and rebuilt some of the flood control berms. Hopefully we can keep the floodwaters at bay during our wet winter.

How can you help keep our park clean and safe? Donate your plastic bags to the collection bins at either entrance (on Hudson or on Claremont). Do not bring food into the park and do not donate bags that had food in them so we can keep rodents away.

All maintenance and cleanup is done by our amazing volunteers. If you are at the park and see trash or poop, lend a hand and clean it up. Join us for our monthly clean-ups the first Saturday of each month so we can keep the park looking great for everyone, especially during the rainy season, when people come from far and wide to use our covered park. Happy New Year! ■

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Daily Bread Delivers Surplus Food To Those in Need

— by Susan Montauk

It's 5pm on a Tuesday — time to collapse the back seats of my car and clear out the cargo space for a heavy load of donated bread loaves and pastries from Firebrand, an Oakland bakery in the Uptown area. I'll deliver the donation to the UC food pantry in the basement of the Student Union on the Berkeley campus as I have done for over a year now.

Statistics from campus surveys reveal astonishingly that 40 percent of UC/Cal students are food-insecure and 10 percent are actually homeless. These donations and many more from various food vendors help to nourish hundreds of Cal students. I feel thankful that my deliveries can make such a positive difference.

Daily Bread is an entirely volunteer-run grassroots organization that was founded in 1983 by Berkeley resident



Patrice Ingelzi is a coordinator and volunteer for Daily Bread.

Carolyn North. She was determined to rescue surplus restaurant and vendor food and put it to good use. With the assistance of just two other friends she set up a fledgling network of vendors and recipients that, over the decades, has expanded to its current broad reach.

For the last 20 years, Patrice Ignelzi has ably coordinated the program. She's a volunteer, just like the rest of us, and does a super-human job of keeping enormous quantities of food from going to waste by routing it to those in need. She remembers that early on she was delighted when a cooking school was added to her donor list and that some of the students at that school had previously been living in a shelter that received Daily Bread donations.

There are approximately 75 active volunteers collecting food from establishments in the East Bay and delivering to shelters, church kitchens, homes for the needy and various other service providers in the area each week. Daily Bread also created the Milk for Kids program at the Berkeley Bowl about 30 years ago. That milk is delivered to more than a dozen locations from day-care centers and rehabilitation homes that serve a few dozen people to the UC Berkeley Food Pantry and overnight shelters that serve thousands of students, families, and seniors.

That remarkably effective program remains viable through ongoing purchases of milk coupons by shoppers and our generous partners Berkeley Bowl and Village Market. Coupon sales ($2.25 each) at checkout allow Daily Bread to maintain distribution of almost 15,000 cartons of milk annually that fund-strapped organizations have come to rely on.

"It's a struggle to keep coupon purchases on track. But the need is ongoing and the cost to each of us is so low, less than that morning coffee. So 'buy a coupon' is a habit I'm asking people to form," Patrice said. She went on to explain that Daily Bread fills a niche — those small service providers scattered throughout Berkeley, Oakland and Richmond that do not have access to the larger food distribution networks. She says she "thought this would be a temporary volunteer job some 20 years ago but the need for this service has never gone away. In fact, it just keeps growing."



Susan Montauk loads her car in preparation for a delivery.

If you'd like to explore volunteering with Daily Bread, please contact Patrice at (510) 526-3123, or email dailybreadberkeley@gmail.com. ■

Frog Park Takes A Leap into 2020

— by Fay Gordon

As a result of the bad weather, the opening date for the renovated Frog Park has been postponed pending necessary turf repair and lawn restoration. The new equipment will be ready in early 2020. For the latest news, visit www.frogpark.org. If you are interested in supporting our treasured community park, email info@frogpark.org. ■

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New Laws

from page 2

Minimum Wage

The state's minimum wage increased from $11/hr to $12/hr for companies with less than 26 workers; $13/hr for larger companies. In Oakland, where Measure FF becomes effective January 1, 2020, the rate rises 34 cents, from $13.80 to $14.14 per hour.

Rent Control

Rental increases are now limited to 5% plus inflation per year (not to exceed 10 percent total) for most rental units (more than 15 years old) not already subject to local rent control.

Animal Testing

Some cosmetics that have been tested on animals will no longer be allowed for sale after 2020.

