THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
VOL 36 • NO. 8 • ISSUE NO. 378 • SEPTEMBER 4, 2020 CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES
Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) • 4900 Shattuck Ave., PO Box 22504, Oakland 94609

RCPC

SAVE THE DATES

SEPTEMBER 24 & 26
Annual Meeting & Board Elections

On Thursday, September 24, at 7pm, the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) will hold its Annual Meeting, including the election of six candidates to fill seats on the Board of Directors for terms ending in 2022. **The meeting will take place at the Rockridge BART parking lot** by the intersection of Forest Street and Shafter Avenue. The names and statements of all nominees appear on pages 3 through 5 of this issue.

For the health of our community, the meeting will be held out-of-doors, with hygiene protocols including physical distancing and face masks. Hand sanitizers will be available. For safety and to avoid crowding, the scheduled business will be limited to the call-to-order, preliminary announcements, and voting. All voting will be by written ballot. Residents are welcome to use their own pens; disposable pencils will also be provided. The polling table will remain open until 9pm. All qualifying voters who have a ballot by that time will have an opportunity to vote. **Residents who cannot attend on the 24th will have an opportunity to vote on Saturday, September 26, between 4 and 7pm,** in the Rockridge Library parking lot at 5366 College Avenue. All activities will follow the health protocols described earlier. ■

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

Any person with principal residence in the area of the City of Oakland contained within RCPC boundaries (see www.rockridge.org/boundaries), and who is at least 18 years old, is eligible to vote in the election. Voter identity and eligibility will be confirmed at the time of voting with photo ID and proof of residency. A current driver's license or California ID card can fulfill both requirements if the listed address is within the boundaries. A full list of acceptable documents is available at www.rockridge.org/elections.

SEPTEMBER 17
Candidates' Forum on Zoom

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, September 17 from 7-9pm. The Rockridge Community Planning Council** (RCPC) will be hosting — for the first time, online — its RCPC Board **Candidates' Forum**.

Hear from 13 candidates as they vie for six board seats up for election. A seasoned strategic communications professional, Kathleen Cha, will be moderating the discussion as residents are invited to hear from these candidates and ask questions.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, this discussion will be hosted on Zoom, broadcast on Facebook Live, and recorded for those unable to attend. To attend the forum, please email info@rockridge.org to receive log-in/dial-in information. ■

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Read about the current slate of candidates on pages 3, 4 and 5.

Local Assisted-Living Residents Adjust to Challenging Times

— By Judith Doner Berne

eyes on Rockridge

"We're sort of in a cocoon here. We're safe from the outside world. I've never done so many puzzles in my life."

That's what Bob Kelleher, a resident of The Point at Rockridge for more than three years, opened with as we talked about how he and his assisted living neighbors are coping with daily life in the age of Covid-19.

I was curious because even during the original shelter-in-place order, most of us could still choose to venture outside for exercise and do essential shopping. But for several months I didn't see any of the regular walkers from Merrill Gardens at Rockridge, the assisted living facility that is down the street. The Point is

Eyes on Rockridge, see page 12



Maurizia Palmieri takes neighborhood walks with her daughter Silvia Hughes since Merrill Gardens at Rockridge has eased its lockdown rules.

RCPC Rockridge Community Planning Council — Land Use Committee

The September meeting of the Land Use Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 23, at 7:30pm, online via Zoom. An agenda will be posted at https://rockridge.org the week prior. Those interested in attending should rsvp via email to landuse@rockridge.org or call the chair at (510) 652-5373 to receive information on joining the meeting via computer or phone.

COVID-19 Uncertainties Outweighed By Need for Long-Term Planning

— By Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee Chair

It's been over two years since RCPC initiated a study of housing in Rockridge. The purpose was, and remains, to figure out how best to accommodate more housing in Rockridge without destroying the charm that has attracted residents to it for over 100 years.

The impacts of COVID-19 have disrupted that study, as they have so many aspects of our world. The study has relied on models that help predict what could feasibly be built in Rockridge. The models are based on expectations for things like land values, construction costs, and predicted sales prices or rental costs for different kinds of new residential buildings. The models' predictions, in turn, have allowed testing out various options and incentives to see how they would affect future local development.

Uncertainties created by COVID-19 and the ensuing economic disruption, have upended many of the expectations underlying the modeling. What to do? Continue forward using the current models? Or put the study on hold until the long-term effects of COVID-19 became clearer?

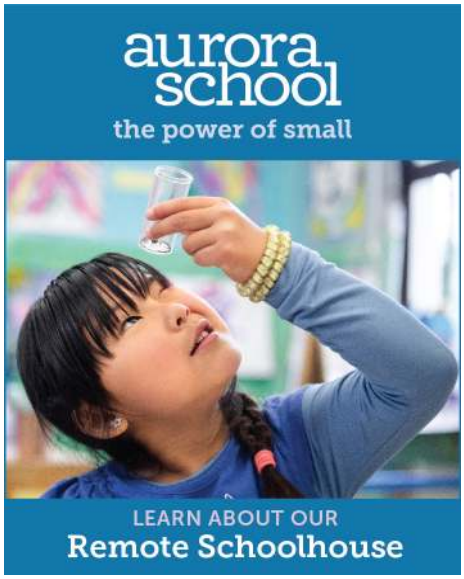
At the Land Use Committee meeting on July 22, 2020, members and other interested Rockridge residents looked at the pluses and minuses of the options. Factors favoring pausing included not wasting time evaluating modeling results that might turn out to be based on invalid assumptions, as well as the fact that most development planning had also been placed on hold as a result of COVID-19 — meaning the on-the-ground situation in Rockridge might not be affected by a pause.

Factors favoring moving forward included the general assumption that in the long term, it's likely people will continue to want to move to Rockridge, so the pressure for more housing is unlikely to disappear.

Further, both City and State planning are continuing to move forward, so developing an affirmative long-term planning stance would help Rockridge control its own destiny rather than being pushed by outside forces.

Finally, there is the fact that the models being used, and the analysis coming out of the study, can continue to be modified to reflect changes and provide ongoing guidance.

After considerable discussion, the committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Directors to continue moving forward with the housing study. At its August meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously agreed with the Committee. The study is therefore moving forward. Please see online articles published at rockridge.org for more recent land use updates. ■



The Rockridge News

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.

Rockridge News Production

Anna L. Marks ..... Editor & Layout Artist
Jo Ellis ..... Assistant Editor
Judith Doner Berne ..... Eyes on Rockridge
Susan Montauk ..... Business Manager

RCPC Board of Directors, 2019-20

Leonora Sea ..... Chair
Vacant ..... Vice-Chair
Casey Farmer ..... Co-Secretary
Andrew Masalin ..... Co-Secretary
Ronnie Spitzer ..... Treasurer
Stuart Flashman ..... Assistant Treasurer
Michelle Boyd, David Garcia, Mary Catherine Haug, Matt Levy, Eric Lombardo, Robin Zimpfer McDonnell

Contact the board: chair@rockridge.org
For information: info@rockridge.org

Contacting The Rockridge News

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 and letters submitted for publication should be emailed to the editor. All submissions are limited to 600 words max, 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 content, or for reprints of an article, contact: editor@rockridge.org.

Newsletter Subscriptions

To subscribe to *The Rockridge News*, send your check for $20, payable to *RCPC* with "Rockridge News" noted on the memo line.

