

# THE Rockridge News

VOL. 24 ■ NO. 2 ■ ISSUE NO. 253 ■ February 7, 2009 ■

CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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## Caldecott Lawsuit Settled Under Threat from Governor

by Stuart Flashman, attorney for the Fourth Bore Coalition

Governor Schwarzenegger's demand that the Caldecott Improvement Project – also known as the Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore Project – move forward, plus the intervention of the legislature's Democratic leadership, pressured the Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore Coalition (FBC), which includes RCPC among its members, into accepting a settlement of its lawsuit over adding the fourth bore to the tunnel.

Although less than what the FBC hoped for from its suit, the settlement terms are an improvement over what Caltrans had offered during extended discussions last year.



**West portal of the Caldecott Tunnel.**

A suit brought by several community groups, including RCPC, has been settled, clearing the way for construction of a fourth bore. Among other settlement terms, Caltrans agreed to limit construction impacts including noise, dirt and traffic, and to make improvements to Frog Park.

PHOTO: RNEWS FILE

As reported in January's Rockridge News, the Governor, in the name of providing an "economic stimulus," proposed a retroactive exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Caldecott project and 10 other highway projects. He stated flatly that he would not sign an amended budget unless it included those exemptions, effectively holding the State budget hostage.

The Democratic legislative leadership, and particularly Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, strongly opposed this move. Nevertheless, the FBC was told candidly that, given solid Republican support and other legislators' fear of being blamed for the State's insolvency, the CEQA exemption was likely to pass. The result would have been to derail and negate the pending

➤ **Fourth Bore Suit, page 6**

### RCPC Town Hall Meeting AGENDA February 2009

Thursday, February 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Rockridge Branch Library,  
5366 College Avenue at Manila,  
Community Room (Upstairs)

#### RCPC Annual Town Hall Planning Meeting

- Become informed on current RCPC board projects
- Help set the RCPC board priorities for 2009
- Hear ideas and concerns from the community and RCPC's board

Each year, the RCPC board hosts a community-wide meeting to hear

➤ **RCPC Town Hall, page 10**

### Remember:

☛ **RCPC Wants YOU!**

As reported in the January Rockridge News, the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) board elections are at hand. There could be a slot for you as a member of the Board of Directors of

➤ **RCPC Election, page 8**

## Merchant Group Talks Business at RCPC's January Meeting

by Colby Lavin, RCPC boardmember

Rockridge boasts many unique stores and services. Shopping locally helps preserve a focal point of our community. Nevertheless, members of the Rockridge District Association (RDA) say College Avenue's retail success will be strongly tested in 2009. Merchants plan to meet that test with redoubled efforts to publicize College Avenue as a rewarding urban retail center.

Speaking at the January RCPC Town Hall meeting, new RDA staff members Tiffany Copland, Executive Director in charge of events, public relations, marketing board meetings, and administrative business, and Chris Jackson, Operations Manager in charge of streetscape concerns and security, joined RDA President Sara Wilson to discuss the group's organization and projects.



**At the January RCPC Town Hall meeting, Rockridge District Association (RDA) officers discussed College Avenue's retail business and potential economic challenges the association expects to face in 2009. From left, Operations Manager Chris Jackson, RDA President Sara Wilson, and Executive Director Tiffany Copland.**

PHOTO: DON KINKEAD

The current state of College Avenue retail and plans to maintain the successful retail district were also covered.

➤ **RCPC Meeting, page 12**

## In My Opinion

# North Oakland Condo Projects Modified as Economy Worsens; Some are Redesigned

by Bob Brokl

The Planning Commission recently unanimously approved the more-than 100 unit condominium high-rise “Creekside” project (dubbed “Creecover,” by wags), where the Global Video building currently stands at Telegraph Avenue and 51st Street. Now, given the state of the economy, there is no certainty when that project will be built. But the building has been emptied of tenants, costing jobs and lost retail tax dollars, plus the built-in security that would result from its active use.

