THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
VOL 38 • NO. 9 • ISSUE NO. 412 • OCTOBER 2023 CIRCULATION: 5,800 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES
Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) • 4900 Shattuck Ave., PO Box 22504, Oakland 94609

TOWN HALL: Sustainability at Home

Thursday, October 19
7 to 9pm
Rockridge Library
Raffle prizes from Re-Up Refill Shop
Light snacks provided

Panelists include:
Amy Hansen, Trees for Oakland
Geneva Gondak, EBMUD
Adam Klaus, QuitCarbon.com
Jeffrey Wong, City of Oakland

The panel will be recorded and posted to Rockridge.org soon after the event. Please send your questions in advance to Chair@Rockridge.org.

Rockridge: Let's Reduce Our Carbon Footprint

by Casey Farmer, RCPC Chair

As the impacts of climate change become more severe, we must acknowledge how our actions may contribute to these impacts. More importantly, we should take action and make changes in our own homes and communities. RCPC is putting out a call for Rockridge to step up and to do so collectively. **On October 19,** RCPC will bring three expert panelists to provide residents with real solutions they can use to help reduce their carbon footprint at home.

Trees for Oakland is a volunteer organization dedicated to planting and caring for trees throughout the City. Their vision is to create "an Oakland that is lusher, and more beautiful, with better air quality that would lead to the improved well-being of people who live, work, and visit the city." **Amy Hansen**, lead volunteer, is responsible for planting hundreds of trees in Oakland and is an expert in the entire process. At the Town Hall, she will speak about the benefits of tree planting, the types of recommended trees, and the process for planting trees on Oakland sidewalks, as well as answer questions.

RCPC is calling upon eligible Rockridge residents to plant City-approved trees in their sidewalk tree wells and contribute to Trees for Oakland in order to simplify the process. Preparation meetings will be conducted in November/December with the aim to plant the trees early next year.

Town Hall, see page 4

Frog Park Flourishes at Creek-to-Bay Day

by Theresa Nelson, Co-Founder, Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt

Thanks go out to the more than 120 volunteers who turned out on Saturday the 23rd of September for Creek-to-Bay Day. FROG (Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt) sponsors this major park clean-up every September in cooperation with the City of Oakland, and this year's event had the largest turnout since the play structures were first built during "Big Build" in 2001.

We are grateful to the many groups who showed up to make this day such a success, including the 60+ students from Bishop O'Dowd High School and

Frog Park, see page 6



Rockridge's Halloween Parade: The Freaky Tradition Continues

by Jody Colley, Marketing, Rockridge District Association

Bay Area kids and Rockridge's merchants agree, the annual Halloween Parade is the most exhilirating day of the year to be on College Avenue. **On Sunday, October 29, between 11am and 2pm**, free Halloween festivities will stretch along College Avenue — from Alcatraz to Broadway — for families to enjoy.

The Rockridge Library parking lot (5366 College) will be the main gathering place for kids' crafts with MOCHA (Museum of Children's Art), librarian Storytime, sing-along with "MissSalneous" and her accordion, book giveaways, Magic Show by Germar, whimsical balloon twisters, bubbles, puppets, and more.

Halloween, see page 7

Rock-N-Stroll's 2023 "Fall Fest" Features A Musical Showcase

By Jody Colley, Marketing, Rockridge District Association

Rock-N-Stroll's annual summer series will be going out with a bang and a bite along College Avenue, culminating with the final event, **"Fall Fest," on October 14**.

The showcase continues to highlight local wares, fine dining, savory sweets, and delicious drinks only found in Oakland's Rockridge District while featuring free outdoor live music, pop-up vendors, kids' crafts, art shows, and fun activities for the whole family. Experience fall tastings and special menus — and all that makes this series a shoppers' delight.

Enjoy the sweet sounds of music as you stroll along the avenue. This year's music lineup is the biggest yet (see schedule on next page), and includes Rock-N-Stroll veterans as well as new bands to the series. **Frances Anchata** is a singer/songwriter offering thoughtful, electric acoustic folk, indie, pop/rock, and tropical new wave folk. With three albums released, her music has garnered international independent and internet radio airplay in the US, Canada, the UK, and Spain. Frances performs both original and cover songs with her own interpretation.

John Vicino started his musical journey as a San Francisco street performer at age 16. It was from this raw form that John began to delve more deeply into musicianship and understanding his audience. He has come a long way from the days of filling coffee cans with coins and currently has residencies at Cavallo Point Lodge, Andaz Napa, and Hotel Zeppelin, among other locations throughout the Bay Area. *Powell*, his first album (in reverence to where it all started), is currently in the recording process.

New to Rock-N-Stroll, the **Belinda Salvidge Minstrels** play fast and fiercely with high energy. They perform traditional and modern Irish tunes in pubs, microbreweries, and

Rock-N-Stroll, see next page

Rockridge Community Planning Council's Land Use Committee Meeting

RCPC's Land Use Committee Meeting will be held:

Wednesday, Oct 25, 2023, at 7:30pm, via Zoom.

The meeting is open to the public.
Use Zoom link: bit.ly/3c0r6X0
or email: landuse@rockridge.org.



THE RockridgeNews

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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Contacting the *Rockidge 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? We'd love to hear from you.

Want to write a letter to the Editor? Lletters are limited to 450 words and are published at the editors discretion. Send letters to: editor@rockridge.org. Please be sure to include your name, email address, city and street of residence. **All submissions accepted for publication are subject to editing for clarity and brevity.**

The Rockridge News reserves the right to refuse any articles, letters, or advertisements.