Mail payment to:
RCPC, 4900 Shattuck Ave.,
PO Box 22504, Oakland, 94609

Display Advertising

Deadline for October issue: **September 22, 2020**

Advertising rates are $28/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. *The Rockridge News* reserves the right to refuse any article, display ad or classified ad. Email smontauk at smontauk@gmail.com for information on classified ads.

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.

Brian Chadwick
Miles Avenue



Father. Husband. Veteran. Renter. Homeowner. All these words have come to describe me in the six years since moving to Rockridge from Tampa, Florida. With that move, my wife and I doubled our rent and dropped our square footage by a quarter — we fell in love with everything about Rockridge, but the sticker shock hasn't worn off. Now that we are homeowners, we look forward to raising our family here for many years to come. I desire to serve you on the RCPC Board as a voice that both prizes our neighborhood's wonderful character and leads us to a more accessible, sustainable, and equitable future — starting with housing. In short, Rockridge may not be able to do much, but we can do more. With a private sector background in finance after over a decade in uniform, I believe I can help us strike the right balance.

Barbara Dunne
Birch Court



As a 15+ year Rockridge home-owner with my wife, I support RCPC's mission for our neighborhood and others who visit, shop, work, and play here. A cohesive, successful, and active commercial street like College Avenue isn't an accident. Thank you prior RCPC Board Members! Current challenges to RCPC's mission of "health, safety, and quality of life" include the uptick in petty crime as well as the encroachment of proposed out-of-proportion, high-density building. Theft is ongoing. I'm concerned that growth will not match our current single-family, multi-unit, and commercial buildings. I support right-sized, in-context development while understanding impacts on our already congested intersections and services. I am a Bay Area native, educated in both public and private schools (UCB '82), more than 30 years of management experience in small-to-large Bay Area retailers (consumer goods and food), ten years as rental property owner/manager, Tennis and Pickleball player, and loyal patron of local businesses.

Casey Farmer
Hermann Street



I am an advocate, both professionally and by nature. I lead Alameda County's efforts for Census 2020 (be sure to get counted!) and I've been advocating for community needs since I joined my neighborhood Crime Prevention Council at age 10. In my next term on the Rockridge Community Planning Council, I will advocate for more retail on College Avenue by supporting housing options. (I believe that more accessory dwelling units will help address our severe affordability crisis.) I will advocate for more community projects like the one where I live (Hermann / Ayala streets) which was completed to reduce traffic speeds by painting street murals. I bring a number of skills to RCPC: I'm a bridge-builder, I know how to get things done — even within government bureaucracy. My husband and I have had the privilege of being homeowners in Rockridge for over six years and to be raising our young children here.

Annette Floystrup
Birch Court



I've been a Rockridge resident since 1981 as both a renter and a homeowner. I'm a past President and Board Member of the nine-county Bay Area Small Business Development Corporation, and a past RCPC Board member. I co-chaired the Rockridge DVD project. COVID-19 has changed our world. Our neighbors, small businesses, and City face difficult new circumstances and will need our help. RCPC rose to meet many hard new realities when BART/Hwy24 construction closed over half of all businesses on College Avenue, and we must do so now. RCPC's Mission Statement of furnishing a forum for community involvement, and providing leadership and representation of neighborhood interests gives broad latitude for creative solutions. Rockridge has been an important economic driver, and in the past, made unique contributions to Oakland including funding and building our library, creating Hardy Dog Park, and FROG Park. I am running, because we must step up again.

David Garcia
Miles Avenue



Rockridge is at a crossroads. On one hand, Rockridge is the true embodiment of the quintessential livable neighborhood. But no community ever stays the same, and Rockridge is no exception. While we instinctively desire to maintain our identity in the face of change, that doesn't mean that change will not arrive. In fact, we already see it coming, in new legislation, proposed projects, and our already changing demographics. RCPC needs strong, balanced leadership to guide us through this period of growth in a manner that reflects the inclusive values of our community. That's why I am seeking election to continue on the board. My time with RCPC has given me insights into the issues we face and my professional experience as a UC Berkeley housing expert gives me perspective on the best way to move us forward. My wife, son, and I love this community, and I hope to continue my service with RCPC.

Candidate Statements continued on pages 4 & 5

SAVE THE DATE

District 1 City Council & School Board
CANDIDATES FORUM:
Thursday, October 8, from 6-8:30pm

(online meeting details coming soon)

CRITICAL: Complete the census if you have not done so already:

https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html

balance FINANCIAL PLANNING

fee-only financial planning
investment planning
tax planning & prep

Cheryl Vesely, CFP®, EA
510.847.7432 • cheryl@balancefp.com
www.balancefp.com

Candidate Statements

continued on page 5

Robin McDonnell

Auburn Avenue



My husband and I moved to Rockridge in August of 2018. We made Rockridge our home because of its unique combination of urban life and sense of community. Soon after moving here I read about the Kitchen Tour in The Rockridge News. Shortly thereafter, I was helping to select the kitchens and serving as the Docent Coordinator. It was a great experience meeting homeowners, RCPC members and docents alike. When a seat became available, I thought my background in community, housing and economic development as well as my volunteer work and past nonprofit board membership could be useful to me on the board. The RCPC can be a valuable resource to help our community recover from the COVID Pandemic and rebuild in a way that serves the whole community. I would like the opportunity to serve a full term so that we can work together to achieve that vision.

Jennifer McElrath

Rockridge Blvd.



Though my Oakland heritage does not span 170 years like my husband's family, I moved to Rockridge with my husband and daughter at the beginning of the millennium. I imagine the changes now pressed upon the neighborhood could be as significant as they were in those early years. Preserving positive attributes of the community, yet embracing newness that will enable residential and commercial streets to burst with activity and pride, propels me to seek a term on the RCPC board. As a former business executive and entrepreneur, I get the need for vibrancy and respite where one calls home. It is that balance and heritage that drew me to attend RCPC meetings, and to be on the steering committee of Upper Broadway Advocates. To contribute more would be a privilege, and I would still deliver The Rockridge News, as my husband and I have done for more than a decade.

Diana Mitchell-Chavez

Shafter Avenue



My husband and I have lived in Rockridge for 41 years. From a pumpkin patch/ Christmas tree lot becoming The Market Hall, The Chimes convenience store becoming Cactus Tacqueria, the '89 Earthquake, and the '91 Oakland Hills fire, we've seen a lot of changes. Two of my neighbors and I started the Annual 5300 Shafter Block Party and it's due to me that we were the second block to get permit parking. We've seen a generation of wonderful kids become great parents and bring their kids to celebrate Halloween. I have a Master's from NYU, an Associates in Journalism from Columbia, and worked for Cosmopolitan Magazine as well as a P.A. for a senior partner for SOM (a large architectural firm). I believe mindful change will keep families here and bring more diverse people into the neighborhood enriching us all.

Brett Moyer

Miles Avenue



Hi, my name is Brett Moyer. My wife Adrian and I moved to the neighborhood about two years ago. Growing up in a college town in Florida, I always valued community — whether it was local faith, sports, or the neighborhood. Since moving to Rockridge, I've fallen in love with running around Lake Temescal, reading the Sunday paper at the Rockridge Café, and enjoying the best burrito in the neighborhood at the Burrito Shop (sorry Cactus fans). I work for Silicon Valley Bank where I perform financial analysis. We recently added a puppy named Perry to our family and hope to raise him in the neighborhood for years to come. Given the uncertain times we now live in, I'd like to help the neighborhood however I can by using my personal and professional experience to support the neighborhood for decades to come.

