THE Rockridge News
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RCPC 2020 ELECTION

Be Heard — VOTE

—by Leonora Sea, Rockridge Community Planning Council Chair

Elections matter. The 2020 primary elections are proving that yet again. Our hyper-local election, the upcoming Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) Board election, also matters. It is the RCPC Board that represents the residents of Rockridge.

People bring ideas, projects, concerns, and complaints to the Board, and Board members decide, with feedback from the community, how best to approach each issue. RCPC members' interactions with the Board are as close to direct democracy as it is possible to be.

This is why the RCPC Board election is important and consequential. Board members are friends,

Board, see page 4

Rockridge Neighbors Host Refugees Looking to Start A New Life in America

— by Jorja Siemons

The catalyst was a Nextdoor post. A refugee family from Afghanistan needed a place to stay in the East Bay when they moved to America. Reading the request, Jessie Young and Ben Casnocha, new to Rockridge, desperately wanted to take them in. But looking at their new home's extra bedroom, they knew they didn't have room for seven new housemates. Nevertheless, they wanted to help. After reaching out to the sponsoring organization, Young and Casnocha found themselves several weeks later opening their home to an Iraqi couple.

That was in 2016, and since then, with several more hosting experiences under their belts, the couple has founded New Anchor, an Oakland-based nonprofit that recruits, prepares, and coordinates hosts who



Jessie, Ben, and their dog Oreo love to greet new guests.

Hosting, see page 12



Taste of Temescal returns in 2020 with food, music and lots of fun for all.

Farm-to-Table Meets "Trick or Treat" at Taste of Temescal

— by Shifra de Benedictis-Kessner, Temescal Telegraph BID

Scintillate your palates at Taste of Temescal — a culinary crawl that has become one of Temescal's most delectable annual events. The evening features a selection of edible delights from local eateries along Telegraph Avenue, 6pm-8:30pm, on Tuesday March 17, from 40th to 52nd Streets, including Temescal Alley, and Claremont Avenue.

Taste of Temescal, see page 12

Coffee With A Cop Offers An Opportunity for Community Engagement

— by Angela Moore, Oakland Police Department Neighborhood Services Coordinator



(Left to right) Officer Mae Phu; Neighborhood Services Coordinator Angela Moore; Safeway Manager Maida French; and Officer Josiah Ladd enjoyed meeting the locals in an informal, friendly enviroment.

The East Bay is full of coffee lovers, and recently, at 6310 College Avenue, local cops gathered with neighborhood folks to mingle and enjoy the brew as a way to strengthen community ties. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for the local police department to interact with community members in a positive, non-enforcement context and talk about a shared vision for public safety.

Sharing information can build trust and reduce misconceptions. Neighbors who personally know the police officers on their beat are much more likely to report crimes or take action, rather than stay silent. Similarly, community members want to be sure that enforcement actions reflect community values and incorporate the principles of procedural justice and legitimacy.

The City relies on the cooperation of community members to provide them with information about crime in their neighborhoods, and to work with the department to devise solutions to crime and other issues. "Coffee with a Cop" helps community members relate to cops in uniform as people with the same hopes, dreams, and fears as they have themselves, and has opened the door for a more collective approach to local law enforcement.

The Oakland Police Department (OPD) was warmly welcomed by event sponsors Cole Coffee, Philz Coffee, Starbucks, and Safeway. The OPD invitees, to name a few, included Captain Boldon, Sgt. Burke, and Community Relations Officers, Jurgens, Ladd, and Mac. ■

The event was organized by Angela Moore, Neighborhood Services Coordinator of Area 2, Beat 12Y/13X. Email her at amoore@oaklandnet.com.

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THE RockridgeNews

The Rockridge News was founded March 1986 by Don Kinkead, and is published monthly (except August). It is sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), a nonprofit 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*? Have questions about newsletter distribution? Want to volunteer to be a *Rockridge News* block captain? Want to write a letter to the Editor?

Articles submitted for publication should be emailed to the editor. Submissions are limited to 600 words, and must include the author's name, phone number, email address, and city or neighborhood of residence. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and brevity.

To submit, or for reprints of an article, contact: editor@rockridge.org

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Deadline for April issue: **March 19, 2020**

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Views expressed in articles 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.

RCPC Rockridge Community Planning Council

Land Use Committee

The March Land Use Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25, at 7:30, at the Rockridge Branch Library. Agenda will include further updates on the use of Safeway settlement funds, Shops at the Ridge Phase 2, the Rockridge Housing Study, and the UBA alternative for redevelopment of the CCA Oakland campus (see below). Please check on https://rockridge.org the previous week to confirm meeting's date, time, and place.

Land Use Committee Update — March 2020

— by Stuart Flashman, Land Use Committee Chair

Rockridge Housing Study

Committee representatives plan to meet with Darin Smith, Rockridge resident and housing consultant, during the coming weeks. The meeting will focus on what work still needs to be completed so that housing study results can be presented at RCPC's April 16th Annual Meeting.