Domestic Partners

All adult couples (with narrow exceptions), including heterosexual couples under the age of 62, are now able to register as Domestic Partners.

Pet-Friendly Parks

The Department of Parks and Recreation is mandated to release a comprehensive list of parks that allow dogs by July 1, 2020.

Vote by Mail

Ballots sent via the US mail no longer require postage, ensuring that voting is free for all Californians. ■

Golden Squirrel Hosts Weekly Comedy Show



Photo: Jonah Pollack

Nuthouse comedians at The Golden Squirrel play to a packed house.

Nuthouse at The Golden Squirrel is a free, weekly comedy show in the heart of Rockridge that is held every Saturday night at 8:30pm. Nuthouse hosts a rotating lineup of some of the best comics from the Bay Area and beyond.

The show is produced and hosted by internationally unknown standup comedian Clara Bijl (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, SF Sketchfest, Cobbs, Punchline) and Oakland resident and top-notch comedian Jonah Pollack (Oakland Comedy festival, Comedy Soup, Underground at Oakstop).

The Golden Squirrel is located at 5940 College Ave. ■

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 (510) 777-3211 which routes directly to OPD dispatch. To report a crime that has already happened, call the non-emergency number at (510) 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.

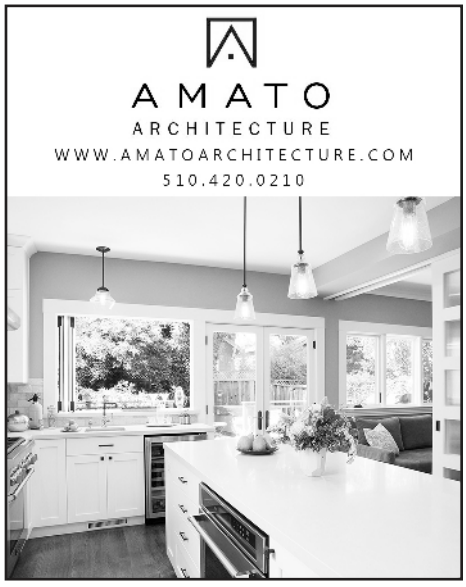
Use these numbers to send OPD an Anonymous Tip:

Crime Stoppers of Oakland: (510) 777-8572

Homicide / Robbery Tip line: (510) 238-7950

OPD Sexual Assault Hotline: (510) 637-0298





Crime Report

— by Karen Ivy, NCPC Secretary

The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) had an extremely lively discussion on December 12, which focused on crime and public safety in the neighborhood. Thirty-four neighbors attended, talking actively and directing questions to OPD's Community Resource Officers, David Mac and Kristine Juergens-Duenas, and later to City Councilmember Dan Kalb.

The meeting started with a short presentation from Zan Stewart from the 2020 Census, advertising the fact that the Census is hiring right now for jobs that pay up to $27.50 per hour. Census job information is available online at www. 2020Census.gov.

There were several reminders that residents should not use 9-1-1 when calling in for non-emergencies. Rather, they should call (510) 777-3211 to report non-violent offenses like car break-ins, phone and laptop snatch and grabs, and homelessness issues. Residents are encouraged to report all crime, because, even though most of these crimes will go uninvestigated, they are important for statistical reasons to help determine where the need is for more patrols and a stronger police presence.

The NCPC will not meet in January 2020; the next bimonthly meeting will be February 13, 2020, at 7pm. Please note the change in the meeting starting time. After a suggestion from our new Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Angela Moore, we polled the meeting attendees and had a clear majority in favor of this earlier time frame. The meeting will run until 8:30pm in the Rockridge Library upstairs conference room. ■

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Library program details/hours: Calendar, page 15

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 January 23. The February issue will be available February 7, 2020. For information: Email Susan Montauk at smontauk@gmail.com.

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Community Calendar

Email Rockridge News Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210 (after noon), or mail to: Rockridge News Community Calendar, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the month. Compiled by Jo Ellis

N'hood Crime Prevention Council

No January NCPC Meeting. Next meeting: Thurs, Feb 13, 7pm, at the Rockridge Library. For more information, or to add items to the agenda, email chair@rockridgencpc.com. **Note: As of 2020, these meetings will be held at 7pm (a half hour earlier than previously scheduled).**

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

Library Hours:
Mon, Thurs & Sat: 10am–5:30pm
Tues, Wed: 10am–8pm.
Fri, 12–5:30pm
Closed: Sunday. Also: Mon, 1/20 (MLK Day)

FOR CHILDREN

*****The Annual 90-Second Newbery Film Festival:** coming to Rockridge Library on Sat, Feb 8,12 noon. **Free for all ages. ALSO: Make your own movie for this year's film festival. The deadline to submit is Jan 10, 2020.** How-to guides for beginning movie-makers are available at 90secondnewbery.com—look under "resources."