Michael Rosen

Lawton Avenue



Hi neighbors! It's been really fun to see everyone enjoying the Shafter Slow Streets. I currently work as an editor at Apple News; in the past, I've written about cities as a journalist and worked for a Berkeley councilmember. I live across the street from Rockridge Cafe in a hundred-year-old apartment with my girlfriend and our dog. I'd like to be on the RCPC to represent fellow renters, who make up roughly a third of the neighborhood, and to make the area more accessible to people like us, young professionals in our late 20s with plans to start a family in the near future. It's important to involve young voices in the planning process not just because it's the right thing to do, but because it's in the interests of the people who live here. After all, the vibrancy of Rockridge is what makes it a special place to live.

Ken Rich

Manila Avenue



I lived in Rockridge previously and loved the neighborhood in so many ways. I was thrilled to move back here last year, to a beautiful bungalow on Manila Avenue. The main reason I moved back to Rockridge is that it's the most "neighborhoody" neighborhood I've lived in, and how better to get involved and give back than running for RCPC Board? I have 23 years of professional experience with real estate and city planning issues. I firmly believe Rockridge needs to add housing and do its part, and I'm confident we can do this in a way that makes the neighborhood even better. Our beloved College Avenue needs more nearby residents to keep the businesses afloat, especially after Coronavirus, which will challenge many of our neighborhood shops and restaurants. On housing and other topics, I look forward to bringing my negotiation skills and passion as an urbanist to this amazing place!

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, September 17, from 7-9pm**, when The Rockridge Community Planning Council will host its **Candidates' Forum** online. Email info@rockridge.org to receive log-in/dial-in information.

Kirk Petersen
College Avenue



I love Rockridge. I've worked here for 30 years and lived here for seven in our live/work storefront on College Ave. My architecture practice includes single-family and multi-family residential; the sort of work that will be built in Rockridge. I was born in Oakland. This gives me no 'standing', other than it has allowed me to closely observe change over decades. I joined the Sierra Club in 1969. I have worked on both 'sides' of development, as project proponent for clients and as public sector 'regulator' while chairing Oakland's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. I want to help RCPC inform the process of change. How can we grow the neighborhood while maintaining the Rockridge look and feel we all like so that our new neighbors can also enjoy what we have? As a present member of the RCPC Land Use Committee I work to address such issues. I'm glad we live in a walkable neighborhood just now, and one with a sense of community.

Leonora Sea
Miles Avenue



My Rockridge roots run deep — I'm a fourth-generation resident. I love the neighborhood, and believe in RCPC's mission to enhance Rockridge. Currently the Board Chair, I bring a perspective to our neighborhood organization based in my own nonprofit experience and practice. I ran a small nonprofit, which granted funds to community-based environmental projects and forged equal partnerships between community groups and experts. It taught me that local people best understand local problems, and should help initiate and be significantly involved in the processes set up to solve those problems. Opportunity for meaningful participation is one benefit RCPC provides Rockridge, and drawing on my background and RCPC Board experience, I know how to build community involvement and make it work. I believe in the wisdom and resilience of Rockridge neighbors, and I hope to collaborate for another term with the next RCPC Board to serve every resident.

After the Arrest

— By Karen Ivy, Greater Rockridge NCPC Secretary

The Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) regularly gets questions about why people arrested for certain crimes seem to be back offending again so soon. In this meeting, speakers Terry Wiley, Senior District Attorney in the County of Alameda, and William Locke, retired Public Defender in the County of Alameda, attempted to speak to that.

Wiley noted that once a case is transferred from the police, the D.A. has 48 hours to review the case, decide whether and what to charge, file a complaint, and arraign the suspect. If the suspect can't afford a lawyer, he's assigned a Public Defender who interviews him immediately. Under COVID-19, they try to release people from custody as soon as possible. Before COVID-19, it wasn't unusual for suspects to spend several months in custody waiting for trial.

Locke noted that our criminal justice system isn't really based on trial-by-jury, but more a system of plea bargains that pressures people to give up their rights. The cash-bail system makes it very hard for people to get out of custody, especially if they are low-income. A plea bargain allows the accused to trade his 4th Amendment rights for three years of felony probation during which the police can stop and search him, on terms set by the judge, which could include his home and car, and/or his Internet-connected devices, depending on the crime. Officer Josiah Ladd, our Community Resource Officer, noted that OPD no longer does random stops.

This is a brief overview of a long meeting, to read the whole account, visit: http://tinyurl.com/nvgrtme. The next meeting will be held on Oct 8. ■

Rockridge Dental™
510.653.6677 rockdent.com
3rd Floor
Market Hall
Ste. 312
Bruce D. Fong, D.D.S.
Filippo Cangini, D.D.S, M.S.
Advanced Preventive, Restorative, Periodontal Gum Care, and Dental Implants.



Calling the Bay Area **home for over 55 years.**
FREMONT BANK
www.fremontbank.com
Visit us at College & Claremont Avenues.
6300 College Avenue, Suite 160
(510) 851-7741
Equal Housing Lender | Member FDIC | NMLS #478471 | DEP-1435-0220

LATE-BREAKING NEWS

CCA Dorm to Be Sold to City

On Friday, August 28th, the City Council unanimously approved their tentative purchase of Clifton Hall from the California College of Art, which is moving to San Francisco. The dorm, built in 2005, would be used for 62 units of deeply-affordable housing. That would include 42 units to permanently house extremely low-income seniors, and 20 units of transitional housing (with services) for formerly homeless families. Also included is an office for a nonprofit that will work to permanently house homeless people throughout northern Alameda County. Councilmember Dan Kalb spearheaded this effort for new affordable housing as part of a citywide push to house the City's homeless. The purchase would be funded partly with City housing funds and partly by the State's new HomeKey program.

College Avenue Set for Repaving

In a long-awaited move, Oakland Dept. of Transportation (OakDOT) announced it would begin repaving College Avenue within a few weeks. The work includes grinding down the surface, pouring and rolling out new asphalt, and painting new lane markings, including new bike lanes. Other improvements (pedestrian bulb outs and countdown lights) will also be installed. It will take two to three days to repave each segment, and up to a month to be fully completed.

To minimize disruption to businesses and traffic, OakDOT proposes to pave at night, while understanding this could be temporarily disruptive for College Avenue residents. The Rockridge District Assoc., representing local merchants, along with Councilmember Dan Kalb, asked to have the work delayed until Spring, but OakDOT said the contract had already been signed and delay would be too costly.

Comments may be directed to OakDOT Director Ryan Russo, rrusso@oaklandca.gov, with copies to officeofthemayor@oaklandnet.com, dkalb@oaklandca.gov, and info@rockridge.org. ■

The Granola Guru Goes Beyond Farmers' Markets

— By Myrna Walton

"My family thought it was weird. They gave me six months," says Ayana Kelly, a 25-year-old, lifelong Rockridge resident, when she created her own company, The Granola Guru, in April 2018.

"My parents are not entrepreneurs, so they didn't entirely understand it." She made her first test batch and gave it to her family and friends as Christmas gifts. The reception was extremely positive.

