THE Rockridge News

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Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) • 4900 Shattuck Ave., PO Box 22504, Oakland 94609

Kitchen Tour: A Smokin' Success

by Robin McDonnell, Chair 2022 Rockridge Kitchen Tour



(Photo by Anna L. Marks)

Maryann Amado shows tour attendees options for new kitchens at her home on Rockridge Blvd.

There's no better way to express it: the 2022 Rockridge Kitchen Tour was indisputably a rousing success, and a good time was had by all. This year's tour had many of the qualities of a large and successful community party — a celebration of kitchens, kitchen designs, and our Rockridge neighborhood.

Kitchen Tour, see page 6



(Photo by Anna L. Marks)

Local Residents Rally to Say "Yes to Housing, No Home Depot"

by Anna L. Marks

Dozens of concerned, sign-carrying residents gathered together on a recent cool Friday afternoon to call for new housing to be built on the empty lot at Pleasant Valley and Broadway. The site has sat vacant since 2016 when Safeway relocated next door, taking the place of the CVS drugstore. A plan was drawn up for a new, mixed-use space (retail, office, restaurants), but ultimately abandoned due to a weakening retail sector. The owner of the 4.6-acre lot has since expressed interest in a car dealership, fast-food drive-ins, or big-box retail, but not housing. Home Depot has filed a pre-application for the site, but neighbors don't like that idea. Here is what some of them had to say:

Casey Farmer: We're here tonight to make a statement — we don't want Home Depot on this site, we want to see housing. This is a coalition of a number of community organizations and of nearly 4,000 people who have signed an online petition asking for this.

The City said that Home Depot is not a permitted use under the existing zoning, but Home Depot is still pursuing its proposal. We recently conducted two surveys asking community members what they want to see here, and the response was overwhelmingly in support for housing. The State is calling on communities to build more housing to address our housing crisis, and this is the community in Rockridge, on the edge of Piedmont Avenue, standing up and answering that call.

We think this is a great site for housing for a number of reasons. It brings more people to the neighborhood, which brings more shoppers to our local businesses, and brings safety to the streets. And, we know that we're in a housing crisis and we need to build more units. We've come to this spot because we want to show and highlight that this is really a huge

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Rally, from front page

eyesore and a lot that's been vacant for a long time, but it's also a huge canvas of opportunity.

Gail Cooper: I represent the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League (PANIL) and we think it's critical to have more housing in our neighborhood, particularly affordable housing. And secondly, we think that Home Depot is the worst possible use for the site. Our neighborhood is known for its walkability and access to public transit and bikes. Home Depot, by definition, is the most car and truck-centric business you can imagine. A vehicle-centric use is antithetical to urban planning principles. You don't carry appliances and soil in your arms or on your bike.

We're also very concerned about pedestrian and cyclist safety. As it is now, we can barely cross the street here, and we're talking about an incredible increase in traffic. Home Depot is open seven days a week. And their pre-application says potentially 24 hours a day, which means an incredible onslaught of traffic and noise in what is a residential neighborhood. And there would also be a lot of light pollution shining into the adjacent buildings due to lights in the parking lot.

Larry Mayers: I am a Rockridge resident. I live a couple of blocks from this site and I've been involved in action on this site for 12 years now as an architect, starting with the first designs for the expanded shopping center. I felt that I was able to put some specific technical knowledge into it. I was also the author of the alternative, mixed-use housing plan that was studied as part of the EIR for this shopping site. What I really want to ask the City of Oakland, because they've been opposing housing on this site ever since that time, is why they don't want it? They could just say "no," and not accept Home Depot's application. Just end it, and let's talk to the landlord. Let's get a good project done. The design that I did that was studied as part of the EIR was termed the most environmentally feasible, but it was rejected because it didn't produce 330,000 square feet of retail. You just have to look over here to know that 330,000 square feet of retail would never happen. And so we're here to make sure that we can try and get some housing instead.

"Let's talk to the landlord. Let's get a good project done."

Dan Kalb, City Council, Dist. 1: I think we're all in agreement here; not just housing, we need affordable housing. The City responded to Home Depot's pre-application (see Land Use Update on page 5), pointing out that this is not a typically approved use for this site. We all agree that we need a strong, attractive, retail/housing combination for this wonderful, beautiful site that's been vacant too long.

There's no current application, so there's no project to approve. If they go forward with an application, the

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The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News was founded in 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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Anna L. Marks ..... Editor & Layout Artist
Jo Ellis ..... Assistant Editor & Ad Manager
Susan Montauk ..... Business Manager
Judith Doner Berne ..... Senior Staff Writer

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All letters must be limited to 350 words and are published at the discretion of the Editor. Send them to: editor@rockridge.org. Please be sure to include your name, email address, and city and street of residence. **All submissions accepted for publication are subject to editing for clarity and brevity.**

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City will have to go through a process. I don't think it's going to go anywhere, but they can go through the process if they want. That might delay things.

I met with the planning director and the Mayor's planning representative to strategize on this. After Home Depot realizes it's not going to happen, there's some work that's going to be underway. Some of it is kind of quiet work, some of it will not be so quiet, and the challenge is just getting the people who own this property and shake them loose. Clearly, a quiet effort behind the scenes has not achieved what we want.

Kirk Peterson: I'm an architect. I'm co-founder of Upper Broadway Advocates (UBA) and we're happy to be working with PANIL and RCPC, of which I'm also a board member.

Home Depot is a terrible choice. It's going to be an arterial blockage in our neighborhood. We need something that's going to connect things. We have the perfect format — small-scale retail, mixed residential use, maybe even office, and housing. We're all very interested in affordable housing. There's plenty of unaffordable housing around here. And, from an urban planning standpoint, this is a major intersection, and who wants the butt of a big ugly building right on this intersection? It's just insulting to a city that really has fine architecture and fine architects. We could do better.