Seemingly abandoned, the building has been vandalized. Hauser Architects, the San Francisco-based firm behind Creekside, has informed the Planning Commission that salvageable metals and mechanical systems have been stripped by vandals. Although “for lease” signs are posted, the neighboring Christmas tree lot operators flocked trees in the former video store. The building is now doubly trashed.

Glass doors have been smashed and are



**Battered by vandals and a shifting economy, the Global Video building now stands empty.** PHOTO: RNEWS

secured by only a bicycle lock. Trespassers are getting in, putting the neighboring apartment building and its tenants at risk from crime and vandalism.

### Adjusting to the downturn

The good, if overlooked, news is that some condominium developers have already adjusted to the economic downturn. Following are just a few examples of developers who are downsizing expectations and rehabbing buildings that, in the overheated past, were to be demolished for condominiums. Sometimes thinking smaller through adaptive reuse is smart.

### The Exemplary (Honor Roll):

#### ■ 4629 MLK Jr. Way (opposite main campus of Children’s Hospital)

The owner reconsidered condos, and beautifully rehabbed an unreinforced masonry, “A” rated, former Grove Street cable car barn into office/commercial use.

#### ■ 4701 Shattuck

The developer, who’d said that nothing short of a high-rise condo project “pencilled-out,” kept the former ground floor saloon with apartments above building—built in 1908—and is rehabbing it into commercial space.

#### ■ Artesia Townhouses, 49th and Shattuck

This low-rise, 3-story condo project is nearing completion. The proposed building was within zoning and required no variances, but was fine-tuned for design at the planning staff level. No EIRs, no drawn-out fights with neighbors, no blight.

▶ **A Second Look, page 8**

## ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY

5366 College Avenue

597-5017

HOURS:

Mon, Tues: 12:30 – 8 p.m.

Weds, Thurs, Sat: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: **CLOSED**

Library program details: See Calendar, page 15.

## THE Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded in 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly in Oakland and is sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), a nonprofit public benefit organization founded to: preserve and enhance the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood; promote the health, safety and quality of life of its residents; furnish a forum for community involvement, and provide leadership and representation of neighborhood interests.

### Rockridge News Production

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Theresa Nelson.....Neighborhood Merchant  
Susan Montauk.....Business Manager  
Don Kinkead.....Graphics & Layout

### RCPC Board of Directors, 2008-2009

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Contact the Board: chair@rockridge.org

For information: info@rockridge.org

### NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

To subscribe to **The Rockridge News**, send your check for \$20, payable to **Rockridge News Subscriptions**, to: **Rockridge News Subscriptions** at the address below.

### CONTACTING THE ROCKRIDGE NEWS

- Are there community issues you’d like to see covered in **The Rockridge News**?
  - Do you have questions about newsletter distribution?
  - Want to volunteer to be a **Rockridge News** block captain?
  - Would you like to write a letter to the Editor?
- Contact us at one of the following:

**Editor: editor@rockridge.org**

**www.rockridge.org**

**The Rockridge News**, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618

**RCPC Voicemail: 510/869-4200**

Articles submitted for publication may be e-mailed to the above address. Submissions are limited to 600 words; must include the author’s name, phone number, e-mail address, and city or neighborhood of residence; and are subject to editing. To reprint a **Rockridge News** article, please contact the editor.

### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING/DEADLINES

Publication date of the next issue is

☛ **March 7, 2009**

☛ **March deadline is February 19.**

Advertising rates are \$26/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. For display ads, call Jo Ellis at 653-3210 (after noon), or e-mail joellis1@hotmail.com. RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate. (Classified ad contact, page 14.)