Additional examples need to be evaluated to figure out the relative feasibility of redeveloping different property types; and appropriate incentives to promote building affordable units need to be tested to determine their effectiveness. Smith has noted that high land costs and construction costs (high labor costs in particular) currently make almost any new construction project unattractive in Oakland.

He also said, however, that this short-term situation will almost undoubtedly change over time, so planning for the long term still makes sense.

California College of the Arts (CCA) Oakland Campus Redevelopment Project

Shortly before the Committee's meeting, the community group Upper Broadway Advocates (UBA) had sent the Committee a sketch of a project alternative it is developing and asked to present that proposal at the meeting. While the Committee agreed with the Chair that it was premature to have the alternative formally presented on such short notice, it looked briefly at the proposal, and the chair and other committee members commented on various aspects.

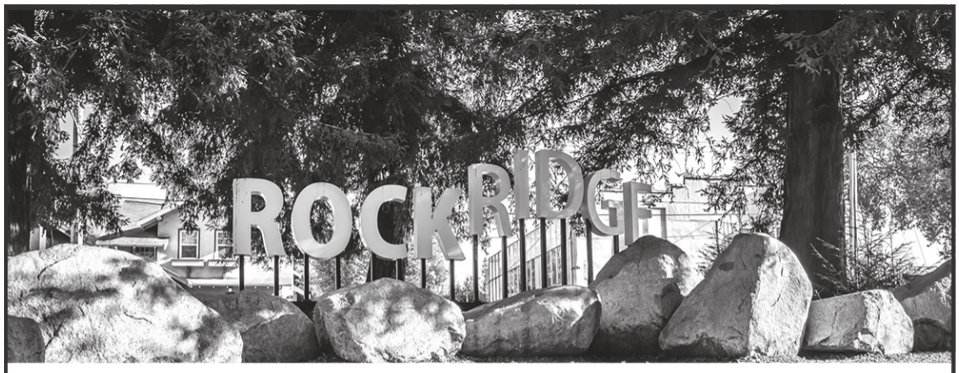
The Chair noted that some provisions of UBA's proposal would necessarily be addressed in an adequate environmental review document.

Many of the issues identified in the proposal had also been commented upon in RCPC's scoping comments for the project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which is currently in preparation.

The RCPC Board is unlikely to consider taking any position on the project until the Draft EIR is publicly released. It has, however, put out a request for proposals to retain a transportation consultant to review and critique the Draft EIR's transportation analysis.

The Committee agreed to discuss UBA's proposal in more detail at its upcoming March meeting. ■

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See Calendar on page 15 for program details/hours

Bambino Thrift Shop's Clearance Sale

The Bambino Thrift Shop is a local nonprofit that operates solely to benefit the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. The store sells gently used clothing, toys, furniture, household items, jewelry, books, artwork, and seasonal items.

From March 17-19, they are holding a special fundraiser for Children's Hospital by offering 50 percent off storewide (some exceptions); and on Friday, March 20, clearance sale items will be 75 percent off. The sale concludes the following day with a Bag Sale — purchase and fill as many bags as you like, with as much as you can fit, for $5 each. Hours are Tues through Friday, 10am to 3pm; Saturdays, noon to 4pm (until 3pm on March 21). ■

Bambino is located at 5290 College Avenue. For more info, call (510) 658-7473 or email bambinothriftshop.org.

Rockridge Community Planning Council — 2019 Finanical Statement

RCPC General Fund	
Income	
Contributions	$1,235.00
Rockridge News	$37,818.00
Kitchen Tour	$10,878.49
Interest Income	$23.47
Merchandise Sales	$170.00
Total Income	$50,124.96
Expenses	
Rockridge News	$39,371.01
Contractors	$2,688.00
Insurance, Permits, Sales Tax	$1,398.00
Misc Admin & Program Expenses	$2,345.79
Kevin Faughnan Memorial Grant	$500.00
Events	$225.00
Total Expenses	$46,527.80
Net Receipts (RCPC)	$3,597.16
BALANCE SHEET	
Assets	
RCPC Assets, Savings/Checking	$96,647.92
Locksley Gardens Assets, Checking	$746.06
Total Assets	**$97,393.98**
Equity & Liability	
KF Community Improvements Prgm	$5,618.41
Legal Fund Reserve	$55,000.00
Equity	$33,179.00
Net Income	$3,596.51
Total Equity & Liability	**$97,393.92**

Board, from page 1

neighbors, fellow commuters, fellow College Avenue shoppers and Rockridge Library visitors.

They're the people who worked hard to bring the Library and Frog Park into being; they're the ones who organize Town Halls about important local issues so that you can hear and be heard. When you have a concern with Oakland city government, they know whom to connect you with to get help.

Make time on Thursday evening, April 16, to come to the RCPC Town Hall at the Rockridge Library. Listen to what the 2020 Board candidates have to say and vote in the election (see list of candidates below).

Doors open and sign-in begins at 6:30pm. The Candidate Forum portion of the Town Hall starts the program. Plan to stay for an informative update on the RCPC Housing Study afterwards.