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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 Avenue, PO Box 22504, Oakland, CA, 94609

Display Ad Deadline for NOVEMBER 2023: October 19, 2023

Advertising rates are $28/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rates available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 510-653-3210 (**after noon**), or email joellis1@hotmail.com. Email Susan Montauk at smontauk@gmail.com for information regarding classified ads.

Views expressed in published articles do not necessarily reflect those of The Rockridge News, *its editor, or the board of directors of the Rockridge Community Planning Council.*

Rock-N-Stroll, from previous page

elsewhere. **Belinda Salvidge** is a professional musician with over 25 years of experience touring the UK and the United States, and as a studio musician. She is an accredited teacher of cello, violin, viola, piano, and mandolin.

Dan DeWitt performs as Dan Do Mandolin. He is a San Francisco-based mandolinist and guitarist who specializes in music that evokes a nostalgic time before the sounds of traffic, television, and Tik-Tok dominated our lives. His repertoire ranges from the Baroque master's Bach and Vivaldi to jazz standards, Brazilian "choro," and even video game soundtracks.

Rockridge's Open Mind Music (5521 College), and Beer Baron (5900 College), will showcase local legends and up-and-coming stars in front of their venues. Enjoy local craft beers and sunshine on the Beer Baron patio, or swing by the Open Mind Music sidewalk show for which they have become renowned. Bring a lawn chair to enjoy the shows or meander by while taking in all the other activities happening along College Avenue.

In addition to the rhythmic beats, the bounty of the fall harvest will be on display with free tastings and meals offered by local restaurants, specialty markets, and bottle shops. Rockridge Market Hall (5655 College), Love + Chocolate (6309 College), Belly Restaurant (5634 College), Starter Bakery (5804 College), and ACRE Restaurant's free brunch for kids (5655 College), are just a few examples of where attendees can sample seasonal flavors and regular menu items. And don't miss the Sip-and-Shop event happening at The DG Collective (5540 College) where you'll find scrumptious snacks and a raffle.

The October Rock-N-Stroll is the last chance to meander down College Avenue, take in live music, and enjoy the season's offerings before the holiday bustle and winter season begins. For more information, visit www.RockridgeDistrict.com. ■

Oct 14: FALL FEST Musical Performances

Noon-1:45pm
John Vicino, College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Ave.

2pm-4pm
Frances Anchata (photo below)
Cole Coffee, 6255 College Ave.



Belinda Salvidge Minstrels, College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Ave.

Dan Do Mandolin, McNally's Irish Pub, 5352 College Ave.

2pm-5pm
TBA, Beer Baron, 5900 College Ave.

Noon-5pm
Open Mind Music Showcase, 5521 College Ave.

MeloDious
Mare Island "Dock of the Bay"
Fest Face Urchins
Diabolical Pool Party

Events at Market Hall Foods

5655 College Avenue

Noon-3pm
Taste of Italy featuring Italian specialties and tastings.

1:30pm: Book Signings
ACRE Café will be hosting Italian food expert and cooking instructor Viola Buitoni who will be signing copies of her debut cookbook *Italy by Ingredient*. Market Hall Foods' kitchen and bakery will be making recipes from Viola's book that will be offered on their Weekend Menu.

2pm: Paul Marcus Wines
Join A16 restaurant owner and wine expert Shelley Lindgren, who will be signing copies of her new book *Italian Wines*.

(After the signings, Viola and Shelley will speak in conversation about Italian food and wine.)

12:30pm: Crucolo Parade and Tastings
An annual tradition that pays homage to Crucolo, a favorite Italian cheese from the Trentino-Alto Adige region. Their expert cheesemongers, dressed in Italian garb, will ceremoniously roll a 400 lb. wheel of Crucolo down Shafter Avenue to the parklet where they'll cut into this gigantic creamy cow's milk cheese and hand out samples along with prosciutto and other Italian delights.

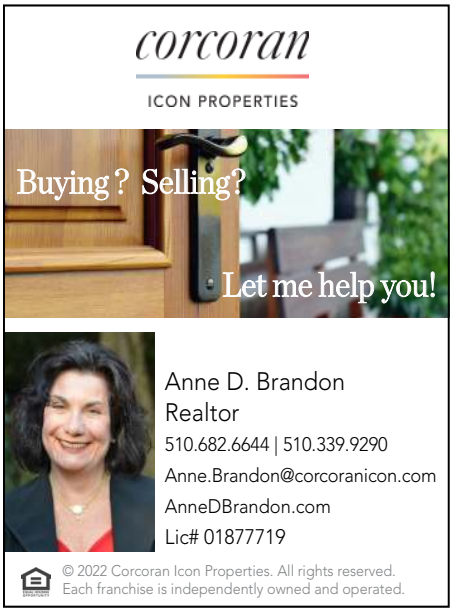
Noon-3pm:
Italian Wine Tasting at Paul Marcus Wines

Anchovy Tasting at Hapuku Fish Shop









Town Hall, from front page

With help from RCPC contributions, Trees for Oakland will provide free technical assistance for homeowners throughout the process.

Here are the steps:

1) Site evaluation: Is your tree well suitable for a tree? Are there utilities that prevent you from carving out a tree well to your front sidewalk?

2) If your site is eligable and City approved, identify an approved tree on the City of Oakland's tree list.

3) Trees for Oakland will lend support to the City's permitting process for official approval.

4) Purchase your tree for $150. (Homeowners are responsible for this expense, but at a large savings due to the scale of the purchase.)

5) Prepping the Site: Pre-watering the tree well will make planting much easier.

6) Plant the Trees: Volunteers will be available to help and homeowners are encouraged to support the planting process.

7) Receive details and instructions on how to maintain your street tree.