Nico Nagle, Oakland Housing Coalition: I'm excited to be here today with this coalition supporting all these community actors because I find that some of us can often be on opposing sides of things, but the one thing we can all agree on is that the best use for that site is housing. It's our moral obligation to build housing at this time when we are so housing short, not just in this city, not just in this neighborhood, but statewide. There's also a huge prize to be had for fulfilling our obligation to the State of California's Housing Element. That also means more transportation dollars, that means more prizes financially for the City of Oakland, and that means more capability to serve Oaklanders. We need to take advantage of these sites when we have them, and this is that moment.



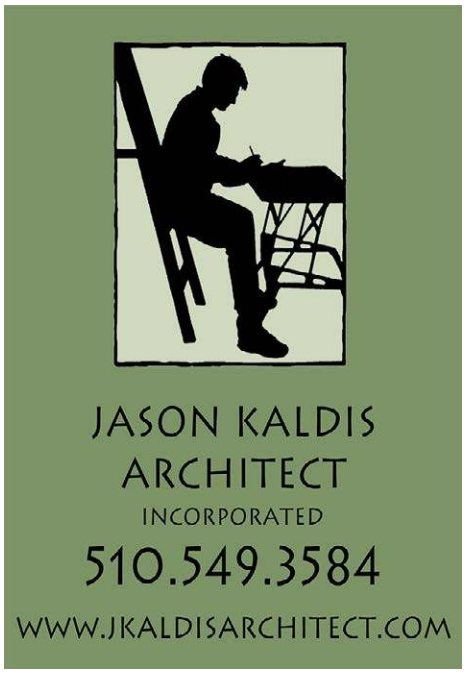
RCPC Chair and rally organizer Casey Farmer was flanked by news media, KTVU, ABC, *The Chronicle*, and KQED all picked up the story.

Leonora Sea: I'm a fourth-generation Rockridgean, and I think Home Depot was the worst possible use for this site. We need homes for people. This is a great spot for it, and I would love to see an affordable component, but I'd basically just like to see something built so people can live here. And I mean the "missing middle" — housing for teachers, firefighters, police… all the people who are now living an hour commute away and can't afford to live in Oakland should be able to live in the community where they work, especially public servants. Let's get something built here — I'm really tired of looking at that lot.

Melinda de Jesús: I'm associate professor of Critical Ethnic Studies at California College of the Arts (CCA), and I'm a homeowner in lower Rockridge. It'd be great to have like a kid's center, an art center, anything but a Home Depot… but we need housing. We need to be able to house middle-class folks and working-class folks here in Oakland. We need low- and middle-income housing. We don't need 510 high-end units. I work for CCA. We are so disappointed by what they want to put up there right now. It didn't have to be that way.

Myrna Walton: I'm with UBA, and a Rockridge resident. It's great that so many people turned out to support housing, but not only housing, affordable housing. A lot of folks here emphasized that it's got to be more affordable than what's available. We don't need any more luxury housing. And it could be 80 to 110 percent of AMI (Average Median Income) or less. We want people, like a nurse, to be able to afford it.

Rally, see next page

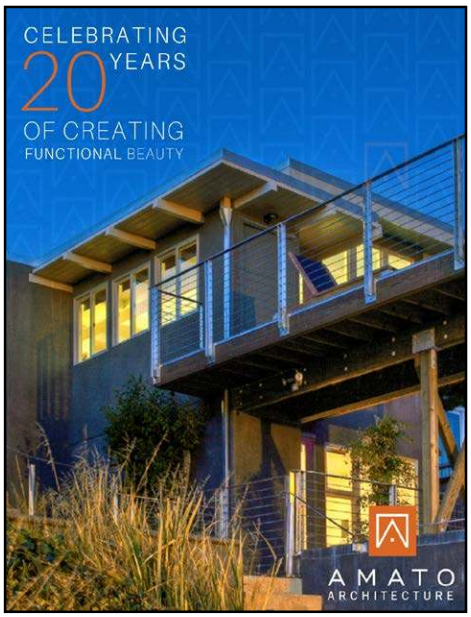


Rally, from previous page

What they're proposing at CCA, two teachers couldn't afford it. If you have to earn $157,000 a year for a family of four to get into the CCA housing, that's not affordable, and that's at 110 percent. We would like to see it much lower than that. We would also like to see the concept of "social equity" like they have in Europe, where half the development is market-rate and half is below, and the people who have more support the people who have less. They pay a little bit more, but they're all together, and that works, and it should work here.

"I'm confident that we can produce a better vision for housing on this site by working together as a community…"

Stuart Flashman: I'm a land use and environmental attorney and live in the Rockridge area; been living here for 30 years. I used to be the Land Use Committee Chair for RCPC. I lost that position this year, but I'm still very interested in the issues of what happens here in Rockridge. I'm very much opposed to Home Depot coming in, and I'm glad to hear that the City has decided that's not a compatible use. I think this would be an ideal site for some relatively high-density housing, but what Oakland needs is affordable housing. It's got to be at least affordable to people of moderate income, which, by the standards of Oakland, means somewhere in the range of $50,000 to $100,000 a year for a household. I think market-rate housing right now is unaffordable, and that's what, unfortunately, is mostly being built these days.



Star Lightner: I grew up in Rockridge and I bought a house here just over 20 years ago, so most of my life has been spent in Rockridge. And the Rockridge today is not the Rockridge I grew up in — all the gentrification and ridiculously priced housing. So I'm really happy to be on the RCPC Board to help with the agenda of encouraging and creating more housing in Rockridge, especially affordable housing — housing that people who work in Rockridge can afford, less than market-rate, something that's truly affordable for people who are teachers, policemen, firefighters, baristas, anybody who works in Rockridge, not just people who are telecommuting to their tech jobs.