For those unable to attend, voting will continue on Saturday, April 18. Details will be posted in the April *Rockridge News*. ■

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Leonora Sea
Robin McDonnell
Annette Floystrup
Barbara Dunne
Brett Moyer
Diana Mitchell-Chavez
Emily Hirschman
Jon Gabel
Ken Rich
Kirk E. Peterson
Matt Shintaku
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Kitchen Story Opens On College Avenue

— by Anna L. Marks

The restaurant at 5422 College Avenue has seen tenants come and go over the years. Some locals may remember Pizza Rustica, who had the spot since the 80s. Most recently occupied by The Dutchess, Kitchen Story opened in the space two months ago, and has already received rave reviews.

Owner Steven Choi is a bit of a local legend. He currently has 12 locations around the Bay Area that he owns and operates with his wife, Jiyeon Choi — this being his second in the East Bay. He opened this location and the Berkeley Social Club with partners Chaiporn Kitsadaviseksak (see photo on right) and his wife Jirawan Saipinthong.

Choi grew up in Alameda and attended U.C. Berkeley to study molecular and cell biology, skills he would later find useful in his cooking. During that time, he found himself commuting through Rockridge every day for a few years, and enjoyed its family friendliness. He is concerned that the high rate of car break-ins in the area will impact his restaurant, and truly wants to help keep his customers safe in any way he can.

Choi said, "We hope to be a part of this nice neighborhood for years to come. If there is anything we can do to make it better, please let us know. For example, perhaps we could hire security guards to patrol College Avenue and nearby streets. I am willing to chip in if neighboring businesses also jump on board."

Kitchen Story Rockridge is a sister restaurant to Kitchen Story Castro, in San Francisco, but unlike that location, it offers strictly Asian fusion with a Korean influence (no Thai), with a menu that is customized for this location. It also offers a full bar for thirsty patrons.

The bar offers up nearly a dozen local craft beers on tap, a large assortment of hard liquor, and an array of cocktails that fit the menu including a Rockridge Sour (whiskey bourbon, hibiscus-infused vodka, and lemon). Most notable is his Bloody Mary that took home first place honors several years in a row at San Francisco's People's Choice Festival.

The venue is open daily and offers full American-style breakfasts, and brunch on weekends that include an assortment of benedicts and *Jjapaguri* (a combination of two different Korean noodle dishes). "Nick Yoon is executive chef for my group. I come up with rough ideas, and he creates something better," said Choi when asked who does the cooking.

Tornado Galbi Omurice is also very popular, and one that Choi is most proud of. It consists of twisted scrambled eggs and lightly fried rice with veggies and Galbi (Korean-marinated short rib), covered in a spicy demi-glace sauce.

Choi is well known for his signature recipe "Millionaire's Bacon" (very thick slices with brown sugar and spices) and serves it in each of his restaurants. Choi plans to offer it in three additional flavors in to-go gift packs soon.

"Asian fusion is the best of both worlds. It serves as a gateway for a new cuisine experience. It's a convenient and easy way to try and enjoy another culture's food," says Choi. ■



Photo: Anna L. Marks

Kitchen Story co-owner Chaiporn Kitsadaviseksak says the restaurant is looking for experienced kitchen staff.

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Rockridge Celebrates New Equipment At Frog Park

— by Fay Gordon



Photos: Don Kinkead

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, family fun continued all day at the Frog Park playground celebration.



High winds and crisp weather did not deter the Rockridge crowd on Sunday, February 9, as neighbors and Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt (FROG) showed up in force to support Frog Park. After months of anticipation, years of fundraising and designing, and decades of vision setting, the neighborhood gathered to celebrate the new equipment.

On this recent Sunday morning under a blue sky and the beautiful redwood trees, the FROG Park Committee hosted the park ribbon-cutting ceremony. Sean Maher, Public Information Office for City of Oakland Public Works and Transportation, emceed the event. Oakland City Councilmember Dan Kalb kicked off the celebration.

Theresa Nelson, FROG Park co-founder, shared historical insight into the community-driven "Big Build" that established the park we enjoy today. Carol Behr, FROG Park committee chair and project lead, spoke about years of fundraising, designing, and planning with multiple government entities including the City of Oakland Public Works. As a result of community engagement and feedback, it is now one of the most accessible parks in the area.

Crowds of children rushed to participate in the ribbon cutting. The excitement was palpable as giant scissors cut through the blue ribbon, and children bolted to explore the dazzling new equipment.

Many flocked to the new climbing-merry-go-round, a highly requested new feature, and the force of dozens of children gleefully pushed it around. The equipment also includes new toddler swings, a see-saw, and an ADA accessible swing. Middle School volunteers ran kid-friendly stations: rock painting, fishing, face-painting and our Frog-Toss feeding game.

A big thank you to: Bakesale Betty for the delicious and generously donated goodies; Pete's Coffee; and our school volunteers (Sara Ur, Ella Fancher, Ruby Kiechal, Jordyn Swale. The FROG Park Committee also thanks the current and past committee members and cofounders.