Can't plant a tree? Volunteer or sponsor a tree instead. Volunteers are needed for weeding, digging, and planting — here in Rockridge and throughout Oakland. To sign up, email hansena49@gmail.com. No experience needed. We're also looking for five sponsors to individually contribute $150 to plant trees in front of Rockridge businesses (email Chair@Rockridge.org to sponsor).

Geneva Gondak, Supervisor of Water Conservation for East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD, the water and wastewater for Rockridge and other parts of the East Bay) will provide tips on how to reduce water consumption in your home and garden.

EBMUD has related upcoming webinars about water-efficient gardening:

1) Biodiversity, Water Conservation, and Yards, October 20, 12pm to 1:30pm.

2) Virtual Landscape Rebate Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12pm to 1pm.

Learn more at https://www.ebmud.com/water/conservation-and-rebates.

Adam Klaus of QuitCarbon.com will provide a presentation on how homeowners can reduce their home's carbon footprint by eliminating the devices that produce greenhouse gas emissions by replacing them with electric alternatives.

QuitCarbon provides free personalized Home Electrification Plans, explains rebate programs, and offers technical assistance support.

Jeffrey Ja Wong will speak about the City's Electrification Ordinance, EV's, battery storage, and more. The City of Oakland's Climate Action Fellows will be available to answer questions and share information. ■





General Plan Updates Continue, RCPC Weighs In

by Aly Bonde, RCPC Board Member

Last month, the Oakland City Council considered elements of the General Plan 2045 Update, giving preliminary approval to many of the housing components. **Councilmember Dan Kalb**, representing Rockridge and North Oakland, introduced an amendment to the proposed height limit for potential future development at Rockridge BART, from a height of 175 feet to 100 feet (~ten stories tall), while increasing height limits in other nearby areas.

The Board of the Rockridge Community Planning Council analyzed the priority development sites and code changes included in the update in order to provide the below comment letter. Additional details of the General Plan Update appeared in the September 2023 edition of the *Rockridge News*. The City Council will vote on final approval of the updates early this month, with additional pieces of the General Plan 2045 Update coming during 2024 (see www.oaklandca.gov/topics/general-plan-update). ■

September 12, 2023

Dear Members of the Community and Economic Development Committee,

As Rockridge residents, we are well-aware of the painful history of exclusionary zoning practices that took place here over decades past — as they did in many neighborhoods in California. We believe that on the whole, this package of code amendments takes important steps to reverse those previous wrongs while balancing the desire of existing residents to see the neighborhood develop thoughtfully.

Additionally, we believe key implementation steps are necessary in order to see these code amendments successfully realize their intended outcomes:

- Conduct an extensive public feedback process in developing the Objective Design Guidelines that will shape projects eligible for by-right approval, ensuring that the resulting guidelines are consistent with the Housing Element policy objectives.
- Prioritize creating an online portal for residents to track projects eligible for by-right approval for the sake of transparency and public information.
- Consider the effects on feasibility that impact fees will have on missing middle small-scale construction types.
- For larger parcels likely not subject to by-right approval (such as the Rockridge BART and The Ridge), devote additional staff capacity to ensure timely consideration of these projects.
- As to development on the Rockridge BART site, we believe the evidentiary record needs to be augmented with further analysis of the financial and market feasibility as well as neighborhood views regarding different height and density limits before adoption of any zoning changes.

The RCPC welcomes the reversal of our neighborhood's previous exclusionary practices. Throughout the development of the Housing Element, RCPC successfully advocated for the inclusion of additional priority housing sites in Rockridge including "The Ridge" site at 5050 Broadway, which was previously proposed for a Home Depot and is now required to be majority housing. View our previous letters on the Housing Element at www.rockridge.org.

The Rockridge Community Planning Council is supportive of the General Plan's proposed code amendments to implement the Housing Element and build much-needed housing in Rockridge, provided the above implementation steps are prioritized.

Sincerely, Casey Farmer
Chair, Rockridge Community Planning Council

Meeting: October 12, 7pm
Rockridge Library Conference Room

Speaker: Damon Manni
The Lighthouse Project
(see article on next page)

This will be a hybrid meeting for those who prefer to attend remotely.

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

October Events at the Rockridge Library

5366 College Ave.
at Manila
510-597-5017

For Children

Storytime: Thursdays and Saturdays; 10:30am

Chess Club: Wednesdays, Sept-Nov; 4pm

Read to a Dog: Thursdays at 4pm

Intergenerational Origami: Third Tuesday at 6:30pm; 10/17

Día de los Muertos Take-&-Make Craft: Saturday, 10/28, pick up after storytime.

Halloween Events: Sunday, Oct 29, 11am to 2pm – Stories, Songs, & Crafts for kids of all ages (parking lot in back). See you there!

For Teens

Pumpkin Painting and Snacks: Wednesday 10/11; 2pm, presented by the Rockridge Teen Advisory Board.

Teen Advisory Board: Wednesday, 10/11; 4-5 pm. Join the Rockridge Branch Library Teen Advisory Board (TAB) and take an active role in creating, planning, and implementing programs and services you want to see at your local library. Every 2nd Wednesday in the TeenZone. New members welcome.

For Adults

Rockridge Book Club: Every 2nd Saturday. Please call (510) 597-5017 for more information, and for a copy of the book.

Please also check the library's calendar online at www.oaklandlibrary.org/events for events throughout the city.

Hours:
Mon, Thurs, Sat 10am to 5:30pm
Tuesday and Wednesday - 10am to 8pm
Closed on Sundays

Find more information at
www.oaklandlibrary.org/events.

Frog Park, from front page

Bentley High School, btc The Oaks League boys charity, a local Girl Scout troop, the many families and friends who care about the park, and the City of Oakland for providing tools and equipment.