Alex Schafran: I live down the road near Mosswood Park. I work on housing issues professionally, but I'm very excited to be here in my personal capacity to help promote a community vision for a lot more housing on this site — a lot of different kinds of housing for a lot of different kinds of people, and a large amount of it affordable to all of the people who are living here.

I'd like the housing to be green and beautiful, and I'm confident that we can produce a better vision for housing on this site by working together as a community and really drive development for the first time. And it's not just this site; it's the CCA site next door. This is one of the wealthiest and most segregated parts of a wealthy and segregated city. It's absolutely essential that this project becomes a beacon of affordability where people from all across the city, all across the state, and all across the world, can feel like they can come and make their home in the city of Oakland. ■

On Sunday, October 30, kids of all ages enjoyed Halloween activities including storytime, a dance party, and treats from many participating merchants along College Avenue. Each costume contest winner received $100 gift cards to the merchant of their choice.



"Best Show" was won by Natasha Weinstein, Elvis, and Sophia Weinstein, Disco Queen



"Best Costume" was won by Sushi Kids Felix and Basil

Best Dog (not pictured) was won by "Pirate Lex" who, selected Planterday for his $100 gift card.

RCPC Land Use Update
— by Ken Rich, Chair

October saw some important activity regarding the Home Depot proposal at the Ridge, and all was good news for us. First, on October 11, the City of Oakland Planning and Building Department issued a "Closure Letter" for Home Depot's recent pre-application to locate a store at the Ridge site. The letter finds that the proposed Home Depot is not permitted at this site under the CC-2 zoning because it would sell building materials, which is not a permitted activity under this zoning designation.

The letter pointed out that the big-box type proposal was inconsistent with a number of other City guidelines and requirements around pedestrian safety and good design. The letter also stated: "residential is consistent with the CC-2 Zoning at this time and staff would like the applicant to consider housing for this site."

So what happens next? First, we hope but cannot yet be sure that this spells the end of the Home Depot proposal. Members of the RCPC Board will be reaching out to Home Depot's representatives as well as to TRC, the developer who holds the Ridge site ground lease, to ask that question. In theory, they could appeal Planning's ruling, or go to the City Council and ask for a zoning change, but both of those seem like an uphill battle for Home Depot.



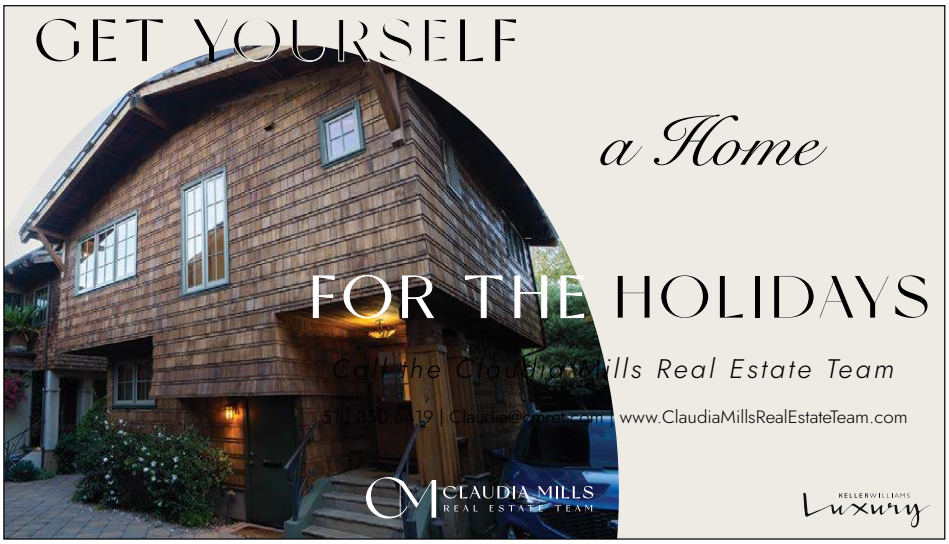
This is Tucker, a two-year-old Australian Shepherd, surveying her front yard. She is friendly, smart, and prone to showering anyone with kisses. Tucker likes walking through the Rockridge neighborhood meeting other people and dogs, and sniffing for any dropped food along College Avenue. You will see her out and about with her dads, Gary and Ross.

Remember that RCPC and our neighboring groups have been saying "no to Home Depot and yes to housing" at the Ridge, and while we may be close to achieving the "no" part of that demand, we don't have the "yes" to housing in hand yet. There has been a lot of interest from Rockridge residents as well as members of surrounding neighborhoods to engage in a community planning process to create our ideal vision for what should happen at the Ridge site and possibly look beyond that site to the CCA site and the adjacent areas along Broadway. There are still questions to answer regarding affordable housing, traffic, height, design, etc., and we have an opportunity to talk to the owner of the site and TRC, to decide on the next steps.

Stay tuned to the *Rockridge News* and attend our meetings to help create our vision for the Ridge site. ■

Land Use Committee Meeting

Rockridge Community Planning Council's LUC Meeting will be held: Wednesday, January 26, 2023, at 7:30pm, via Zoom.
(there are no meetings in Nov. or Dec.)
Use Zoom link: bit.ly/3c0r6X0
or email: landuse@rockridge.org.





Kitchen Tour, from front page

After a brisk overcast morning, the tour was favored by lovely weather, with several guests choosing to walk or bike the entire route. At several houses, tour sponsors, architects, and contractors took advantage of the gorgeous day to set up information tables in the gardens, on the decks, or on the patios, which contributed to the celebratory atmosphere.