Last month's celebration was the result of years of community effort and fundraising, and the committee plans to maintain momentum and keep the park beautiful for generations to come. ■

Explore www.FROGPark.org to find out how you can contribute.

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March is awareness month for Woman's History, Optimism, Act Happy, Nutrition, Ethics.



Happy Spring!!

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Pop-Up Cafe Brings Neighbors Together to Do Good

— by Rachel Hollowgrass

On a cool Saturday morning in February, neighbors aged 4-months to 91-years old dropped in at a tiny outdoor popup cafe on Dana Street called "Bring Your Own Cup."

More than simply saying "hi" in passing, yet less than a neighborhood meeting, BYOC gives neighbors a chance to sit and chat over coffee.

"We recently moved into the neighborhood, and the coffee event was a great way to meet our new neighbors. Everyone has been so friendly and welcoming," said Jesse and Lauren, who live on 65th Street.

Ryann Liebenthal, writer, mother and new Rockridge resident, agrees. "It was lovely to come downstairs on a Saturday morning with our baby and coffee mug in hand and get to chat with people from all around the neighborhood — some we'd met and many we hadn't. As new parents and recent transplants to the area, we really appreciate finding ourselves in an enclave of friendly, interesting people."

BYOC is also a fundraiser for local women and children's shelter Elizabeth House. Located in Rockridge since 1994, Elizabeth House is a residence for women and children in transition due to poverty, violence or addiction. In addition to shelter, they provide education, employment, and health and wellness services.

These events are "democratized," so each will likely be at a different place and time according to the host's whims. Hopefully, this will accommodate early and late risers, people with kids, without kids, etc. There is no charge for coffee, thanks to generous donations from nearby businesses.



Neighbors brought their own coffee cups to a recent "pop-up cafe."

BYOC will pop up for a few more 60-minute stints through March. Inspired? Residents of other neighborhoods are encouraged to hold popup events of their own. The next event may be this weekend, or maybe not. It's really a "pop-up!" ■

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After Innocence, Then What? Helping Exonerees Restart Their Lives

— by Judith Doner Berne

Yes, Jon Eldan loves to cook. But what emerges from his light-filled Rockridge kitchen these days takes precedence over what he learned baking part-time at the Acme Bread Company and interning at Chez Panisse when he was in his early 20s.

eyes on Rockridge

Eldan, 49, is director of After Innocence, the nonprofit agency he founded to advocate and provide re-entry assistance for the wrongly convicted throughout the country. "I started it in my kitchen [in 2014] and I'm still in my kitchen," he said. "We don't need a store front for what we do."

Members of his advisory board include Barry Scheck, co-founder of The Innocence Project; Bryan Stevenson, executive director of Equal Justice Initiative; Dave Eggers, author and co-founder of Voice of Witness; author and attorney Scott Turow; and Sabrina Butler and Kirk Bloodsworth, two death row exonerees who have gone on to become activists.

Eldan, a 2002 UC Berkeley Law School graduate, tracks down exonerees through the National Registry of Exonerations, founded in 2012 at the University of Michigan, and now headquartered at the University of California, Irvine. The Registry provides detailed information about every known exoneration in the United States since 1989 and a more limited number prior.

The telephone is Eldan's mode of operation — calling and texting. "I found out what you can do from your home in Rockridge. Sometimes I walk around the neighborhood on the phone. Right now we are working with more than 600 exonerees." And he is out to contact as many others as he possibly can.

"The vast majority of exonerees in U.S. were released without any help rebuilding their lives, and the majority of them never receive meaningful compensation," Eldan explained. "What can we do about that — not just for the ones that are just now coming out of prison, but for the ones released in past years and decades. How many can we reach, how quickly, with some basic help in an important area of their lives, such as increasing access to healthcare and legal services? After Innocence is aimed at answering that challenge."

After Innocence concentrates on the basics of re-entry: photo identification (for the recently released), and increasing access to health care, legal services and local social services. "The healthcare is a game-changer for so many of them. I'm confident that what I'm providing is not just kindness, but expertise."

His calls go something like this: I'm Jon Eldan from After Innocence, a nonprofit that helps exonerees across the country. Everything we do for exonerees is completely free. Our goal is to help you get and use the healthcare and social services you are eligible for and to find you pro bono legal help with any problems you are having. You can call us at any time for assistance in these areas. "Anything they tell me, I will try to get them."

"I can always call and talk to Jon," said Zavion Johnson, a recent client. In 2002, Johnson, then 18, was wrongly convicted of killing his four-month-old daughter in a high-profile California case of alleged "shaken baby syndrome." The baby had actually slipped from his hands after a bath and hit her head on the tub, as he testified.

After serving 16 years, he was freed two years ago through the efforts of the Northern California Innocence Project. Medical experts, whose testimony had convicted him, acknowledged that new science on "shaken baby syndrome" showed they had been wrong.