Much was accomplished:

- Fully cleaning and sealing the wood at the Little Frog play structure.
- Clearing the creek of weeds for future water flows (we're working on that now).
- Sweeping and re-leveling the surface at the dog park.
- Picking up trash, leaves, and eucalyptus bark all along the path.
- Sweeping and cleaning the Big Frog play structure.
- Doing massive trimming of ivy and overgrown greenery.
- Preparing the area for the "climatescaping" planting project.

We also thank the neighborhood businesses who support this event with their gracious contributions: fresh coffee from **Ain't Normal Café**; tasty bagels and cream cheese from **Poppy Bagels**; and yummy scones and chocolate chip cookies from **Bakesale Betty**. We appreciate their ongoing contributions.

New "Climatescape" Garden

You may notice that the area which had been a rose garden (and was torn



up by someone) now has beautiful new plants. Neighbors **John Kamp**, a landscape and urban designer (http://www.prairieform.com/), and his partner, designer **James Rojas**, worked with FROG to envision a new approach to the concrete-bounded area near Hudson. He came up with a design based on "climatescaping," using drought-tolerant, native, and Mediterranean plants that also serve as pollinators. The young plants are now in, and they will firmly establish during the winter rains. Future signage will reveal more of the story.

If you'd like to join FROG as we look to new projects, including finding a way to run the creek year-round, please contact chair@frogpark.org. ■

The Lighthouse Project Website is Now Live

by Damon Manni

The Lighthouse Project (TLP) was formed by Rockridge neighbors who became tired of waiting for the City to act on the recent increase in crime and want to take action themselves (see July/Aug *Rockridge News*). TLP's new website is rich with articles, information, and crime data, and includes TLP's Charter that sets forth its mission and purpose.

The site makes it very simple to submit a crime report and handle abandoned vehicles. Don't waste your time hunting around the City's website, TLP solves these problems as well as answers questions asked by neighbors at the project's first meeting earlier this year. Plus, it's easy to sign up for orientation sessions and become a volunteer — there are several options available.

New features are coming soon, including a library of books on how the justice ecosystem functions; an expanded safety products page offering solutions recommended and tested by your neighbors; guest speaker articles; crime mapping of reports committed close to your home; incident reports; and a dashboard.

Another great way to be part of the solution is to donate safety accessories that you may have in your junk drawers at home… gather them up and hit the donate page today.

For information, visit https://www.thelighthouseproject.xyz/ or email info@TheLighthouseProject.xyz. ■



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Walk-ins welcome

THANK YOU Maxine Heiliger

The *Rockridge News* is looking for a replacement for Maxine Heiliger's delivery route:

• Route 20A: Up Claremont Ave from 5900 to former site of Shell station.

To volunteer, call 510/547-3855 or email Susan at smontauk@gmail.

Halloween, from front page

Outside of College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College, you will find, **DJ Danny Santos** spinning Halloween classics; crafts for kids; and dancing for all ages. Rockridge merchants will be passing out candy to the kids as they Trick-and-Treat down the avenue. The RDA will award prizes for best costumes for kids and pets. In addition to passing out treats, Rockridge merchants will offer special Halloween-themed activities. Look for the posters displayed outside businesses indicating their participation.

The event is co-produced by the Rockridge Community Planning Council, Rockridge Library, and the Rockridge District Association. See the full schedule and participating businesses at RockridgeDistrict.com. ■

Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Seeks New Vice Chair

NCPC is looking for a new Vice Chair. The Vice Chair assists with meetings and other responsibilities as requested by the Chair.

The meetings include a community meeting held at 7pm on the second Thursday of each even-numbered month, and regular meetings of the Steering Committee. All meetings are hybrid (both in person and Zoom), which necessitates that someone be physically present to run the meeting (typically, 90 minutes to 2 hours).

If you are interested in serving on this committee, which has been operating continuously since 2002 when Oakland first established its Community Policing Program, email chair@rockridgencpc.com. ■



Meet Marley, a three-year-old rescue adopted by Theresa and Barney, who live on Hudson. From his perch on the window seat, he keeps an eye on the many pedestrians, cyclists, and of course dogs, who walk by. He's very friendly and energetic, and has already made new friends at the Hardy Dog Park where you'll see him midday playing with his new buddies.

Rigby is a two-year-old labradoodle and lives on Lawton. She is known for her fabulous mustache and loves getting treats from her Auntie, fellow Rockridge local Felicia. Her favorite activities are going on walks with her furry friend Vinny and playing basketball at Hardy park. You may have seen her awesome Warriors-like quality defense on a sunny afternoon.



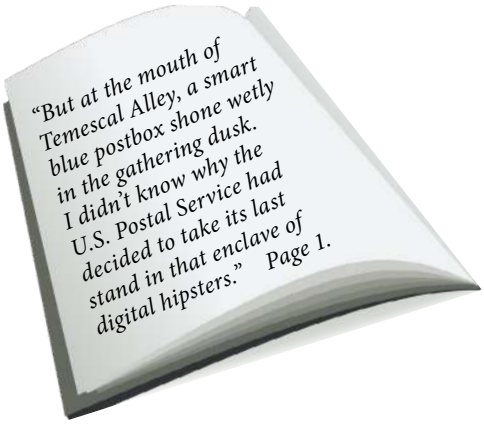
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Local Author Sets Novel 'Where We Live'

by Judith Doner Berne

eyes on Rockridge



The month of Halloween and Temescal, including its alley, are the primary settings for **Hilary Zaid's** second novel, *Forget I Told You This*. It's a book she began writing in 2015 while seated at her dining room table in the Rockridge home where she and her family lived for 25 years before a recent move to East Oakland.