For the first year, she and a family friend spent 12 hours a day baking the granola batches in a commercial kitchen. Production has since expanded to a facility in downtown Oakland were she produces 500 pounds a week — all in small, handcrafted artisanal batches.

After graduating from Hillcrest School, the College Preparatory School, and St. Mary's High School, Kelly majored in business and environmental studies at Pitzer College (a member of the Claremont Colleges), and graduated in 2016. Her interdisciplinary education left her with a desire to create an eco-friendly business. She always liked to cook, and it's been her lifelong dream to open a food business before the age of 30.

She learned to make granola at a cafe where she worked in college but wasn't able to find any granola of the same quality in local stores. She searched for granola that was gluten-free, vegan, low in sugar, refined-sugar free, and baked with healthy oils — finally experimenting with her own recipes — which led to the creation of The Granola Guru.



Ayana Kelly, owner of The Granola Guru

The Granola Guru, see next page



The Granola Guru, from previous page

In 2018, she made her debut at the Farmers' Market in Alameda. "You might think that was an easy start, but it took about five months to acquire the permits and perfect the recipes. I burnt the first batch, in fact I burnt the first few batches. I sold 40 bags that first week and developed a loyal following of customers that returned week after week."

She currently sells four flavors, each enriched with super-foods such as red berries, turmeric and ginger, and cacao nibs, which are nutrient-rich foods believed to positively affect health. Her most recent creation is Classic Hemp — a maple cinnamon granola boosted with hemp seeds. All ages enjoy the different flavors, but the Mixed Berry Vanilla is a kids favorite. Her personal choice is Golden Glow, a unique blend featuring the antioxidant duo of turmeric and ginger.

After success at the Farmers' Market, Kelly went store-to-store, seeking shelf space within a very competitive market. Market Hall on College Avenue was an early influential buyer. "They gave me good shelf placement, let me demonstrate the product in the store, and helped me find local sources for ingredients."

Within two years, The Granola Guru was in 70 stores spanning the East Bay, Marin, San Francisco, and the Peninsula, and can now be found in independent retailers, specialty markets, and regional chains including United Markets, Rainbow Grocery, Farmer Joe's, Lunardi, Piazza, and Draeger's. While COVID may have slowed down her pace a bit, she has 15 conditional acceptances ready to go once the pandemic ends.

"At times, people have a difficult time taking me seriously. Despite this, most people like supporting a young female entrepreneur."

As her only employee, she calls herself a one-woman army. Kelly oversees a range of tasks including brand management, packaging design, ingredient sourcing, website design, accounting, cultivating buyer relationships, product research, quality control, and more. "The only thing I outsource now is streamlining manufacturing and distribution, but even then I keep a close eye on the product."

Kelly is in a class by herself: a solo, female, minority, young entrepreneur. Her youth can sometimes be an impediment. "Many times people don't believe that I own and operate my business by myself. At times, people have a difficult time taking me seriously. Despite this, most people like supporting a young female entrepreneur."

What's next? "I've acquired a distributor to help me get into large chains like Whole Foods and Nugget Markets. Eventually I want to be all over northern California." ■



COLOR CONSULTING
home interiors + exteriors
SAMANTHA MOSS
Now offering video & e-consulting during shelter-in-place
(510) 717-9197
samanthamosscolor.com

LAW OFFICE OF
DAVE KARLINSKY
725 WASHINGTON ST., SUITE 313 OAKLAND, CA 94607
(510) 788-5700 WWW.DAVEKARLINSKYLAW.COM

Practicing exclusively in the area of trusts and estates:

- Estate planning
- Probate / trust administration
- Dispute resolution
- Special needs trusts

Please contact me during regular business hours to schedule an appointment.

Remembering John Wagers

— By Jo Ellis

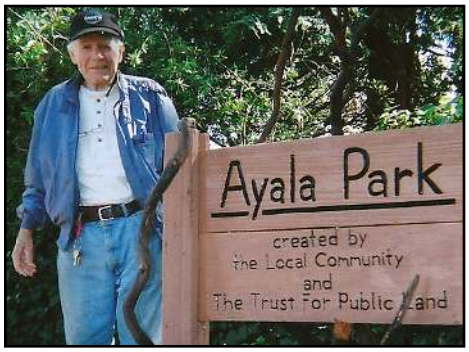
John Wagers came into the world in the middle of one pandemic and departed during another. In between, throughout his many years in Rockridge, he lived for, supported, and advocated for every environmental and social justice issue that grabbed his attention.

While people did a lot of talking about an environmental movement, John lived it in his daily life years before it was popular. He was often thought of as a lovable eccentric as he picked up cans, bottles and assorted trash tossed in the street, and sometimes not quite so lovable as he scolded those who didn't follow his example.

He recycled, reused, and composted just about anything that was once a living organism. He refused to shop at stores that, in his opinion, used too much packaging. No discarded item escaped his determination to get it all to the recycling center. For John, it was just the right thing to do.

At his core, he was a farm boy from the heartland, born at home on the family farm near Shickley, Nebraska. He taught for two years at a one-room schoolhouse but wanted to learn more about the world. His degree in chemistry from the University of Nebraska in 1942 opened the door for his new adventure: He hitchhiked to Berkeley to work for Shell Oil as a research chemist during World War II.

After a long tour around Europe, he returned to Oakland and settled in Rockridge. By this time, his experience of life in Berkeley and exposure to European culture and ideas had radically changed the conservative farm boy from Nebraska. It was the beginning of a life dedicated to crusading for his view of a more just and sustainable world.



He built a 24-unit building at the corner of Claremont Avenue and Martin Street which he actively managed until shortly before he died. It was his home base — Ground Zero for Zero Waste. John took delight in having all his tenants sign leases stipulating that no garbage be allowed — everything must be recycled or composted.

Tenants claimed they dutifully placed all items in the proper bins for recycling, and John regularly toted their organic waste to his local park to amend the soil. It was, of course, suspected that his tenants deposited their garbage in nearby cans in the middle of the night and it was a fact that John was embroiled in a war for many years with the City to cancel his garbage bill because, as anyone could see, he had no garbage.

John was also a passionate developer of neighborhood mini-parks. At Racine Point Park (the intersection of Racine and Telegraph Avenue) his intention was to mitigate dangerous traffic flow, but even more important was the creation of "a planted area instead of an asphalt blight".

He inspired more than 20 volunteers to help bring in soil and plants. He loved to show off his City of Oakland Commendation which reads "For John Wagers in Recognition of His Extraordinary Accomplishments in the

John Wagers, see next page





***John Wagers,** from previous page*

Creation of the Racine Triangle Park."

He also created Ayala Park (Ayala and 57th), now donated to the City, and the Martin Street Park (NW corner of Ayala and Martin), where, even at 101-years-old, John was still walking to the park to bring compost, do a bit of pruning and weeding and visit with neighbors who helped out with the gardening chores.