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**RCPC 2008  
Financial Statement**

Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2008

RCPC General Fund	P&L DATA
Income	(cash basis)
Rockridge News	\$ 42,440
Kitchen Tour	190
Interest Income	836
Other Income	1,737
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>45,203</b>
Expenses	
Rockridge News	34,800
Other Program Expenses	5,202
Kitchen Tour	-
Legal & Accounting	3,301
Insurance, Permits	1,739
Sales Tax	182
Misc. Administrative Expenses	1,306
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>46,530</b>
<b>Net Receipts</b>	<b>(1,327)</b>

Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL)	
Income	
Donations	6,257
Membership Donations	4,623
Merchandising (book & totebag sales)	4,029
Interest Income	820
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15,729</b>
Expenses	
Furniture Repairs	3,600
Gifts to the Library	1,246
Library Scholarship	2,700
Merchandise purchase & sales tax	1,938
Misc. Administrative Expenses	966
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>10,451</b>
<b>Net Receipts</b>	<b>5,278</b>

Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt (FROG)	
Income	
Donations	-
Merchandising (tee-shirts)	-
Interest Income	360
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>360</b>
Expenses	
Bank Charges	233
Grants	5,000
Playground New Construction	-
Playground Maintenance & Bathroom Programs	2,422
Website/internet	401
Misc. Administrative Expenses	384
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8,601</b>
<b>Net Receipts</b>	<b>(8,241)</b>

Whistlestop Committee	
Income	
Merchandising (whistles)	114
Expenses	
Merchandising (whistles)	-
Grants	-
Sales Tax	11
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Net Receipts</b>	<b>103</b>

**Locksley Gardens** No activity in 2008

**BALANCE SHEET DATA**

Assets	
Cash Accounts	
RCPC	17,449
FORL	20,329
FROG <sup>1</sup>	44,539
Whistlestop	442
Locksley Gardens	499
Other Assets	
FROG: Balance of de la Fuente Funds <sup>2</sup>	26,607
RCPC CDs	35,978
FORL CDs	30,000
FROG CDs	10,023
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>185,865</b>
Liabilities & Equity	
RCPC: Commitment to Fourth Bore Coalition (FBC)	-
FROG: Commitment to FBC	-
Equity	185,865
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>185,865</b>

(1) A portion of these funds are restricted gifts towards specific items planned for frogpark development.  
(2) Includes remaining balance of the \$100K pledge in 2006 by Councilmember Ignacio de la Fuente for capital improvements of FROGPARK.

RCPC tax records are on file at the Rockridge Library for public review.

**RCPC Land Use Committee**

The RCPC Land Use Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m., at the Rockridge Library. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 25, 2009

**Land Use Update**

by *Stuart Flashman*,  
RCPC Land Use Committee chair

■ **College Avenue Safeway Rebuild (6310 College Avenue at Claremont)**

The participants in Safeway’s “stakeholder process” — including RCPC, the Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association, the Rockridge District Association, Neighbors Concerned about the College Avenue Safeway, College Avenue merchants neighboring Safeway along College, and residents living behind Safeway along Alcatraz Avenue — decided unanimously to request of Safeway that the upcoming (and perhaps final) community stakeholder meeting include presentations of Safeway’s corporate plans for a new 50,000 square foot store and an alternate design being prepared by a group of local architects.

Safeway never responded directly to the proposal. Pamela Hopkins of Enact Global Consulting, the facilitator for the stakeholder process, said that Safeway was apparently abandoning the stakeholder process and would proceed on its own to convene a future meeting to unveil its building plans.

This development puts the question of a community response in the hands of the stakeholder groups.

Options include having the community architects submit their plans to Safeway for

its consideration, holding a separate meeting to present the local architects’ plans to the community, and simply asking Safeway to drop its plans for a new store and proceed with cooperative planning for a modest remodel of the current store.

These options will be discussed over the coming weeks. Community opinion is important to the discussion. You may mail your views to RCPC, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, 94618, or write via e-mail to chair@rockridge.org.

■ **BREAKING NEWS: Red Oak Realty Applies for Use Permit for Dreyer’s Building Retail Space**

At press time, it was learned that Red Oak Realty has applied for a conditional use permit to relocate its office from Broadway and Pleasant Valley Road to the corner ground-floor retail space (College Avenue and Chabot Road) in the Dreyer’s building. RCPC formally objected to such a move, citing the importance of this centrally located retail space and zoning requirements favoring retail-only use in street-level commercial locations. Visit the RCPC Web site at <http://rockridge.org> for developing news and possible community meetings on this issue.