"There's something about that little alley," she told an audience of 120 people who had gathered for her late summer book launch at the Jewish Community Center in Berkely. "It struck my imagination."

Indeed, a myriad of neighborhood places pervade her Oakland-based story, like the ghost bike on 51st at Rockridge's southern border, a power black-out in the Oakland Hills, a meeting above the Tip Top Bike Shop on Telegraph, and the Sunday Farmer's Market at the DMV. "It's worth looking closely at where you are," Zaid said. "We need books that are set where we live."

Those are not idle words. Her first novel, *Paper is White*, "is very much set in Rockridge." The novel she's working on now, as yet untitled, takes place around Lake Merritt. All her work has "some topical subject matter, but not a 'cause,' because pedantic writing is dull," she said. That third novel "will take on issues, but it's a comedy. With everything that's going on in the world, I can't write a novel that feels grim."

Forget I Told You This defies genre. Its timeless elements include mystery, science fiction, family loyalty, love, sex, and remembrance. But the modern-day backdrop is data privacy and the artist in the age of AI. In our society, Zaid told her audience, "People who write code have value. People who make art are not valued in the same way."

So, Amy, a queer, single, middle-aged mother who practices calligraphy, tries to make technology work for her by applying for an artist's residency at Q, the world's largest social media company. Mysterious things happen in her search for a love letter's recipient. In a blurb on the back cover, Brooklyn author **Erin Swan** writes: "The prose is gorgeous, the plot tense, and Amy is a wonderfully flawed and sympathetic character…"

Zaid's own experiences mirror Amy's. Both are queer, have children who have left the nest, witnessed a father's decline, and are devoted to the written word. "Hopefully, a book is centered on its characters," Zaid said. She differentiates heroines from heroes, as Amy must reconcile family obligations with her various quests. For instance, "You never see James Bond taking care of his elderly parents."

Born in Los Angeles, Zaid holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard, and a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, both in English. A web developer, she heads content creation and strategy at Polytechnic Marketing in Berkeley. Her volunteer activities include Friends of the Rockridge Library and the Oakland Tech College Essay Mentor Program, which focuses on helping minority and LGBTQ seniors frame their college essays.

Winner of the 2018 Independent Publishers' Book Award (IPPY) in LGBT+ Fiction, Zaid considers writing a privilege. When working on a book, "I set the bar really low." As she approaches her computer, she thinks: "I just want to open the file; I want to write five words; and then maybe a little bit more. I want to invite the unconscious in. Ironically, the pandemic was a good time for me to focus on the book. It was kind of a cocooning situation."

Zaid is married to **Lauren Augusta**. Their younger son Gil'i, 19, designed the book's cover. It depicts a mammoth with its bones expressed through squibs of ink, a nod to the novel's focus on calligraphy. "Gil'i had produced the ink squib-like shapes," his mother said, "and I suggested that they wanted to be something recognizable, and then



suggested the mammoth, which to me is an overarching symbol of the overweening desire of tech billionaires to take over the world.

"I found collaborating with him such a joy," Zaid said, "to have my work combined with his." Rockridge born and bred, Gil'i and his brother Ro'e, 22, are both Oakland Tech graduates. Gil'i is a sophomore at Harvard, majoring in mathematics. Ro'e teaches kindergarten at OUSD's Emerson Elementary in Temescal.

"It's a very carefully written book," said **Pamela Waxman**, who has known Zaid since their kids attended the same summer camp. "The plot and characters seem very nimble to me. The characters are just unusual." A scene in which Amy climbs out her bedroom window at night to avoid her parents who have moved in with her temporarily, is memorable to Waxman, a graphic designer who lives in nearby Fairview Park. "I'm a middle-aged mother of two, and we don't get that very often."

"I knew how it was going to end, but I didn't know how it was going to get there," Zaid said. "You have to have faith that the story is there. No one is waiting for us to hand them our book."

Zaid's new novel is available through East Bay Booksellers. If you have an idea for a local story, please email judyberne@att.net. ■



Author Hilary Zaid and son Gil'i, who did the book cover as represented on the cake, at the launch of her new book.

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Market talk: Soft landing economic recession predicted by many economists. Our East Bay housing market hasn't always responded in sync with national economics. Inventory of homes in Rockridge was up as usual post Labor Day. That spread out buyers creating less competition for homes at the end of September. Home values are up from 2019, but down from peak Spring '22. It's all perspective over time. Mortgage industry analysts expect small rate drops heading into 2024.
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New City Council Resolution Prioritizes Public Safety

by Dan Kalb, District 1 Councilmember

We've seen a dramatic increase in serious crime throughout our city, including Rockridge. Total crime has increased in Oakland by more than 25 percent from last year, reminiscent of the high-crime period we had back in 2012/2013 when armed robberies and homicides were all too common. The current increase is an extremely worrying trend to say the least, which the city must address. The disturbingly violent nature of some of the robberies has added to the understandable fear and frustration.

On September 19, the City Council approved my resolution that prioritizes adopted safety and directs the City Administrator to focus on key public safety actions.

Here is what it does:

911 Dispatch: Following up on our 911 Budget directive, the new legislation requires the City Administration to increase recruitment of 911 dispatchers, develop a workable retention plan, address recent Grand Jury recommendations and prioritize reducing 911 hold time.

Security Cameras: Directs City Administrator to create a grant program for merchant associations, business improvement districts (such as the Rockridge District Association) and the like to purchase and install high-quality security cameras on private property along retail corridors. Also directs the City to work with CalTrans to place security cameras on freeway on-ramps.