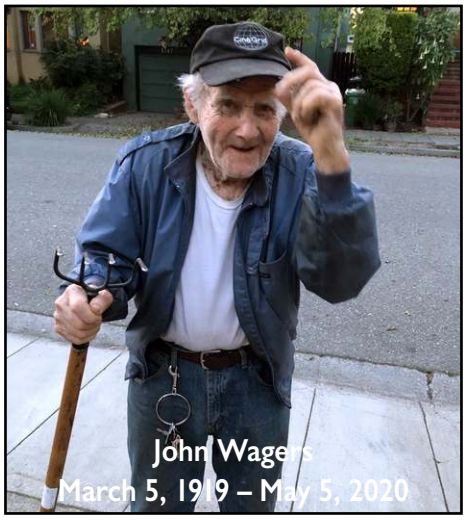
And, oh yes, let's not forget street trees. John campaigned to eliminate broken and uneven sidewalks from overgrown tree roots that sent pedestrians flying. "The Right Tree in the Right Hole" was his battle cry as he sent off Letters to the Editor and was a regular at City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Some success of this endeavor saved the city millions in lawsuits from injuries sustained from tripping and falling.

To many, John was best known as our most dedicated "newsboy", delivering *The Rockridge News* until he was nearly 100-years-old. He walked his route every month no matter the weather or time of night (he often fearlessly made his deliveries at 2am).

Friends were concerned about his vulnerability to COVID-19 but John was too tough for that. It spared his life but took something precious. It deprived him of the joy he felt in the company of others. As the fog of dementia was taking hold, a feeling of abandonment began to overtake him; everyone was sheltering in place and some days it was hard to understand why no one came to visit.

Few realized how wealthy John was; he did not "dress for success." His no-waste, re-use policy was also applied unsparingly to his clothing and other personal possessions — most of which came from unspecified and used sources. It came as quite a shock to most who saw him as a shabby fellow picking up bottles and cans to learn that he not only spoke up for dozens of organizations that advocated for civil rights, human rights, the earth and all who would care for and protect it, he put his money where his heart was.

This month, more than two dozen of those organizations will get $100,000 each from the John Wagers Trust, and a few substantially more when the Trust is terminated, including Doctors Without Borders; Planned Parenthood; water disputes on the Delta; the American Humanist Association; and the ACLU. Beneficiaries in the Rockridge community include Friends of the Oakland Public Library, and the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation.



When it will once again be safe for a large group to congregate, all will be invited to his beloved Ayala Park to remember John, to tell his stories (everyone who knew John has a trove of great stories to tell), to plant a tree in his honor, and to be sure no trash is left behind. ■



HIGHLAND PARTNERS
BOUTIQUE REAL ESTATE INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE



BUYING?
SELLING?
LET ME HELP YOU

ANNE D. BRANDON, REALTOR
35+ YEAR ROCKRIDGE RESIDENT AND HOMEOWNER
DRE# 01877719 | 510.682.6644
ANNE@THEHIGHLANDPARTNERS.COM

WHO'S WHO IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE



Jumpstart

For Renters, Homeowners, and Small Businesses

STRAHAN INSURANCE SERVICES INC
5940 College Ave., Ste A
Oakland, CA 94618
CA License # 0D34069

Susan Bernosky
510-450-9050
susan@strahaninsurance.com

Jumpstart is a surplus lines insurance broker working in full compliance with applicable insurance regulations. The insurance described here is effected with certain Underwriters at Lloyd's, London. Licensed Surplus Line Insurance Broker CA #0K67793

yourjumpstart.com/strahan

The Library Is Open

Remember: the Oakland Public Library (https://oaklandlibrary.org/) is open for Sidewalk Pickup. Liking the OPL Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/Oaklibrary/) will alert you about events and changes in library services.

We're living in unprecedented times as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Library wants to hear your stories and preserve this moment in time. The #Oakland History Center and OPL invite all East Bay residents to contribute to the COVID-19 East Bay Community Archive. ■

New Businesses Find Life In The Space Between

— By Annalee Allen

The long-empty storefronts on College Avenue between Lawton and Ocean View (across the street from Cole Hardware) will once again have pop-up retail. Westwind Succulents and custom furniture by Lucas Ahlstrand will occupy one space, and the space next door will soon be occupied by Bartbridge Design and the Oakland Art Rental Gallery.

Already on display are the patches and hats designed by Luke Fraser. His brother Gabe Marshank is the new owner of the building. Apartments occupy the second floor of the Mission revival-style commercial building, built in the 1920s when Rockridge used to be a streetcar suburb of Oakland. Fraser, who was a high school student in Berkeley in the 2000s, started buying patches from Telegraph Avenue vendors and soon had quite a collection.

He got the idea to add the patches to baseball caps, and his business was born. "By then I lived in the Glen Ellen community in the North Bay, but I still liked to come down to games at the Oakland Coliseum Complex — both the Athletics and the Golden State Warriors.

"Like so many others, I used to take the Richmond/Fremont BART line and get off at the Coliseum stop and walk across the bridge to the games. That's where I came up with the name of the company, Bartbridge Design, mentioned Fraser."

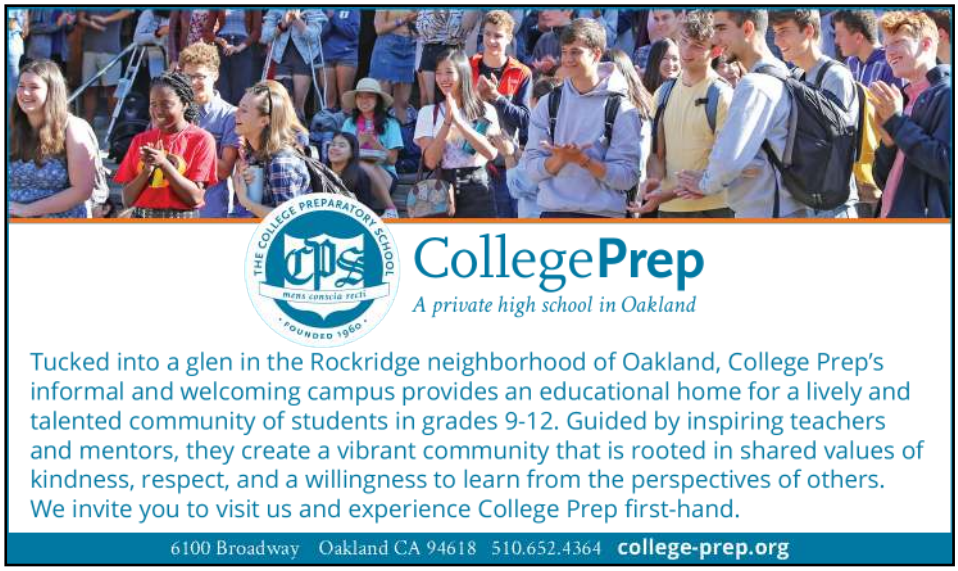
In 2018, terrible wildfires swept through the Glen Ellen and Santa Rosa areas. "My studio and home was there, and I lost everything," he said. When Luke learned that his brother was buying the commercial building in Rockridge, he decided he could start over and relocate to the Oakland area. "I am excited to have my business in this neighborhood."

"When I started collecting these patches, I knew of course about Oakland and Berkeley and San Francisco, but I soon found out that there are so many more communities throughout the Bay Area and Northern California, each with their unique names and symbols."

Soon thereafter, he and his partner Mike Hampton were designing and embroidering their own patches. Now customers can choose a patch to go on a hat, such as from the town where they are from, or where their relatives live. It makes for a fun and special gift.

Personally, I plan to buy a hat for someone who now lives in Nevada City, when I get the chance.