**Land Use Meeting Agenda**

Contact Stu Flashman at 652-5373 or [stufash@aol.com](mailto:stufash@aol.com) for a copy of the current Land Use Committee meeting agenda.

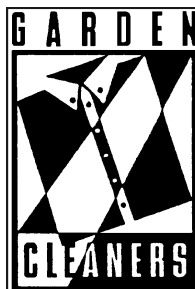
**ZONING WORKSHOPS: STRATEGIC PLANNING DIVISION, CITY OF OAKLAND – CEDA**

Save the dates for the two upcoming community-wide zoning update workshops. The same workshop will be held in two locations at two different dates:

**FEBRUARY 26, 2009**  
Thursday, 5:45 to 7:45 pm  
West Oakland Public Library  
1801 Adeline St.

**OR FEBRUARY 28, 2009**  
Saturday, 10:00 am to 12 noon  
Bella Vista Elementary  
1025 E. 28th Street

Zoning update staff will be spreading the word about these workshops in the coming weeks. More information: Zoning Update Message Line, 510/238-7299; or [www.oaklandnet.com/zoningupdate](http://www.oaklandnet.com/zoningupdate)



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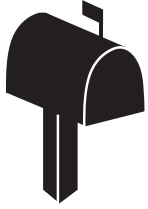
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# Letters to the Editor



*The Rockridge News welcomes letters to the editor. Your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and city/neighborhood must be included for verification. Only your name will appear with your letter. Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity.*

## BART CONSTRUCTION DISRUPTS COLLEGE AVENUE TRAFFIC

### EDITOR:

*Following is a copy of a letter I wrote to the BART board of directors:*

Dear Members of the Board, Dear Mr. Franklin:

Thank you for your attention to seismic safety at BART facilities. However, a serious traffic flow problem has been created at the Rockridge BART station by construction barriers placed on the west side of College Avenue which restrict southbound traffic. This causes traffic to back up for several blocks, and the placement of the barriers seems unnecessary.

The barriers reduce the width of the street by two lanes and direct traffic flow into a very short left-turn bay. When the bay fills – that takes only four to five vehicles – south-bound through-traffic on College is blocked.

Please speak with the project managers to determine if the work really warrants narrowing the street by two lanes, or if the two lanes taken must be so close to the left turn bay. If work requires taking two lanes, please see if the area can be shortened to provide more clearance for through-traffic.

— **Ray Perman**



◀ **Indifferent to the welter of construction warning signs, a pedestrian detours around safety barriers and into College Avenue traffic.** Responding to concerns raised in the letter above, BART representatives, including Rockridge area Director Bob Franklin, asked for changes from the contractor and the city to improve the traffic flow and pedestrian safety around the barriers. Franklin's letter appears below.

PHOTO: DON KINKEAD

### RESPONSE FROM BART DIRECTOR BOB FRANKLIN, DISTRICT 3 (INCLUDES ROCKRIDGE)

Thank you for bringing these safety concerns to BART's attention. A traffic plan had been previously approved by the City of Oakland for this work, but upon receiving this letter, BART immediately met with the contractor to address these issues.

■ **Pedestrian and bicyclist safety:** "Do Not Enter" signs and yellow tape have been added to both sides of the construction area, to deter

pedestrians from walking unsafely around the barriers alongside the traffic of College Avenue. Additional orange post delineators were also added as a warning sign. BART also has ordered signs to guide pedestrians to the narrow walking path between the tile

wall and the west side parking lot and signs to guide people unable to navigate a short flight of steps to cross the street as the safe path. Bicyclists are legally allowed to share the road with vehicles, but should take extra precautions during this construction.

### ■ **Southbound traffic on College Avenue:**

The contractor was able to move the cement K-rail barrier back eight inches and to angle it slightly towards the curb, to allow through-traffic to pass around cars waiting to turn left from College onto Keith. BART also requested the City of Oakland to consider adjusting the timing of the traffic light at College and Keith/Shafter. To further improve traffic flow, we also are removing some orange post delineators on the southern side of the construction area when the contractor is not accessing the area near the tile wall which commemorates the Oakland Firestorm of 1991. The size of the fenced-in area is necessary to accommodate the crane, excavators, dump trucks, and drill rigs that will all work to enlarge the columns' footings and reinforce their ability to withstand an earthquake.