More than 350 guests toured nine outstanding kitchens, plus the entire first floor of the Historic Morse House. This year's tour showcased diverse styles and floor plans, all superbly meeting the needs of the owners. At most houses, architects, contractors, designers, and craftspeople were on hand to talk about the joys and challenges encountered. Several homeowners stayed home for a portion of the tour and shared their perspectives on their remodeling experiences. For many attendees, these conversations were one of the tour highlights.

Many thanks are due to everyone who made the 2022 Rockridge Kitchen Tour a resounding success. Thank you to the homeowners, including **Brandon** and **Alicia Levey**, **Susan** and **Brian Parker**, **Joyce Wu** and **Will DeVries**, **Alex** and **Maryann Amado**, **Jen Miley** and **Mark Hejinian, John Bliss** and **Kim Thompson, Joyce** and **Jim Huntington, Kathy Drake,** and **Kendall Riding,** and **Paul Munson** who all generously opened their homes and kitchens to our guests, patiently answered many questions, and made themselves available for the many preliminary house visits. Without them, there would have been no tour.

Thank you to the three dozen docents, who made time for training sessions, recruited friends to join the docent crew, informed guests about each of the kitchens, and ushered tour-goers smoothly and graciously throughout the homes.

Thank you to the architects, contractors, design consultants, and craftspeople who gave up a Sunday afternoon to meet guests and talk about the remodels. We'd like to thank our main Platinum sponsor, **Ron Kriss**, who arranged for the outstanding banners and posters. Thank you to our Platinum sponsor, **Daniel Stea**, who made our beautiful full-color brochure possible. Thank you to our sponsors, **Fremont Bank** and **Jewish Community Center of the East Bay**, for their generous contributions to RCPC.

Valerie Knight deserves special mention for her delightful graphic design on posters, banners, and brochure cover, and the beautiful layout of the brochure itself. The brochure includes inspiring descriptions of each kitchen along with photographs, and for those, we thank **Jo Giessler** and **Carol Kasparak**.

Thanks also to **Ronnie Spitzer**, who gave me helpful pointers on handling publicity. Thank you to **Elizabeth McLeod** and **Eileen Ward** for recruiting, scheduling, and managing the Docents. Thank you **Susan Parker** for helping to manage the brochure's advertising, and **Kristin Wilson** for taking over as Webmaster. Finally, a great big thank you to **Leonora Sea** who stepped in to work with the sponsors and whose assistance and advice were particularly invaluable.

The Day of Tour registration went smoothly thanks to RCPC Board chair, **Casey Farmer**, Treasurer **Ken Rich**, current members of the RCPC Board, and many friends of RCPC who staffed the booth, sold tickets, and directed guests to the houses.

And a final big shout-out to all our Rockridge neighbors who enjoyed the day and made it possible for the RCPC to continue its programs and plans that support our local community. ■

RCPC extends a sincere "Thank You" to the following supporters for their generous donations:

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Rockridge Community Planning Council Makes Two New Appointments

The Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) has appointed two new directors to fill the remaining terms left vacant by **Stu Flashman** and **Ashley Pandya**, who both recently resigned. Flashman was RCPC Chair from 2008 to 2012, and again from 2016 to 2018. He also served as long-time Chair of the Land Use Committee (see his letter published on page 4 of our Sept. 2022 issue). Ashley Pandya was elected to the board in 2021. She served as Assistant Secretary and as the board's first Communications Chair. She stepped down when she and her family moved outside the boundaries. RCPC thanks both of them for their service.



Louisa Bukiet has lived in Rockridge since 2016 and is excited to help shape the future of our neighborhood and city by causing trouble on the RCPC board. Professionally, Louisa works on building our urban future through better public spaces and expanding access to housing, and wants to hold her own neighborhood to those same standards. She believes in the power of communities to support each other and lives in an intentional community of two houses, four units, eight adults, five children, and a dog.

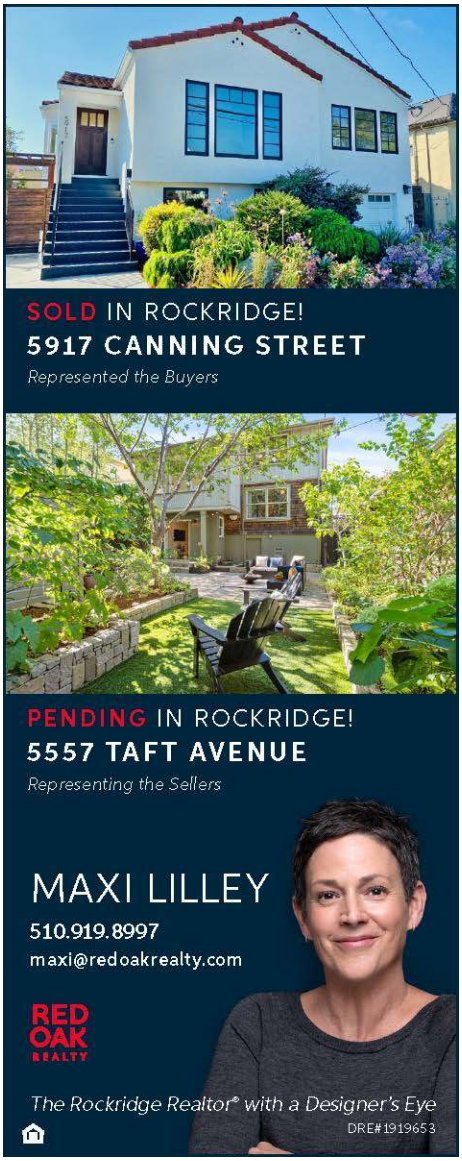


Star Lightner has lived on 61st St. in lower Rockridge for 22 years. She grew up on Birch Court, and considers Rockridge her home. She worked as a lawyer, practicing environmental law, but now has a nontraditional job as Senior Editor of, and a contributor to, a California real estate law treatise where she oversees other authors as well as the entire publication processs. She also writes a bi-monthly newsletter summarizing recent real estate cases for its subscribers.