Through Eldan and others, Johnson, now living in Hayward, has healthcare, housing and access to social services. Eldan is now pursuing a reimbursement of the fines and restitution Johnson had to pay "in connection with a conviction that never should have happened. Although he has a right to get that money refunded, it is not automatic.

After Innocence, see next page

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Someone has to go get it."

But Johnson still can't find a meaningful job. Despite his innocence, his jail time, he says, "comes with a stigma. I want a new trial. I'd like a finding of actual innocence. I feel stuck in the middle. This is something that happened to me. I didn't go looking for it. I missed out on college. I missed out on growing into myself. I'm just now feeling a little at ease. I want to work five days a week. I'm very energetic."

"We struggle with how to remove that stigma," Eldan readily admits. "We failed him. Society has. Seventeen states have no remuneration of any kind. And others are quite meager." So far, getting jobs for exonerees has been beyond his organization's scope. "Getting someone a job," he acknowledges, "is a major challenge."

Recent grants from the state of California will allow Eldan to broaden his outreach in California and provide additional services by dedicating a case manager to work with California exonerees.

"I believe this is the first time a state government has put money toward re-entry work with the exoneree population," he said. "And that's thanks to State Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), who has been a great champion of criminal justice reform generally, and now specifically for exonerees. We should live in a state — and in a country — where when we mess things up we make it right."



Photo: Judy Berne

Zavion Johnson (right) took BART from Hayward to attest to the assistance he's received from Jon Eldan's nonprofit, After Innocence.

Eldan has had an interesting life. He lived in Italy for four years and wrote travel books for Fodor's and Eyewitness. After leaving corporate law, he spent 10 months in Afghanistan as an advisor on how to strengthen that country's justice system.

A Rockridge resident since 2004, he lives with his partner Sarah Anne Minkin, a sociology lecturer at the University of San Francisco and a consultant with the Foundation for Middle East Peace. He's an avid gardener, a member of Friends of the Oakland Tool Lending Library and delivers *The Rockridge News* in his neighborhood.

Given his varied history, I asked what his future might hold. "I have a lot of work in this area before I do something else," Eldan said. But when that day comes, "I am building an organization to one day pass on to others. The sign of any great nonprofit is to go into the next generation." ■

You can learn more at www.after-innocence.org. If you have questions about this column or suggestions for future columns, please contact judyberne@att.net.

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Market Hall Salutes Big Wheel of Cheese

— by Marshka Kiera

March 28th will be Crucolo Day, the day the cheese department at Market Hall welcomes the annual arrival of a several-hundred-pound wheel of cheese imported from Northern Italy — the biggest cheese west of the Mississippi. The event starts at noon on the Shafter Avenue side of Rockridge Market Hall, with a parade and celebration, music, tastings and giveaways to follow.

Crucolo is an artisanal cheese that comes from the Trentino region in northern Italy. The milk used to make this cheese is selected from the cows that roam the pastures beneath the Trento Mountains. This distinct environment gives the cheese its particular taste and rich aroma. ■



Come see the biggest cheese west of the Mississippi.

For more information, visit www.rockridgemarkethall.com/events.

Spring Looms, Flowers Unfold

— by Robert Firehock

How quickly we've come to spring, arriving this year on March 19. The first poppies are blooming on the Claremont/Hwy 24 on-ramp — and the daffodils are largely done already.



Lee and Patrick show off their weekly haul.

With the specter of another drought year hanging over us, Scenic Streets volunteers are giving thoughtful consideration to some limited plantings, with a focus on colorful drought-tolerant varieties and a butterfly garden.

We love community input, ideas and participation. Please join us as we plant, prune, weed and pick up trash on the Hwy 24 on-ramp and around a number of local street trees. ■

If you have a couple hours a month to contribute to your community, please get in touch with Lee at lee.scenicstreetsoakland@gmail.com.

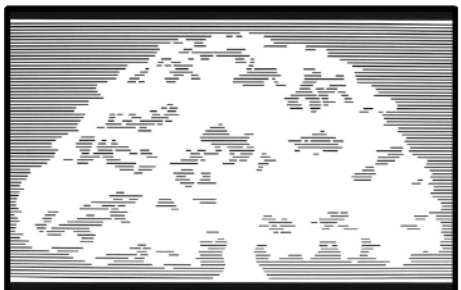
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RCPC Land Use Committee Update

SB 50 Is Dead. What Happens Now?

— by Stuart Flashman, Land Use Committee Chair

On January 30, the California State Senate, in a floor vote, fell short of the majority needed to pass SB 50 and move it on to the State Assembly. As a result, SB 50 is now officially dead.

SB 50 had achieved both fame and notoriety by attempting to dictate a housing policy based on densification on a statewide basis, focused on areas close to transit station or major bus lines. However, that same day its primary author, Senator Scott Wiener (D, SF) submitted two "spot" bills, which he announced he intended to use to put forward a further modified version of his bill for consideration this session. (A spot bill is one that has no significant substance and is, essentially, a placeholder for a to-be-added-later bill.)