Walking Beat Officers/Ambassadors: Asks for a permanent walking beat officer deployment plan to increase visibility of OPD officers, as well as exploration of a community ambassador plan

Federal Assistance: Directs City Administrator to request an increase in the number of FBI investigators assigned to OPD to assist in solving shootings and homicides.



Violence Prevention and Intervention: Directs City Administrator to analyze the expansion of CeaseFire, our data-driven, gun violence intervention program. Urgently asks our federal and State officials to allocate additional funds for reentry services in Alameda County. Also promotes trainings on conflict resolution.

Getting Guns Off Our Streets: Directs City Administrator to seek collaboration with federal law enforcement agencies in stepping up coordinated operations to confiscate illegal guns.

Lateral Academy: Moves process forward for a lateral police academy to hire experienced officers on top of the six new recruit academies already in the budget.

MACRO: Requires analysis of Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland (MACRO) performance, comparing our program to other jurisdictions, and proposes ways to increase the number and types of appropriate calls referred to MACRO, allowing OPD to focus on serious criminal activity.

Regional Collaboration: Directs City Administrator to contact County and regional governments, NGOs, and law enforcement agencies seeking collaboration on regional prevention and intervention strategies.

While not meant to be an exhaustive list of public safety efforts, these actions prioritize the City's efforts in ways that will tangibly improve the safety of the people who live or work in, or visit, Oakland.

For additional information, visit https://www.oaklandca.gov/officials/councilmember-dan-kalb. ■

A Pipe Organ Aficionado in Rockridge

by Gary Sponholtz

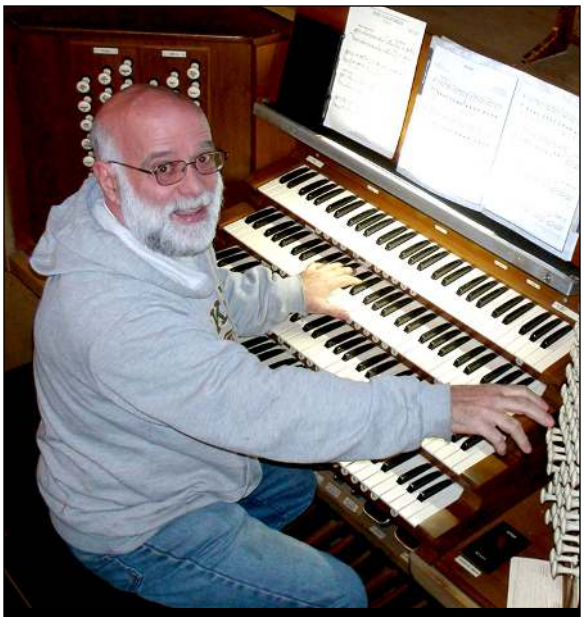
I've had a fascination with refurbishing pipe organs since I was 8 years old… my career as a church organist began 54 years ago. The beast currently in my garage in Rockridge was assembled in 2008 for the home of a retired organist in Connecticut. When the woman passed away, her children had the organ put up for sale. I acquired it in 2020 amid the pandemic when it was rejected by my congregation. My garage became Plan B.

I also have a 1920s 915 Pipe Theater Organ in my family's garage in Wisconsin. My third organ can be found at the San Damiano retreat chapel in Danville that I acquired when it was discarded from SF's Cal State music department.

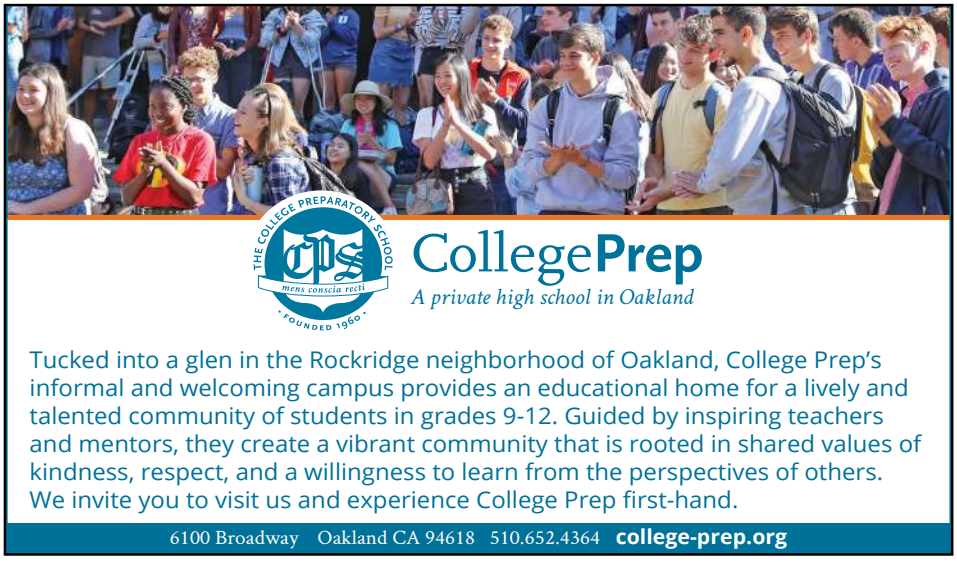
It's not due to a lack of interest that these organs become homeless, as does much else in our consumer-oriented lifestyle in America. Believe it or not, the pipe organ business is booming. There are dozens of pipe organ companies in the Bay Area serviced by hundreds of technicians, and many suitable used organs are still around as well.