The work on the west side of College Avenue is anticipated to last until mid-April. Work will then move to the east side of College Avenue, where construction is scheduled to last through June, 2009.

During the course of BART's seismic safety work, if additional concerns arise, please feel free to contact me for an immediate response.

Thank you once again for letting BART know of this safety concern.

Bob Franklin

BART Director, District 3

E-mail: [BobfranklinBART@aol.com](mailto:BobfranklinBART@aol.com)

Cell: 510/684-0026

<http://www.BobForBART.com>

For urgent matters, please call 510/874-7425.

▶ **More Letters, page 5**

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# More Letters

from page 4

## CHANGES ON COLLEGE COLUMN OVERLOOKED MY NEW BUSINESS

EDITOR:

I was sorry to see that when Theresa Nelson mentioned the new businesses in Rockridge in the January issue of The Rockridge News, my new salon at 5431 College Avenue, between Diesel Books and Bittersweet, was omitted. It's called "elizabeth H/the art of hair design." I have created an exciting, eco-friendly neighborhood salon (I live just off College Avenue, so it really is a neighborhood business for me).

We had to completely renovate the site, which was the King Lee laundromat, and I think we've succeeded in establishing a serene, inviting environment. My staff and I are always happy to answer any questions.

— Elizabeth Herzberg

PHOTOS: TOM DOLAN AND RONNIE SPITZER

More photos at <http://www.frogpark.org/>

# Park Corner

FROG

A monthly update on what's happening at the best community-built and maintained park in Oakland



## A Great Day of Service at FROG Park

by Jennifer Cooper, FROG chair

Over 100 volunteers turned out for a very successful afternoon of service cleaning up the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt (FROG Park). Young and old joined together to sweep, collect trash, weed, and spruce up our well-loved park. In just two hours, we collected 14 bags of garbage and compostable matter.

The City's budget cutbacks have impacted park maintenance staffing; we need your help to keep our park looking good. Join us for our family-oriented spring clean-up day to be held at the park Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m.-noon, in conjunction with Oakland's Earth Day events. Mark your calendar now.

The next FROG meeting will be Wednesday, February 25, from 7-9 p.m. at the Rockridge Library. Join us as we set our agenda for 2009. We are looking for new Steering Committee members. Projects to be completed this year include the public art project and a new public restroom. Ongoing projects include getting the faux creek to run year-round and planning the extension of the greenbelt.

Contact Jennifer Cooper at [jennifer@live-work.com](mailto:jennifer@live-work.com) with any questions or to offer your help.

**FROG Day of Service, 2009**



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## Got Kitchens?

by Jennifer Edmister,  
Kitchen Tour co-chair

RCPC seeks renovated kitchens for the 2009 Rockridge Kitchen Tour, coming September 20. We are currently



visiting many fantastic kitchens throughout Rockridge, where the housing market seems scarcely impacted

by the global economic crisis.

If you or someone you know is putting the finishing touches on a kitchen remodel, or is already enjoying a new kitchen, now is a great time to show it off and celebrate the spirit of the neighborhood in this longstanding community fundraiser.

For more information, contact [kitchen-tour@rockridge.org](mailto:kitchen-tour@rockridge.org) or call RCPC at 510/869-4200.



increases; Caltrans adamantly refused to go any further. However, the highway construction agency did commit, reluctantly, to using low-sulfur diesel for off-road construction equipment. This will help reduce the project's effect on local air quality. Caltrans also committed to keeping dirt-hauling trucks off local streets and to work with the community to minimize impacts from dirt stockpiling at or near the site.

Caltrans also agreed to fund a barrier along the highway's edge above FROG Park to protect the park from falling debris, and agreed to consider expanding the park by including unused Caltrans right-of-way land. These agreements will not mitigate the expected noise impacts on the park, but provide some protection and compensation. The agency also committed an additional \$100,000 for FROG Park or bicycle transit improvements or to provide additional support for the SR 24 corridor study.