Of course, SB 50, while by far the most prominent and controversial housing bill this session, was far from the only such bill before the Legislature. In addition, several of the Democratic Presidential candidates have made housing, and particularly the housing crunch in California and other urban areas of the country, a campaign issue. So, housing may become a major issue in the fall Presidential election, and perhaps may even be on the next President's Congressional agenda.

Getting back to California, one of the more interesting bills to be introduced this January was SB 795 (Beall, D, San Jose). This bill would essentially revive the concept of using tax-increment funds to finance social programs, similar to how redevelopment agencies had worked. However, this new tactic would limit both the nature and scope of projects permitted for funding, and the amount of funding that could be allocated on an annual statewide basis.

One of the main areas the new program would fund would be the construction or rehabilitation of affordable and workforce housing. In addition, the funds could also be used for transit-oriented development and infrastructure improvement projects.

The design of the program is intended to avoid some of the problems created by redevelopment agencies — including politically motivated projects that sucked money away from schools and local agencies. Those problems eventually led to the abolition of redevelopment agencies. It remains to be seen whether Beall's bill can avoid the stigma that came to be associated with redevelopment.

The demise of SB 50 demonstrates the tension that exists in the Legislature, and in the state, between the desire to address the shortage of affordable housing and the desire of local governments to maintain control of their own land use policies. Only time will tell whether a middle ground can be found. Conceivably, SB 795 could be one approach. ■

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PLA033-2 CA

Taste of Temescal, from page 1

Tickets are $40, and each of the participating restaurants offers a bite or small plate to ticket holders. Invite your friends, and enjoy an evening, of food, drink, and fabulous prizes (including gift certificates to your favorite local eatery).

This year's participating restaurants include: Artichoke Basille's; Asmara Restaurant; Aunt Mary's Café; Bierhaus Oakland; Bird and Buffalo; Burma Superstar; Café Colucci; Co Nam; The Cro Café; Curbside Creamery; Daol Tofu; EZ Taqueria; Hancook; Hawking Bird; I Scream Donuts; Julie's; Magpie Oakland; Marufuku Ramen; North Light; Pizzaiolo; Prima Materia; Red Sea; Roses' Taproom; Saucy Oakland; and Smokin' Woods BBQ.

Live music will accompany the feast along the way. Event organizers will be on hand to help navigate and answer any questions that may arise.

Proceeds will benefit the following organizations: Claremont Middle School; Emerson Elementary School; Oakland Technical High School; La Clínica de La Raza; and Studio One Art Center. Tickets are available at Studio One Art Center, or online at https://tasteoftemescal2020.bpt.me ■

Pick up your ticket at the will-call booth, located in front of Kasper's at 4521 Telegraph Ave (between 45th & 46th Streets) the night of the event.

Hosting, from page 1

want to house Bay Area refugees.

Funded by local community members, New Anchor also assists asylum seekers, who, unlike refugees, are not pre-approved to live in the U.S. and therefore can't receive benefits and work permits. Through the housing program, these individuals can live safely as they undergo the required legal processes. Despite their differences, both refugees and asylum seekers struggle with being forced out of their homelands, making transitions difficult.

"When they arrive, they are optimistic about the opportunities here, but they miss their families and the comfort of being in the culture they grew up in," Young explains, "but they are often motivated to stay in the Bay Area because its diversity means they can find communities of people who speak their language, cook their native food, etc."

Because New Anchor partners with organizations that provide comprehensive case management, as well as volunteers equipped to assist individuals, hosts are only responsible for providing a private bedroom, a dedicated or shared bathroom, and access to a kitchen for meal preparation and food storage. By paying low monthly rent during their three-to-six-month stay, refugees and asylum seekers accumulate credit, strengthen their budgeting skills, and establish their independence.

However, many hosts exceed their responsibilities and choose to help their guests even further. "The number one benefit of the hosting experience, as shared by past hosts themselves, is the mutually-transformative relationship that emerges through the experience, and the impact that has on both parties."

To prepare ahead for guests, Young and Casnocha suggest that hosts prepare a list of house rules that can be discussed upfront. Facilitating honest conversations makes guests feel more at home, in turn fostering a safe atmosphere. The couple also suggests that hosts research the expected guest's homeland country, and the situation they encountered before making the difficult decision to leave.

"It is often emotionally difficult for a refugee to talk about the specifics of the persecution they faced," Young says, "so getting a sense of what life may have been like before they arrive can be very useful to the host."

Bay Area residents participating in New Anchor's mission have reported life-changing experiences and the incredible knowledge that they are making a direct impact on people's lives. In a testimony on the New Anchor website, Oakland resident Eliot Peter noted that "hosting a refugee in our house wound up being way easier, way more pleasant, and way more meaningful than I'd expected." When considering the Ugandan man he hosted, Peter writes that he soon became "part of the family."

Whether it's something as simple as assisting someone with BART directions or explaining an American custom, Young believes Bay Area residents can make a difference. "Helping someone acclimate to and feel welcome in the U.S. is the kind of direct action that combats the weariness many of us are feeling about the current state of the world." ■

To host a refugee, or learn more about New Anchor, visit them at https://newanchor.org.