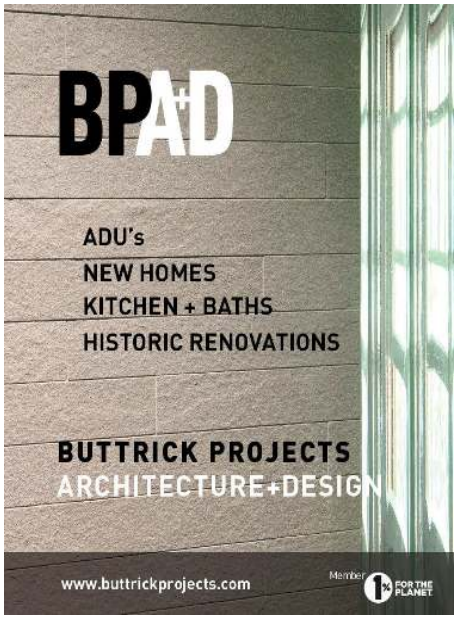
There are cheap imitations (like the one my congregation chose) with only one or two technicians who know how to service them, so too often they get discarded and sent to landfills. The Hydraulis organ in the Greek museum was dug out of a landfill dated 1000 BC, which goes to show, if it's built well, it will last.

To listen to my organ, please come by my home on Boyd Ave (at Hudson) on Halloween night, from 6-9pm. This will be our third year of hosting special performances by our neighbors, including the Phantom of the Opera and more. You will learn about more performances throughout the year from the schedule that will be on display. ■



Gary plays a Pipe Organ from the '40s located at the first Congregation church on 27th and Harrison.





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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Edible Garden Expansion

Dear Editor: I would like to suggest enlarging the community garden affiliated with Claremont Middle School as an alternative use for the excess lower-level BART parking area. North Berkeley's MLK Jr. Middle School has had the Edible Schoolyard Community Garden for a long time, and it appears to be quite educational and successful. Maybe the Claremont Middle School could strike a deal with the Market Hall shops to sell the produce? BART/Caltrans could lease the land to the school for a nominal cost.

There are approximately two acres of land north and south of the elevated highway extending out towards the landscaped areas along the sidewalks. The entrances from Miles and Shafter Avenues would be maintained to access the remaining parking under the highway and the BART tracks. Think of all the beneficial groundwater recharging that would occur with so much hardscape removed. ■

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Community Effort Led to Success

Dear Editor: A recent Letter to the Editor thanked RCPC for "lobbying hard against, and defeating, Home Depot at the Ridge on the corner of Broadway and Pleasant Valley." As a matter of record, there were actually four community groups involved in defeating this very poor use of that vacant lot: Upper Broadway Advocates (UBA); Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League (PANIL); Housing Action Coalition; and RCPC.

UBA kickstarted the effort by using a change.org petition that garnered over 2,000 signatures. With that strong support, all four groups rallied their members to talk to their neighbors, sign the petition, write letters, and show up for a rally and media event at the site. The petition eventually received over 4,500 signatures and the Home Depot proposal was rescinded.

Let's give proper credit to the many volunteers from all four groups who worked hard to make it happen. We continue to promote affordable housing on the site and look forward to collaborating with other community groups there and throughout North Oakland. ■

Janis Brewer, member of Upper Broadway Advocates

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Weed Warriors Step Forward

by Jennie Gerard



Weed Warriors Leigh Anderson and Galen Quarring

Rockridge residents **Galen Quaring** and **Leigh Anderson** have generously stepped forward to serve as the next generation of leaders of the Lake Merritt Weed Warriors, a 13-year, all-volunteer effort to tend the planting beds around Lake Merritt. They responded to a recent *Rockridge News* story about how the founders, Jennie Gerard and Joel Peter, were planning to retire, and will assume leadership at the end of this month.

The two men have lived in Rockridge for 23 years, and both worked for the passage of Measure DD, the 2002 bond measure that has funded the significant improvements around Lake Merritt. Quaring has a background in park making, including working for the Trust for Public Land, Save the Redwoods League, and NatureBridge, where he served as a senior finance officer. Anderson was a professor in the dental schools at Emory University, the University of Washington, and the University of the Pacific in San Francisco.

Together they bring enthusiasm, gardening know-how, and a keen interest in enabling volunteers to beautify the Lake Merritt surrounds.

If you would like to welcome or assist Quaring and Anderson in their new roles as Lake Merritt Weed Warrior leaders, please subscribe for announcements of work locations at www.lakemerrittweedwarriors.org. ■

From Graphic Designer to Assemblage Artist

By Molly Porter

My husband Dare and I bought our house on Hudson Street in 1984. Five years later, Dare gave up his graphic design studio in San Francisco and moved his office into our newly constructed upstairs. That meant he was around the house when our sons Aaron and Max were growing up, as I set out for my office at Kaiser Permanente most days.

Dare has been a freelance graphic designer since 1980 and has worked out of our home since 1989. But ten years ago, something magical happened. We finished paying for our sons' college educations and Dare started collecting Social Security. Suddenly, the pressure to constantly attract new clients was off and Dare turned his attention to the assemblage art he had been dreaming about for years.

Dare has a close friend Dennis, a fellow graphic designer who used to have a studio across from Dare in San Francisco's South of Market district, back when that area was still affordable. Dennis moved to New Jersey years ago but stayed in touch via Zoom. They committed to giving each other monthly deadlines to complete their art projects — paintings for Dennis and assemblages for Dare. And these projects were inspired by words they came up with, such as "Claptrap," "Imbroglio," and "Dogmatic."