To see what's available, visit www.bartbridge.com, or better yet, stop by 5540 College Avenue for a visit. ■



Experience * Knowledge * Performance

Just sold:
51 Vicente Rd, 4BD 3.5BA like-new remodeled 3500+sqft Modern above Claremont $2,575,000
637-55thstreet.com Beautiful 2BD Craftsman Bungalow w/large sunny yard, 10 offers $1,150,000
6164Dover.com Upper floor 1BD 'home-style' condo, gorgeous remod kitchen, 4 offers $700,000
Coming soon/Available:
2 bedroom 2 bath Rockridge condo w/balcony, gas fireplace, open kitchen/dining/living space
2 parcels in Lower Rockridge, 4 residential units/1 commercial unit plus bonus lot
6162Dover.com 1+BD 'home-style' condo, shared outdoor deck near Ashby BART

August Observances: Black Business, Family Fun, International Peace, Romance, Immunization and Wellness



Happy Autumn!!

Perry Riani, Senior Associate
2016 Realtor of the Year
1900 Mountain Blvd Oakland, CA 94611
1625 Shattuck Ave Berkeley, CA 94709
C: 510.813.3799 Perry.Riani@Compass.com
License # 01402540

COMPASS

Landscape Design Company Enhances The Local Outdoor Dining Experience

— By Jorja Siemons

Dining along College Avenue has been negatively impacted by the recent pandemic, but Rockridge architect and landscape firm Inside-Out Design has stepped up to meet the challenge to bring diners back.

Working in collaboration with The Golden Squirrel, InsideOut Design has helped to create a new outdoor patio space, making take-out no longer the only available option. Not only does the space feature tables set safely spaced apart from each other, but it also includes a garden installation to "green up" the street.



InsideOut Design created many open spaces for local restaurants, including The Golden Squirrel at 5940 College Avenue.

"We got involved because we wanted to give back to the community," says Penn Phillips, InsideOut's landscape design principal. Penn and his wife Julianna Fecskés Phillips, who is the principal architect, started InsideOut Design in 2003 as an effort to bridge the gap between interior and exterior design.

Setting up shop near The Golden Squirrel, the two became restaurant regulars. When Penn noticed the owner, Andrew Snow, using wood pallets as a patio foundation in mid-July, he reached out knowing his firm could help. "We know the restaurant business has been hit particularly hard," he said. That is why all the plants, soil, design, and installation that InsideOut provided is a community donation, offered free of charge.

Using drought-tolerant plants and repurposed materials, such as old wine crates and barrels, InsideOut made The Golden Squirrel's patio environmentally friendly, which isn't new for the firm. "I think it's great to green up College Avenue. We emphasize creating outdoor spaces and making them an extension of your living space," Penn says.

This also highlights the need for sustainability, something he and his wife have prioritized throughout their career. As a LEED-accredited design professional, an achievement recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council, Julianna ensures that green solutions are pursued in the company's architecture projects whenever possible. Within the firm's landscape sector, Penn acts as a city arborist for Lafayette, enforcing tree protection ordinances to protect native oaks and other local species. InsideOut has also completed several green roof projects for multi-family residential developments in San Francisco and El Cerrito.

While many of these spaces are recent installments, the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health authorized, and recently updated, the "Flex Street's Initiative" which allows for outdoor dining, along with a detailed list of Restaurant Operating Procedures. To ensure the safety of customers, employees must conduct Health Self-Assessments before work and be subject to symptom checklists and temperature screenings by their employers. Tables within the dining space must be six feet apart, unmovable, and designated for single households and "bubbles" of up to six people. On the restaurant patron's side of responsibilities, the Department of Environmental Health recommends wearing face coverings until seated. Disinfection wipes or hand sanitizers are to be made available for use at dining area entrances. No food items, such as condiments, are to be shared between dining parties.

When following these policies and monitoring personal symptoms, Rockridge residents can support local outdoor restaurants in a relaxed, welcoming environment until indoor dining resumes. ■

Rockridge restaurants currently offering outdoor seating

- A16
- Alem's Coffee
- Barney's (patio in back)
- Beer Baron
- Crepevine
- Golden Squirrel
- Hudson Bay Café
- Kitchen Story
- Khana Peena
- Marica
- Millennium (patio in back)
- Oliveto's Cafe
- Red Sea
- Rockridge Café
- Soi 4 Bangkok Eatery



Eyes on Rockridge, from front page

just another few blocks away.

The pandemic hasn't ravaged assisted living facilities the way it has skilled nursing homes. None of the 150 residents at Merrill Gardens was known to have contracted the virus in either its assisted-living or memory-care apartments as of this writing, although an employee did test positive in late July, according to the facility's website.

The Point reportedly had no current cases among its 118 assisted living apartments as of late August. However, from May 23-June 6, 11 residents and three staff members tested positive within its 30-apartment memory-care unit, according to executive director Deborah Savoie. Sadly, three patients, two of whom were already in hospice care, died.

"We hunker down, we expand, tightening and loosening restrictions depending on the COVID-19 status," said Allison Rodman, The Point's co-director of sales and marketing.

"We're in touch with the Alameda County Health Department every day and strictly follow their protocols." As of mid-August, they were able to reinstate films in their movie room, bingo sessions, and exercise classes for ten residents at a time on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Even as The Point's indoor public areas and activities were shut down and visitors banned, Kelleher, 92, and his wife Lolly, 89, kept active. He walked the halls, masked of course, and ventured onto The Point's first-floor patio garden. He drove to pick up pre-ordered books from the Rockridge Library. Visits with their four daughters continue via Zoom.

"We do miss some of the activities, but they have replaced them," Kelleher, who retired as manager of accounting at New York Life's San Francisco office, told me. "We get a little packet every day with all kinds of puzzles, what happened in history on that date, and a version of bingo. We do have some neighbors who are going out of their minds."

As for meals, they come non-stop, according to Kelleher's colorful description: "For breakfast, a couple of gals come up with a wheeled vehicle and you take what you want." Then there's the mid-morning snack. A boxed lunch, mid-afternoon snack, and then "son-of-a-gun, here comes a cart with all kinds of booze on it, and it's Happy Hour." Dinner follows, also in a box, and then dessert — usually ice cream. "By god, you've got to be careful!"

"son-of-a-gun, here comes a cart with all kinds of booze on it, and it's Happy Hour."

"I can almost see the ocean, and I can go outside in the rain," said Francie Kendell, 72, who is grateful to have a covered balcony off her apartment at The Point. "I feel quite safe here. I don't go off my floor unless it's to go to the garden. I wear my mask. I'm spending more time by myself than I ever have," said Kendell, who has a doctorate in education and organizational change and is writing her third book on diversity. "I read a lot. I want to know what the news is. I talk to friends and that keeps me sane."

Several residents left the facility to live with their families during the pandemic, Rodman said. Bill Roisen, 94, is one of them. "The Point did a good job by going on lockdown early,"

Eyes on Rockridge, see next page

Rockridge Optometry

Larry Sarver, OD
Scott Yokoi, OD
Cindy Sakai, OD
Jasmine Junge, OD

5321 College Ave., Oakland
(510)655-3797
rockridgeoptometry.com

TREE SCULPTURE

COMPLETE TREE CARE

Proudly serving Rockridge since 1965!