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February Heating Up

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
2/10/2020	4	5	14 Roslyn Ct	$2,695,000	$2,695,000	27	$2,695,000
2/13/2020	4	3.5	5833 Ayala Ave	$1,995,000	$1,995,000	15	$2,500,000

Homes sold in February closed 10.8% over the asking price on average.
Median sold price is $2,597,500
Average price per square foot is $1,018.14
5 Sales Currently Pending

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Revel Mopeds Hit the Streets of Rockridge

— by Anna L. Marks



The wave of shared electric vehicles continues to grow, and Revel Mopeds are the latest to hit the streets of Rockridge. Anyone over 21 with a valid driver's license and a clean driving history can sign up via the app, locate the nearest Revel, and take a spin. There are a total of 1,000 mopeds spread out through 20 neighborhoods in Oakland, and, according to Revel, tens of thousands have signed up in the first few months of operation.

Each bike will be rented about seven times per day. The service costs $1 to unlock the bike ($2 if you have a passenger, to cover the extra-needed insurance) and 33¢ per minute to ride. A 40 percent discount is available through the Equitable Access Program for those who qualify (see their website for details). All vehicles are covered by the maximum allowed under State of California 3rd-Party Liability Insurance.

As with all motor vehicles, Revel riders must follow the rules of the road. Users who violate the rules (riding without a helmet, in a park, or on the sidewalk) will be fined or suspended from future use. Each bike comes with two different-sized helmets, and wearing them is mandatory under law.

Bikes should be parked at any legal spot. In Oakland, this means it's okay to park in Residential Permit Parking spots; in a metered spot up to 72 hours; at least two feet from the nearest vehicle; or parking where there is more than 24 hours before any street cleaning will occur. Bikes should be parked perpendicular to the curb, leaving enough room for cars on either side to get out safely. Riders are responsible for any tickets received during their trip.

Each Revel is equipped with two batteries, and have a 60-mile range when fully charged. Like the electric scooters, the company has employees who drive around the community to swap bikes with freshly charged ones; correct problematic parking; and move Revels that are parked illegally or improperly. They will also move bikes to areas with higher demand when a bike remains parked for longer than 72 hours. ■

The company is committed to the local community. For questions, a free lesson, or to take a test ride; contact Revel at (855) 690-9180; support@gorevel.com.





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 deadline for the April issue is March 19, which will be available on April 3, 2020.

For more information, email Susan Montauk at smontauk@gmail.com.

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6am Wednesday; 2-4pm Tuesday; 2-5pm Wednesday; 5:30-6:30pm Monday, Wednesday & Thursday. Group Sessions Possibilities. Contact: Irving S. Wiltshire, FINDING CENTER PILATES, 6214 Florio Street #4 @ College/Claremont Ave. Text: 510/219-8641. Email: iswirving@comcast.net

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For rent: remodeled, roomy one-bedroom plus small study on quiet Rockridge street. Easy street parking. Washer/dryer, storage in garage. Shared patio. $2350/month. All utilities + wi-fi included. **smontauk@gmail.com** or 510/547-3855.

For Rent: Lovely 1150sq ft 2-Bed 2-Bath Condo

Secure parking. 13-min walk to Rockridge Bart. CB Transbay bus across the street. Sought after neighborhood schools: Chabot Elementary, Claremont Middle, Oakland Tech. Rent $3700. Contact Lina & XinFeng at **Sheth.linfam@gmail.com.**

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Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council — New Locale & Elections

— by Karen Ivy, NCPC Chair

The April 9th meeting of the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) will be held at 7pm at the College Preparatory School, 6100 Broadway at Brookside. Please join us for neighborhood discussions on the new priorities regarding crime.

The NCPC bylaws require elections for officers every year, to be voted on by the attendees of a regular meeting. Jon Travis has stepped up to volunteer for our open position of Vice Chair. The rest of the officers are running to continue in their current positions. We'll hold the election at the April meeting.

This year's candidates for NCPC offices are: Chair, Michael Ubell; Vice Chair, Jon Travis; Treasurer, Eric Neville; Secretary, Karen Ivy. Any resident of Oakland police beats 12Y and 13X is eligible to run for an office in the Rockridge NCPC. ■

The new venue has plenty of free parking. For more information, visit www.rockridgencpc.com.



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auroraschool.org/summer-camps

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

March is National Women's History Month

The 2020 Women's History Month theme is "Valiant Women of the Vote," which honors the brave women who fought to win suffrage rights, and the women who continue to fight for the voting rights of others. Celebrate the women in your life on International Women's Day on March 8, and every other day of the year.