"I've wanted to be involved for years because Rockridge is such a part of me, and such a unique place, but also because it's been changing so much from what it was when I was growing up here. After selling my vacation rental management company recently, I finally have the time for more involvement. I walk my talk and believe we can (and have an obligation to) live our principles. I'm an environmentalist but also a housing advocate. I'm a landlord who supports rent control and just-cause eviction ordinances. We're privileged to live here in Rockridge and need to do a better job of sharing it." ■







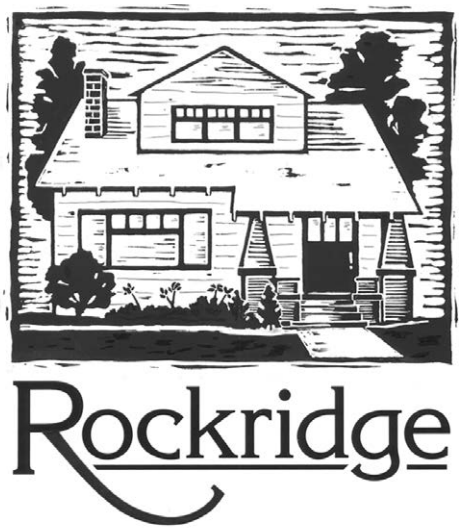
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This Place Called Rockridge

by Kirk Peterson



What is this place called Rockridge? It's a habitat, a district, a neighborhood, our home or place of business, and a place to visit. While navigating practical matters and daily routines, our minds also contain our concepts of Rockridge; it is home and a place of memory, potential, and imagination.

What does it feel like to be here now and what could it become? RCPC's logo (see art at top right) tells a part of the story — it evokes our array of Craftsman houses. The Rockridge of the future will be different, but how different, and for what purpose? These are questions worth asking.

The ideal climate as well as the geology and geography have been very consistent for thousands of years. The first peoples coexisted with the indigenous flora and fauna, but by the early 20th century, the oak-studded savanna and riparian zones were largely destroyed, and the first people and animals had been pushed out by Western "development." The built environment now includes buildings and structures, gardens, streets, streetlights, and unseen infrastructures like utilities and drainage.

Put together, these form the leafy streets of dwellings and eclectic blocks of small commercial buildings we enjoy. The "active ingredient" of an urban place is us — the people who use and inhabit the space and the activities that occur within. This changes over time; and as people and businesses come and go, a larger demographic drift occurs.

Rockridge has a harmonious ensemble of varied forms, a "unity in diversity," if you will. Craftsman, Edwardian, Tudor, Spanish, Italian, and Prairie School designs, inspired by both vernacular and high-style sources, go well together. Will new buildings be look-at-me alien structures? At present, there are few dramatic disparities of scale, and most structures in our local building storck

This Place, see next page

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fall into aesthetically related families — what art historians call "seriation" of a body of work.

Unifying elements are a palette of materials including wood shingles, wood siding, stucco, brick, tile assembled with a handcrafted look, and often in combination. Wood windows, many with multiple panes of glass, are ubiquitous. Rich detailing is common: porches, window trim, and tile and stucco ornaments and moldings, broad eaves and brackets, marble vestibules, and mosaic floors on storefronts. There is nothing monumental, and little that is slick or minimalist. There is an overall general richness and "fine grain" to forms and surfaces that are a pleasure to see as we walk through Rockridge. The feeling is comfortable and welcoming.

Change is coming. There will be more of us here, and there's room. This will involve new and bigger buildings, and it could include extensive destruction of the historic fabric of our neighborhood. We can anticipate a combination of small local efforts (like homeowners building ADUs) and outside forces (developers building bigger buildings and their banks). How can Rockridge grow into the future without losing character-defining features? In the post-WWII period, many historic homes were destroyed, and poorly made motel-style stucco "dingbat" apartments mushroomed. Will future residents experience the look and feel of Rockridge that we enjoy now?

How can we shape change for the best? Will we allow "the market" or profit to be the main determinant of Rockridge's future? Which groups or individuals will live, or can live, in a particular neighborhood is currently hard to determine, though public policy, laws, banks, and the kind of structures, pre-existing or newly built, all figure in. Example: requiring onsite (in Rockridge) affordable housing for new projects will accommodate a broader spectrum of Oaklanders, while market-rate housing will help maintain the status quo.

Santa Barbara is an excellent example of very clear development planning. There is only one option: designing in a Spanish Mediterranean style, fitted to the scale of the project. The result is beautiful. The Adams Point area is an example of the densification of single-family homes. In the inter-war period, traditional-looking and often graceful, multi-family buildings of various sizes joined the houses.

Which way will we go? Let's talk. ■

Blessing Bags Ministry — How YOU Can Help

by Linda Davis & Sharon Nelson

A group from the College Avenue Presbyterian Church has been giving out new underclothes two times a month to those who are unhoused and/or living on the edge. The intent is to empower such folks to feel more confident and resilient as they try to find work, go about life, and seek to interact with others.