(510) 562-4000

www.treesculpture.com
Fully Insured | Certified Arborists | Lic #655977



MOTLEY TEAM

DRE 01265873 | 01798658

Competition Drives Price in August

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
8/04/2020	3	2	5232 Miles Ave	$1,450,000	$1,450,000	11	$1,900,000
8/06/2020	4	3	6729 Manor Crst	$1,900,000	$1,900,000	0	$2,225,000
8/07/2020	3	1.5	5707 Ayala Ave	$1,098,000	$1,098,000	11	$1,375,000
8/10/2020	2	1	5715 Presley Way	$1,049,000	$1,049,000	21	$1,260,000
8/11/2020	2	1	5826 Colby St	$989,000	$989,000	13	$1,306,000
8/21/2020	3	1	395 63rd St	$1,395,000	$1,395,000	26	$1,475,000
8/21/2020	2	2	5243 Locksley Ave	$1,379,000	$1,379,000	11	$1,703,000
8/25/2020	2	2	5522 Taft Ave	$1,195,000	$1,195,000	6	$1,707,000

Homes sold in August closed 24% over the asking price on average.

Specializing in Rockridge | 510.459.4338 | MotleyTeam.com

Want the highest possible price? Call us and we will show you how we will get it!

COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01866771. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

Eyes on Rockridge, from previous page

his daughter Kathi Roisen said. For a while, she was still able to meet with him in the garden and make sure he was taking his medications. "But when it became a more severe lockdown, I was worried about the pills," she said. "And I was getting concerned about what the isolation was doing to his state of mind."

"The Point was fun, but when they closed the dining room and they served in cardboard boxes, I decided to get out," her dad, a European-trained watchmaker who retired as a Rolex vice president, said. "It was difficult with the mask. When this is over, I will consider going back."

Merrill Gardens has eased its original lockdown restrictions. Residents can socialize and attend exercise classes on the roof-top garden as long as they mask and social distance. They can meet with visitors across Plexiglas-screened tables and go for neighborhood strolls. So in mid-August, 89-year-old Maurizia Palmieri walked to my house with her daughter, Silvia Hughes, and talked with me across a six-foot table in the backyard.

"I feel safe," said Palmieri, a native of Italy, who moved from her Rockridge home to Merrill Gardens when it opened in May 2017. "I read, I watch TV." She utilizes her skills as a former high school Latin teacher to teach Italian across the Atlantic via Facebook to her friend Linda Harrison, who recently moved from Rockridge to Italy. She and other residents meet on the roof after lunch, though they still eat boxed meals in their rooms.

Both mother and daughter are tennis players, but Palmieri acknowledges losing physical strength during the original lockdown. "Now we're walking twice a week," Hughes said, so when Merrill Gardens allows it, she'll be ready for the tennis court.

"I feel Merrill-Gardens has done an amazing job," Hughes said. "They locked down right away." "They didn't think about it. They just did it," her mom added.

Hope you all are staying safe. To comment or suggest stories for future columns, email judyberne@att.net. ■

Kyle Wong, A Favorite Chabot Teacher, Retires

— By Lara Coffin



It was with mixed emotions that Chabot Elementary announced the retirement this past Spring of third-grade teacher Mr. Kyle Wong. Thirty-five years ago, Wong began his teaching career at Chabot Elementary. Back then, no one would have anticipated the impact that young man would have on so many hundreds of students and their families throughout his life as a teacher. It's an extraordinary end to an extraordinary career.

During his time teaching, Wong had been a master educator — his classroom is full of fun, respect, and tremendous learning. Wong was a true team player, and so many of us at Chabot have benefited from the wisdom he has shared.

He leaves a profound legacy that has transformed the lives of many. We wish him all the joy that retirement can bring and are fully supportive of this decision, — and he should know that he will be very, very missed.

To honor Mr. Wong, the school is putting together a book of memories. Did you have Wong as a teacher? Did your parent? Did your child? Please share memories, thoughts, or anecdotes. We would also love to see any photographs, please send them to office@chabotelementary.org. ■

Claremont Auction Seeks Donations, Participation

— By Leslie Ayers

Claremont Middle School's (CMS) annual auction fundraiser will be a virtual event this year, and parent organizers are appealing to the community to secure donations to be auctioned online October 20th to 29th.

If you are a business owner or service provider, or even if you have a special skill or hobby you'd be willing to share with others via a live Zoom class or demonstration, we hope you'll consider donating. We are also asking for donations of wine to create an "Instant Wine Cellar" to be raffled off. If you're able to donate a bottle or two, you can drop them off at 5660 Ocean View Drive, or call/text (415) 260-1490 for pick up.

Visit https://claremontms.org/pta/auction. For questions, email auction@claremontms.org. ■

Daily Bread Needs Volunteers

— By Susan Montauk

Do you have an hour a week to deliver food to organizations that feed people in Berkeley/Oakland? If so, Daily Bread can use your help. An all-volunteer group, Daily Bread has been directing excess, nourishing, perishable food from food vendors to pantries, shelters, and meal providers in the community since 1983.

With the goal of reducing food insecurity and waste, we make delivery runs 7 days a week, morning through evening.

Several runs are available now for volunteers; all you need is a car, some time, a willingness to help others, and a ready smile. It's serious fun.

For more information on how to volunteer, call Patrice Ignelzi at (510) 526-3123, or email DailyBreadBerkeley@gmail.com. ■

Alameda County Voting Information for the November Presidential Election

— By Louise Rothman-Riemer, Board Member, League of Women Voters Oakland

One hundred years ago, on August 18, 1920, Harry Burns cast his "vote for women," and Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. Unfortunately, it took even longer for many women of color who had to wait for the Voting Rights Act of 1965 for full participation due to segregation laws (poll taxes, literacy tests) that were still enforced.

Unlike years past, **this year all California registered voters will receive a ballot by mail. There will be no local polling places in Alameda County; instead there will be 100 voting centers and 66 ballot drop-off boxes.** There will be no postage required, and confirming your registration information early is advised.

Important Dates to Note:

- **September 4:** Registration deadline to receive the early version of the Voter Guide.
- **September 24:** Last date to register to receive an early ballot.
- **October 5:** Vote by mail ballots will begin being sent to voters.
- **October 19:** Last day to register to vote online.
- **October 27:** Recommended date to have put your ballot in the mail to make sure it arrives on time to the Registrar of Voters.

To register, visit Alameda County's official website www.acvote.org/voting/register-to-vote. You can confirm your voter registration at https://www.acgov.org/rovmvp_app/mvp.do. You can still register to vote on Election Day, but you will likely wait in a long line. Whatever you do, this election is perhaps the most important election of our lifetime... VOTE!