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

FOR CHILDREN

*****Stretching for Caregivers:** Wednesdays, 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.

- **Chess Club is on a break: Check back in mid-March for new schedule.** Chess board available at the desk if you want to practice.
- **Paws to Read:** Sandy's dog Scout loves to listen when kids practice reading aloud. You pick the book. All ages welcome. Thursdays, 3:30–4:30pm.
- **Mix It Up Family Game Nights:** All ages; bring your favorite game or try one of ours. Get to know other families. Tuesdays, 6:30–7:45pm.
- **Women's History Month Crafts:** Celebrate women of the world with a communal art installation, and drop by to make a button of your favorite female-identified changemaker. All ages welcome; **best for ages 4 to 10**. Tuesdays, 3/10 & 3/24, 3:30–4:45pm.

FOR TEENS (ages 12 to 18)

- **TeenScape:** Video games, table top games, crafts and more. Weekdays from 3:30–5pm (enhanced programming Wednesdays,1:30–5pm).
- **Make Popsicle Stick Flashlight:** using an LED light and copper tape. All materials provided. Wednesday, 3/11, 3pm.
- **LED Button Maker:** Make buttons with LEDs included. All materials provided. Wednesday, 3/18, 3pm.
- **DIY Stickers:** Can do it at home, too, with materials easily found at your house. All materials provided. Wednesday, 3/25, 3pm.
- **Teen Maker Month:** Wed, 3/25, 3pm.
  - **Silhouette Cameo:** Use the Cameo, an electronic cutting machine that can cut vinyl, paper, and more into intricate shapes. All materials provided.
  - **Breakout Box:** Crack the code and open the box. Try to breakout; like an escape room in a box. All materials provided.

FOR ADULTS

- **Music Theory Basics Workshop:** Learn how to read music. Taught by **Pete Feltman**, leader of Rockridge Community Choir. Tues, 3/24, 6:30pm.
- **eBook Help:** Work one-on-one with a librarian to download eBooks. Fridays, 2–3:30pm. Book appt. online or call 510-597-5017.
- **Sing at the Library.** Join the Rockridge Library's community choir. For all ages and skill levels. No auditions necessary. Selections include folk songs and freedom songs. 2nd Wed each month: 6:30–7:45pm.
- **Second Saturday Book Club:** Call 510-597-5017 for details and book selection. 2nd Sat each month, 3–4pm.
- **Writers Support/Critique Group—All Welcome:** Bring 15 copies of up to 5 pages 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:
March: Watercolors by **Wendy Soneson**; *Spring Comes to San Francisco.*

East Bay Booksellers Book/Poetry Readings

FREE and open to the public.

- Tues, 3/10, 7pm. **Jessica Lanyadoo** and **T. Greenaway**: *Astrology for Real Relationships: Understanding You, Me and How We all Get Along.*
- Sun, 3/15, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Judy Halebsky**: *Spring and a Thousand Years*, and **Susan Briante**: *The Market Wonders.*
- Tues, 3/17, 7pm. **Sierra Crane Murdoch**: *Yellow Bird: Oil, Murder, and a Woman's Search for Justice in Indian Country*. Joined in conversation with local writer **Lauren Markham**.
- Wed, 3/18, 7pm. **Benjamin Aldes Wurgraft**: *Meat Planet: Artificial Flesh and the Future of Food (California Studies in Food and Culture #69).*
- Wed, 3/25, 7pm. Local author **Christopher Tomlins**: *In the Matter of Nat Turner: A Speculative History*.

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

Wisteria Ways House Concerts

- **Lily Storm** and **Khatchadour Khatchadourian**: *An Evening of Lullabies from Europe & Armenia.* Lily and Khatch released their separate lullaby albums within a month of each other and now present their shared passion in a joint concert. Supporting musicians: **Diana Rowan**, harp and **Dan Cantrell**, accordion. Sat, March 28, 7:30pm. Hear samples at http://songbat.com/lily/home/dawn and https://khatchmusic.com. Inside venue; not wheelchair accessible. $20-25 donations for musicians (cash only, at the door); **simple refreshments included**.
- **Taarka**: Blend of Western and Eastern folk traditions of jazz, rock, bluegrass, old-time, gypsy, Indian, and Celtic music. Sat, April 4, 7:30pm, inside venue. Hear samples at www.taarka.com. More details at www.WisteriaWays.org.

383 61st Street. More info and reservations (highly recommended): RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 510-698-2456.

First and Third Friday Neighborhood 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/.

Peralta Elementary "Totally 80s Prom" and Auction

Spring fundraiser helps provide music and art classes, PE, mental health services, and teachers' aides to over 300 Peralta students. **To bid in the online auction**, visit peralta2020.ggo.bid. To attend or volunteer at the party, email auction@peraltaschool.org. Sat, March 21, 5:30–9:30pm at Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave.

North Oakland Senior Center

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

- **Drug Collection Bin available in the Center**. Put your old medications in a plastic baggie to dispose of safely. Do not flush or pour down the drain. Sponsored by EBMUD.
- **Free tax preparation**: Now to April 9. Call or walk in to make appt.
- **Age Well, Drive Smart CHP Class**: Tues, 3/17, 9:30am to 12:30pm.
- **Cannabis 101 & Aging Seminar**: Tues, 3/24, 11am–12noon.

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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