Specific donation requests include:

- New men's t-shirts (all sizes except small). Large and extra-large are the most requested sizes
- New men's underwear (all sizes except small; knit boxers are nice)
- New Athletic crew socks (thick)
- $10 Trader Joe's gift cards or cash

Please donate socks and underwear made with the highest cotton content (available at Target and Costco). All neighbors are welcome to attend on the 2nd Friday and last Friday of each month when we pass out the bags.

See www.capcoakland.org for info. ■

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Jewish Community Campus Looks for Neighborhood Input

by Melissa Chapman

The Jewish Community Center (JCC) East Bay is very excited to be a part of the Rockridge community. Thank you for including us in the spectacular Rockridge Kitchen Tour last month. We hope it is the first of many local happenings we can support and participate in together. We have been working closely with RCPC so we can be as thoughtful and intentional as possible about incorporating community feedback. We want to work with you, our neighbors, and hear more from you directly.

We have posted a brief survey online (see boxed item) for Rockridge residents to learn more about what excites you, what concerns you, and everything in between. We also plan to host a Town Hall, jointly with RCPC, in late January. It will be open to all Rockridge residents to share preliminary ideas and timelines. ■

Possibilities for Community Services and Use of Space:

- **Preschool, afterschool for K-5 students, summer camp, teen center**
- **Adult education, social services, and activities for older adults**
- **Health and wellness center**
- **Maker's space and gallery space**
- **Café with indoor and outdoor space**
- **Arts and culture events and holiday celebrations**
- **Outdoor play and recreation spaces**
- **Flexible co-working, meeting, and event spaces**

To share your thoughts, take the survey at www.jcceastbay.org/communitycampus.

Be Part of Donor Wall at Oakland Tech Student Center

Oakland Tech invites you or your business to become a permanent fixture at the New Oakland Tech Student Center. By donating online (https://www.ousd.org/Page/21888) you will be added to the donor wall at the entrance of the Student Center, a multipurpose space created to improve the experience of all our students and faculty. To help put the finishing touches on this important new space with your donation, contact Shelly Cox at (510) 206-3989, or email oaklandshellycox@icloud.com. ■

Rockridge District Association Announcements

Rock-N-Stroll Continues on College Avenue

On Saturday, **November 12, Rock-N-Stroll** returns with over a dozen live music shows dotting the sidewalks along College Avenue between Broadway and Alcatraz. Performers include singer/songwriters Aiden Moore, Asher Stern, Peter Martin, El Grato Dice, and Frances Ancheta, along with other local bands and DJs. The Rockridge merchants invite you to stroll the Avenue and enjoy sales, tastings, popup vendors, and free activities for all ages. For info, visit RockridgeDistrict.com.

Holiday Shopping in Rockridge — Buy Local on Black Friday and Small Business Sunday

Rockridge shops and restaurants are offering big sales, free tastings, festive menus, and live music during the Black Friday and Small Business Saturday weekend, **November 25-27.** Bring the whole family for a truly enjoyable shopping experience. If you're looking for convenience or inspiration, see the holiday shopping guides available at RockridgeDistrict.com, including a wide variety of gift cards from local stores — and suport your Rockridge merchants. ■

Community Thanksgiving Day Meal Tradition Continues at College Avenue Presbyterian Church

by Tina Faulkner & Rev. Monte McClain

For more than 40 years, the College Avenue Presbyterian Church has been hosting a fun, neighborhood-empowered annual Thanksgiving Day Community Meal. In 2020, because of Covid, we adapted our annual community meal to a "to-go" format.

This year, while that concern has lessened, the flu is projected to return with a vengeance. As a result, we're once again committing to a pick-up service as the best way to care for those who come to eat as well as for those who come to serve.

We'll be providing a "to-go" meal on **Thanksgiving Day, from 11am-noon**, from our campus at 5951 College Avenue. This has always been a joint project with diverse members of our Rockridge Community including congregation members, local merchants, and residents, and we invite our neighbors to help out with various tasks.

This is an opportunity for us to gather as a community and respond to the needs of those struggling with hunger, solitude, and joblessness. We're planning to serve 200 meals — free for anyone that comes to our church. Donations of money and food are gratefully accepted and needed. It's these donations from local people that allow the event to take place. We expect the cost for 200 hearty turkey dinners with all the fixin's to be approximately $2,000.

Neighbors are also encouraged to volunteer their time. We need help in our effort to prepare this holiday meal. We'll be looking for help cooking from home, preparing the site, serving, and cleaning up — all done in a spirit of joy and giving while paying attention to safety. ■

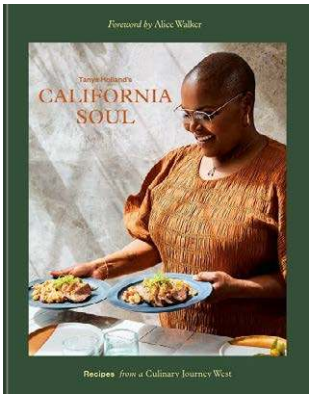
Volunteer Information:

To learn how you can help, sign up for a volunteer slot, or make a safe and secure electronic donation, visit the Thanksgiving Meal page on the church website at: www.capcoakland.org/thanksgiving-meal.

You can also contact the church office by email at capcoakland@gmail.com, or by calling (510) 658-3665.

Author Book Signing at Market Hall

Saturday, Dec. 3, 12:30pm–2pm
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Taking an Inside Look at the City's Crime Reporting Process

by Karen Ivy, NCPC Secretary

The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) was officially established in April 2002 to respond to the newly reorganized Community Policing Program of the Oakland Police Department. It supports police beats 12Y (everything below Broadway down to Telegraph) and 13X (in the hills above Broadway, up to Highway 13) and operates under its own by-laws.