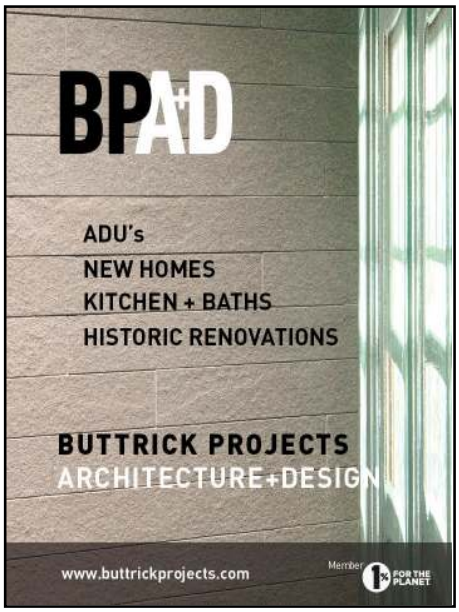
For more information regarding the election, visit The League of Women Voters at www.LWVOakland.org. ■

COLLINS ROOFING
Family Owned & Operated
(510) 444-2220
www.collinsroofing.com
Quality Work • Free Estimates
Lic # 695711


JUST LISTED IN ROCKRIDGE!
5370 Bryant Avenue
2 bedrooms · 1 bathroom + Home Office + Laundry Room + Basement & Workshop spaces!
Offered at $1,095,000 · 5370Bryant.com
SALE PENDING in just 7 days!
322 Clifton Street · 322Clifton.com
Happy Sellers :)
JUST SOLD!
5335 Broadway Terrace #202
2 bedroom · 2 bathroom condo
Sold for $725,000
MAXI LILLEY
510.919.8997
maxi@redoakrealty.com
RED OAK REALTY
The Rockridge Realtor® with A Designer's Eye
DRE#1919653

Darin J. Worm
BROKER
510.504.4960
djworm@centurioninsurance.net
Centurion Insurance Agency
Commercial + Personal + Life + Health
An Independent Insurance Brokerage providing cost effective, comprehensive Insurance products and services since 1947.
www.centurioninsurance.net

College Avenue
Presbyterian Church
5951 College Avenue | 94618
(510) 658-3665 | www.capcoakland.org
safe | open | real


BPAD
ADU's
NEW HOMES
KITCHEN + BATHS
HISTORIC RENOVATIONS
BUTTRICK PROJECTS
ARCHITECTURE+DESIGN
www.buttrickprojects.com
Member 1% FOR THE PLANET

CYDNEY ORTZOW painting
Interior • Exterior
Lead-Certified Painters
For a free estimate call Cydney
510 • 652 • 4034

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" in the memo line.

Mail to: RCPC, 4900 Shattuck Ave., PO Box 22504, Oakland, 94609-20131. The deadline for the October issue is September 17 – available on October 2, 2020. For more information, email Susan Montauk at smontauk@gmail.com.

Penelope's Aesthetics Skin Care Salon is located in a serene garden setting in the Rockridge neighborhood and specializes in professional beauty needs. Facials, waxing and much more! Will open for business again! www.penelopecalef.com; (510) 594-1552.

Garden Care, Clean-up, Maintenance & Design
Experienced team of two dedicated to the art of gardening. Garden restoration, pruning, and veggie bed installation at affordable rates. Call Chris: (510) 655-0157 or email yourgreengardeners@gmail.com. Check us out at www.yourgreengardeners.com.

Handyman for Hire
Multifaceted and well experienced. Hauling and towing available. No job too small. Reasonably priced. Lee Self. 707/223-1298 call and text.

Electrical Remodels and Repairs
Curious about your knob-and-tube wiring? I can help. I've been doing electrical work in Oakland and Berkeley for over 35 years. Sutorik & Company www.sutorikandco.com. Lic #397149. 510/655-3677.

Your Rockridge Specialists – JUDITH GLASS & SHEILA SABINE – The Grubb Company
Now may be the right time for a move. Your home says a lot about you and we are here to listen. Call (510) 326-5055 or email SSabine@Grubbco.com. ■

Host Home Needed to Bundle *The Rockridge News*

— By Susan Montauk, The Rockridge News Business Manager

Thanks to our Block Captains, District Captains and Marshals (who did not miss a beat), as of the first week of July, *The Rockridge News* has been back in print and once again distributed to the doorsteps of Rockridge homes and businesses. We will continue with the digital versions (for those who love the color), and continue the printed versions as long as we find a place to do the bundling and sorting of the volunteer packets.

Here are the requirements:

- A good size dining table
- A decent size front porch (for volunteer boxes)
- A minimum number of steps up to the porch (5-10 is OK)

Receipt of newsletters the morning of the first Friday of each month (except for August).

Routes up for Grabs

- CAv1/Block Captain: Businesses and apartments along College Avenue from Claremont Ave to BART. Stacks at Zachary's, 1951, Supercuts, and the Golden Squirrel.
- Marshal/District Captain: Pick up one box and drop it at 473 McAuley St./one additional bundle drop to the Temescal Library.

Please contact Susan at smontauk@gmail.com or (510) 547-3855 if you would like to discuss hosting the bundling or taking on a route. ■



GARDEN CLEANERS
$5 FREE DRYCLEANING with garment orders over $28
or $3 OFF orders over $15
Dry Cleaning only ☛ Present with incoming order
EXPERT SHIRT LAUNDERING!
Garden Cleaners
5808 College Avenue, Oakland
601-1188
Mon – Fri 7 – 7 • Sat 8 – 6
Across from Trader Joe's and Zachary's Pizza

Financial solutions are around the corner.

MKT-5894I-A
Benjamin Blake, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
5330 College Ave Suite 230
Oakland, CA 94618
510-844-4772
Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Member SIPC



Shoes on Solano
COMFORT IN STYLE
The largest selection of women's fashion comfort footwear in the Bay Area
5933 College Ave.
510.823.2290
Shop 24/7 Free Shipping
www.shoesonsolano.com

OMNI
PAINTING & WATERPROOFING Inc.
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL
INTERIOR-EXTERIOR LEAD CERTIFIED PAINTERS
Professional preparation.
Many local references.
All work guaranteed.
(510) 654-3339

PIPE SPY
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS
AMERICA'S #1 TRENCHLESS PIPE EXPERTS
$15 Off Video Inspection
COVID-19 Safe Operations & Contactless Service
Sewer Line Video Inspection & Testing
Trenchless Sewer Line Replacement
Sewer Compliance Certification



Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty is thrilled to announce that McGuire Real Estate's #1 Agent in the East Bay, Claudia Mills, has joined our team. She brings with her a proven set of skills and vast knowledge of Bay Area real estate, as well as a unique service-oriented approach to meeting or suprassing her client's goals.

CLAUDIA MILLS REAL ESTATE TEAM
Claudia Mills
510.350.6419
c.mills@ggsir.com
Lic.#01881682
Golden Gate Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY
www.ClaudiaMillsRealEstateTeam.com
Each Franchise Is Independently Owned And Operated.

SOLD ROCKRIDGE
CARLTON - $1,525,000
3 Bed /2 Bath



MARKET UPDATE
Average Sales Price
2019 $1,792,000
2020 YTD $1,804,000
Up .6%
Sales Volume
2019 1 Sale Every 3 Days
2020 YTD 1 Sale Every 3 Days
Unchanged
Call Me!
*Data from Multiple Listing Source 2019-2020

LAWTON ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE
DRE# 00784235
STAY HOME STAY SAFE
Ron Kriss, Broker
Lawton Associates
(c) 510-612-2547
RonKriss@JPS.net
"#1 in Rockridge Real Estate"
160+ Successful Sales in Rockridge
www.LawtonAssoc.com

COME VISIT US AT THE CORNER OF LIFE & CHANGE



The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS



5228 Broadway Terrace
Charming 3-unit building in the best Rockridge location: 2 one-bedroom/one-bath units & top floor 2 bedroom/2 bath owners unit; all 3 units delivered vacant.
Offered at $1,895,000
5228BroadwayTerr.com
Kevin Brown, Broker
Better Homes Realty, Rockridge
510.593.4780
BHR BETTER HOMES REALTY