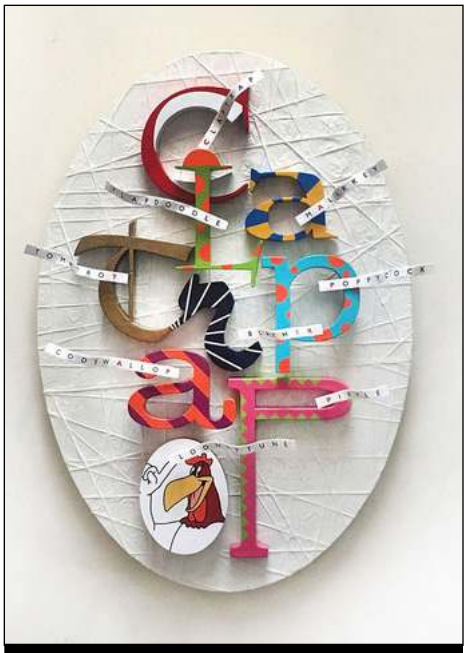


Imbroglio: "I used a favorite source, comics, for the dust-up and made Krazy Kat's Officer Pup the observer."

I have been thrilled to decorate our home with Dare's colorful assemblages along with a few paintings left by his illustrator father George Porter, and newer works by our son Aaron Damon Porter (damonartsnola.com), an artist in Austin, Texas.

Dare still designs occasional books for extra income and especially likes doing family history books. While he is not actively selling his assemblages, if you see something you like on his website, www.dareporter.studio, contact him there to view, or for prices.

Molly Porter retired from Kaiser in 2018 where she worked in Public Affairs. She is currently involved in Commit to Democracy. She can be reached by email at mollyporter55@gmail.com. ■



Claptrap: An attempt to capture the sideshow craziness of someone speaking endless nonsense.



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A Look Back at Colby Street

by Cliff Stoll



What happens to a house across the years? After the great 1906 earthquake, thousands of families fled San Francisco to the East Bay, resulting in many Rockridge homes being built. Ours was one of them.

In 1909, **William and Marcia Reed** (photo on left) began planning a Craftsman Bungalow at 6270 Colby Street and finally finished it in 1916. Five rooms with wood paneling, a wood burning kitchen stove, and an ice-box — yep, with weekly ice deliveries. For water, the backyard windmill filled their wood storage tank. Construction cost? $2,500. And yes, that's a 1914 Model-T Ford (photo above). ■



Chocolate Shop Officially Opens for Business



On September 9th, **Love + Chocolate** finally opened its doors at 6309 College Avenue and lots of Rockridge folks stopped by to greet the owners **Kent** and **Kristy Lincoln** (pictured above), and welcomed them to the neighborhood. The beautifully remodeled shop has an appropriately European feel and features a counter loaded with fresh Belgian chocolates.

Follow them on Instagram @loveandchocolateshop, or sign up for their monthly newsletter at www.loveandchocolateshop.com to learn about their events. ■

The Yoni Love Salon

Yoni Temple invites all to attend a **Love Salon on Saturday, Oct 21st 5-7pm**, at their shop at 5831 College Avenue. They will be teaching a mini workshop on yoni steaming and yoni eggs as they unveil their new yoni steam treatment room.

The event features art by Oakland artist **Holiday Black** and Tarot and Numerology readings by Oakland based **Geneva Elise** of Pop Culture Healing.

Complimentary drinks and chocolate from HOUSE kombucha and Love + Chocolate. This event is free and open to the public. ■

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 November is Oct 19** (available Nov. 4). Mail to: RCPC, 4900 Shattuck Ave., PO Box 22504, Oakland, 94609-20131. For more information, email Susan at smontauk@gmail.com.

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Would you like to learn to play the piano by ear?

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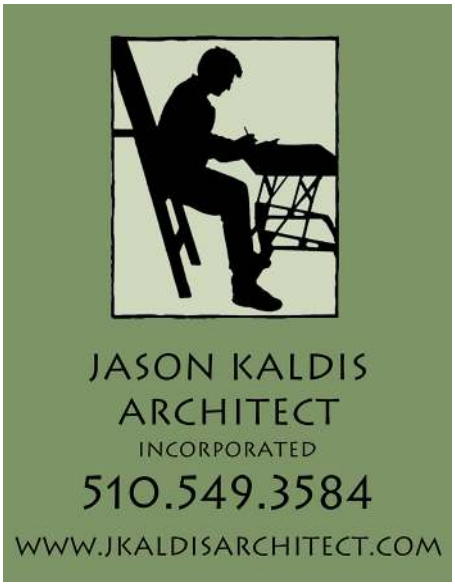
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9/6/2022	4	2.5	6140 Margarido Dr	$1,049,000	$1,049,000	41	$1,375,000
9/6/2022	3	2	6026 Auburn Ave	$1,895,000	$1,695,000	29	$1,785,000
9/6/2022	4	2	6237 Rockwell St	$1,795,000	$1,795,000	14	$2,380,000
9/12/2022	3	1	5332 Shafter Ave	$1,450,000	$1,450,000	13	$1,950,000
9/15/2022	4	3	5588 Taft Ave	$1,995,000	$1,995,000	14	$2,300,000
9/15/2022	2	2	6115 N. Rockridge Blvd.	$1,295,000	$1,295,000	13	$1,575,000

Homes sold in September closed 20% over the asking price on average.

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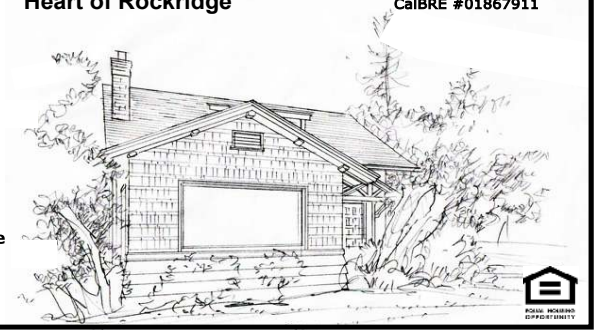
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