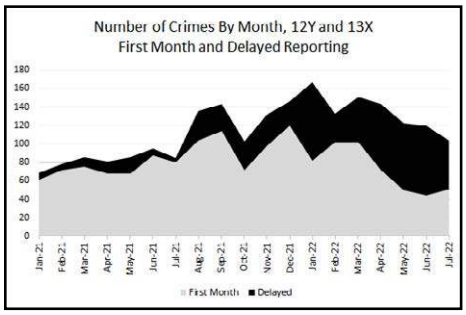
As NCPC secretary, I've been collecting and publishing local crime statistics since 2014. I download the entire 90-day file (https://data.oaklandca.gov/Public-Safety/Crime-Watch-Maps-Past-90-Days/ym6k-rx7a) on the fifth of every month, and sort out the data for our two beats for the previous month. This is public information; anyone can access it. I keep spreadsheets of all the numbers I publish, and, based on calculated averages and minimum/maximum values, I have a good feel for what a month's reporting looks like.

In January 2022, I downloaded a report that didn't look right. The last week of the month showed only four crimes reported in 12Y in 11 days between 1/19/22 and 1/30/22. The total number of crimes in January also seemed low: 60 in beat 12Y and 22 in beat 13X. When I downloaded the February data, on March 5, I found that the rest of the January data had magically appeared: 12Y now had 90 reports in January and 13X had 36. So I re-published January.

This delayed reporting continued for the rest of 2022. I've failed to find someone in the City who would discuss this. I've gotten a couple of vague responses to the effect that there are lot of reports, in different formats, coming in from different departments at different times, and it just takes a long time to get the data, but it'll all be there after 90 days. I hope to talk to someone who can explain what changed in a system whose output had been reasonably stable for the previous six years.

Recently my husband, Jim Ringland (a retired statistician and contributor to this article), offered to do some analysis based on the full database of Oakland crime back to 2005, which the City made available for public download in June 2021 (as of mid-September, it had 1,046,646 records). We've now compared the original downloaded reports from 2021 and 2022 with the full download.

As you can see in the chart above,



the lower, light gray "river" shows the totals collected the way I've been doing it in the past, downloaded from the "CrimeWatch-Maps-Past-90-Days Database" near the beginning of the month. The upper, dark gray "river" shows what we found after going back to the current full database where we can see what's currently listed for past months. So the stacked lines give the best view of current monthly crime totals in the two beats.

The City certainly should not be basing policy decisions on first month's data. Better to wait a month. For instance, most February crime reports that weren't in the March database download were present in April's report. Reports on "crimes against the person" are least likely to be delayed, reflecting OPD priorities. "Property" and "quality-of-life" crime reports see relatively more delays, and those delays are about the same in both beats.

Normally, 12Y has more crime than 13X, with 12Y having a higher proportion of auto-related property crimes and 13X a higher the proportion of non-auto property crimes. And we still don't know if the apparent general rise in total crime since mid-2021 is real or a result of data processing changes.

Moving forward, I will always look back in the stats at least one month earlier and publish each month twice to the NCPC website — once with the first month's data, and again with a second report marked "revised." We will also do a larger review, at longer intervals, to check whether the delay times are getting worse.

Email Karen at karenivy@mindspring.com. To view the most recent statistics, see https://rockridgencpc.com. ■



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Female Scout Troop Empowers Future Community Leaders

by Cindy Murphy, Scoutmaster, Troop 305G

Rockridge resident **Kayla Fukatsu-Ishida** is a spunky and driven 12-year-old at Claremont Middle School. She is also on her way to becoming one of the youngest female Eagle Scouts in the country. Her journey first started with Girl Scouts, but when the Boy Scouts of America (now Scouts BSA) broke down gender barriers and allowed girls to join in 2019, Kayla was all in.

"I originally joined Scouting to be with my friends. I enjoy the leadership experience and all the camping and adventures."

Her Cub Scout pack, Pack 296, was led by Oakland native, **Jesuscita Fishel**, who inspired Kayla to keep pushing herself to be a leader and to be ambitious on her scouting journey.

While Cub Scouts (where Kayla first started) is co-ed, the next level of scouting requires separate girl troops and boy troops. So Kayla helped found a girl troop, Troop 305G, as a "sister troop" to the boys' Troop 305, which now has seven girls. The troop is open to new members, for anyone interested.

The troops are focused on leadership development, community service, and outdoor adventure. Weekly meetings focus on learning and meeting requirements to help the girls navigate through the Scouts BSA ranked system as they strive for the prestigious Eagle Scout award.

The girls' and boys' troops go on adventures together, experiencing things like campouts, zip-lining, fishing, backpacking, sleeping on a real submarine, and even tackling a giant ropes course in the treetops in Tahoe.

"The most challenging for me has been rank advancement because I want to get Eagle rank by the time I'm 14. It's also challenging to lead people that are older than me," said Kayla, who at 12 years old is the Senior Patrol Leader of the girls, some of whom are 16 years old. "The most fun adventure has been whitewater rafting because who doesn't like white water rafting," Kayla shared.

For girls and boys who are interested in Leadership Development, Community Involvement, and High-Adventure, please consider joining Kayla and her scout-mates. Scouts BSA is for young people ages 11 to 17. To contact Girls Troop 305G, email cindy.gatiss.murphy@gmail.com. To contact Boys Troop 305, email dougmayne@comcast.net. ■



The troop created their own Vision Statement: We aim to gain life experience preparing us for future challenges, to be involved in the community, and to become adventurous and powerful female citizens and leaders.

NCPC MEETING

The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council
meets on the 2nd Thursday of even numbered months.

The next Zoom meeting will be held on:
December 8, 2022, at 7pm,
(pending further notice)

For Zoom link, visit:
https://rockridgencpc.com

To suggest meeting topics, send an email to:
chair@rockridgencpc.com.