*****Stretching for Caregivers:** Every Wed, 10:15am. **Exercise class for adults who take care of infants & toddlers.** Bring your children, get a good stretch, and visit with other caregivers.

- **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.

- **Winter Bingo:** Get your Winter Bingo Card at the library to keep track of your indoor & outdoor activities Pick out your book prize through Jan 18.
- **Chess Club:** learn the basics; Instruction and chess sets provided. Best for ages 6 to 14 (all ages welcome). Fridays at 3:30. **Resumes on 1/10. Call Erica for new schedule.**
- **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. **Resumes on 1/9.**
- **Mix It Up Family Game Nights:** All ages; bring your favorite game or try one of ours. Get to know other families. Tuesdays, 6:30-7:45pm.

FOR TEENS (AGES 12 TO 18)

- **TeenScape:** play video games, table top games, crafts, and general after-school fun. Weekdays (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri) 3:30–5pm. (Wednesdays, 1:30-5pm)

The following events Wednesdays, 3-5pm:

- **Felt Banners:** make felt banners that speak your truth. All materials provided. Wed, 1/8.
- **Perler Bead Notebooks:** Meet in the Teen-Zone to make decorations for our notebooks using perler beads. **All materials provided.** Wed, 1/15.
- **Make a Tote Bag: free** workshop with artists from **Rock, Paper, Scissors Collective,** Wed, 1/22.
- **Rock Painting:** paint rocks and turn them into magnets. **All materials provided.** Wed, 1/29.

FOR ADULTS

- **Veteran's Resource Center Pop-Up:** Speak to a trained staff person to learn about benefits you're entitled to for education, health, employment, housing, and more. Sat, 1/4, 10am–12.
- **Refresh & Renew 2020: Practicing Mindfulness:** Workshop to learn techniques that help calm and uplift your body and mind. Relax, renew, and set positive goals for the new year. Sat,1/4, 11am–1pm.
- **eBook Help:** Work one-on-one with a librarian to download eBooks. Fridays, 2–3:30pm. Book 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:** Call 597-5017 for details and book selection. 2nd Sat each month, 3–4pm.
- **Writers Support/Critique Group—All Welcome:** 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:
January: **Lynn Lazarus;** People at Work Photographs.
February: TBD

Lobby Display Case: TBD

First and Third Friday Square Dance

First and third Fridays of every month, 8–10 pm. Always with 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.
More info: https://squirrellystringband.com/north-oakland-square-dance/ or https://www.facebook.com/NorthOaklandSquareDance/.

White Elephant 2020 PREVIEW Sale

Sunday, January 26,10am–4pm. **Free admission. Save the date** for the annual White Elephant Sale on Sat. and Sun., March 7 and 8, 10am to 4pm. Shoppers have their first opportunity to see and buy the new, the unusual and the unexpected at the Preview Sale. Both the Preview and The White Elephant Sale take place in the Oakland Museum warehouse, on the Oakland Estuary at 333 Lancaster St. More information at https://www.whiteelephantsale.org/preview-sale/about-the-preview-sale and https://www.whiteelephantsale.org/march-sale-weekend/about-march-sale.

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.

- **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

Save a Life, Give Blood

In partnership with the American Red Cross, councilmember Kalb is once again sponsoring the Save A Life Blood Drive on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Day of Service," which is on Monday, January 20, 2020. The event will be from 2-5pm, at the American Red Cross Center located at 6230 Claremont Avenue. If you are able to donate, please email Lisa Jacobs at ljacobs@oaklandca.gov, or call (510) 238-7014 for an appointment.







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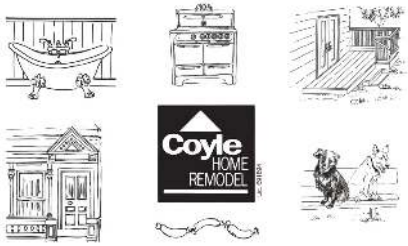
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