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"Tat the Street" — Shafter Avenue Artists Use Paint to Encourage Dialogue and Collaboration

by Carol Kasparek

When the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision came down on June 24 of this year, people took to the streets. Neighbors on Shafter wanted to take action, so they took to their street. People who had gathered for decades on numerous occasions decided to use the pavement in their midst to send a message, and an invitation.

The 5200 block of Shafter has a tradition of block parties — bringing residents together to enjoy each other and support community improvements. Setting up recycling programs, safety training, and tree planting proved to be excellent ways to support national issues. **Sharon Zinke** saw the feeling in her women's group intensify, wondering how to preserve the control of their bodies beyond the relative safety of California laws.

"The *zeitgeist* was out there; we could see what we all were feeling," **Julie Franklin** observed. "We wanted to respond to the tremendous amount of frustration and rage and channel that energy into events that foster dialogue and engagement," said **Skye Winfrey**.

Winfrey and Zinke proposed that the neighbors collaborate to help folks beyond the block with an activity or event. Skye felt that encouraging women to "step playfully into leadership" could build a force that would grow and bring in more diverse participants — and a core group began to meet. Within three weeks, the website WomenInAction.net was created to publicize events. Anyone interested can add an event to the website. Moderators follow up with contributors to ensure information is complete and accurate. According to Skye, "We want events to be fun, enlivening …allowing you to start where you are." **Michael Zinke** helped fashion the logo that expressed what they wanted to convey; September 3 a national "day of action," was the day they decided to launch the site.

> ***"The zeitgeist was out there; we could see what we all were feeling."***

Back on Shafter, decisions were to be made on what they would do for their own event on that day. Franklin was inspired by BLM public displays on asphalt and began working with Zinke, and fellow artist **Sara Biel**, to create something in which everyone could participate. Hence, "Tat the Street" was born.

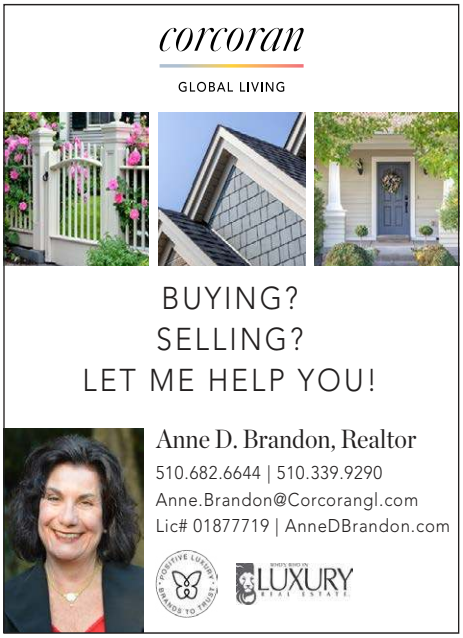
Biel locked on the image of the Statue of Liberty. Not totally trusting her freehand, she ordered a stencil. **Laurie Gardinier** grabbed a phrase from a friend in the Midwest, "Regulate Dick, Not Jane." Great for the kids! Julie re-interpreted a beautiful logo with a woman's torso, and the crossed oars widely displayed over the words, "Roe, Roe, Roe." Several people contributed to variations on a uterine theme in bright purple and white paint (non-toxic and water-soluble, of course).



"One of the best days" on the block, they all agreed. "Very creative, bubbling energy," remarked Gardinier, appreciative of each other and the creatives on the block, "Everyone came out." Getting down on the pavement on that hot day was more draining than they expected, so neighbors brought lemonade and salad, or pulled up chairs to call out encouragement to the artists. Children joined, helping the adults and creating their own logos.

The group sees their event as an encouragement to get to know each other and to create opportunities to listen to each other. "Nothing is going to change unless we're talking to each other," said Biel. People are influenced by what they believe about their neighbors. Do they truly know each other? The group hopes that the collaboration and images prompt people to talk about the issues. "We want to make it normal, visible, to discuss control of our bodies," said Zinke.

People on this block have always taken care of each other. Now, the neighbors are watching out for some of the most basic rights for women and men. They want everyone to know that they can take action for what is important to them. This very connected group hopes people discover that action can be "fun, inclusive, an opportunity for dialogue." All are invited to walk the block and be part of the action. ■



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 Classifieds" in the memo line. **The deadline for December's issue is Nov. 17, 2022** (available Dec. 3). Mail to: RCPC, 4900 Shattuck Ave., PO Box 22504, Oakland, 94609-20131. For details, email Susan Montauk at smontauk@gmail.com.

Rockridge Artist Maryly Snow Hosts Open Studios

with Stocking stuffers (local honey, potholders, and greeting cards) along with fine art in her West Oakland Studio. Nov. 5- 6, Nov. 12-13, 11am-5pm. 3016 Filbert St #14 at 30th Street. Welcome! snowstudios.com.

Holiday Season at Bambino

Decorate your home for Thanksgiving, Chanukkah or Christmas while supporting Children's Hospital, Oakland, with your purchases. November 6-December 23, Tues, Thurs, Fri, 11am-3pm; Sat. & Sun, noon-4pm; 5290 College Avenue. 510/658-7473. Bambinothriftshop.org.

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Competition Drives Price in September

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
9/8/2022	3	1	35 Armanino Court	$1,495,000	$1,495,000	13	$2,110,000
9/13/2022	2	1	5439 Claremont Ave	$675,000	$599,000	63	$617,000
9/15/2022	3	2.5	5808 Presley Way	$1,599,000	$1,599,000	12	$2,050,000

Homes sold in September closed 26.7% over the asking price on average.

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