Last, but certainly not least, were several commitments made, not by Caltrans, but by Senator Steinberg and the Democratic Legislative leadership, that promised up to \$2 million for noise and air quality mitigation efforts at Chabot Elementary and Claremont Middle schools, as long as the school district provided adequate documentation justifying the expenditures.

Steinberg's office also promised to work with the East Bay Bicycle Coalition (EBBC) and BART to identify State funds for bicycle transit improvements along the corridor. An unnamed legislator also apparently agreed to carry a bill that could lead to Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) land along Claremont Avenue being converted to public recreational use once the current building reaches the end of its useful life.

Neither the settlement itself nor the process was what the FBC had hoped for. Still, all in all, especially given the unpleasant circumstances, the settlement provides a small but significant offset to the many impacts the Caldecott project will have on the Oakland/Berkeley community. Perhaps the most unfortunate part of the outcome is what it says about our dysfunctional California political system, and how it was so willing to sacrifice the environment and our community to satisfy special interests.

**Postscript:** Nearly two weeks after the settlement (as this newsletter goes to press), there is still no budget resolution, and the Legislature is embroiled in further attempts to roll back environmental, and now, labor laws.

## Fourth Bore Suit

from page 1

lawsuit (the judge had been expected to issue a decision within weeks) and leave the FBC with nothing to show for its years of efforts.

At the suggestion of Senator Steinberg and California League of Conservation Voters President Tom Adams, FBC leaders and legal counsel met with Caltrans to hammer out a settlement.

The most significant result of the settlement was Caltrans' commitment to spend \$2 million for improvements to State Route (SR) 13, the Ashby Avenue and Tunnel Road corridor, including improvements for some intersections and for pedestrian and bicycle travel. These will help offset traffic increases expected with the new

fourth bore.

Caltrans also committed to spend up to \$250,000 for a study of the entire SR 24 corridor, from I-580 to I-680. It will consider potential transportation improvements, including High Occupancy Vehicle lanes (HOV) and/or toll lanes, BART and other transit service improvements, current and projected noise levels at the Rockridge BART station platform, and reducing other major impacts of the highway including traffic, noise, and air pollution. However, it provides no funds to implement the study's results.

Fourth Bore Coalition negotiators were unable to prod Caltrans to do much more to alleviate major construction impacts on those living close to the project. Oakland, in its settlement earlier of a threatened suit, got Caltrans to restrict hauling operations to daylight hours and to limit nighttime noise

りきゅう



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## The Bookstore — A Neighborhood Institution

I had a dream the other night. I was browsing through one of my favorite bookstores when I suddenly realized that all the shelves were nearly empty and that the book I held in my hand was the last one I would buy there, ever. It was only a dream, right?

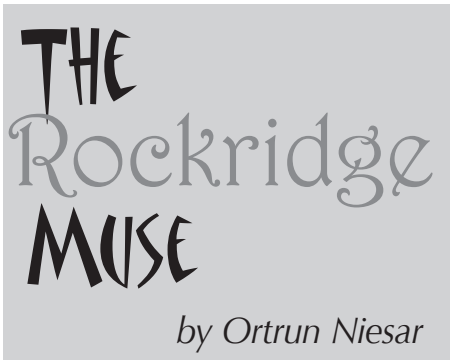
Or was it? Consider the demise of iconic institutions such as Berkeley-based Cody's Books and, soon, Stacey's of San Francisco. Even a megastore like Barnes and Noble has closed the doors on its Shattuck Avenue store in Berkeley. Except for Moe's Books and Shakespeare and Co., Telegraph Avenue is, from a booklover's point of view, frankly dead.

Smaller bookstores in almost every Bay Area neighborhood are disappearing like an endangered species. It seems likely that even more bookstores will bite the dust during this recession. Could such a thing happen in Rockridge? I hope not; I cannot imagine our community without its bookstores. Their closing would indeed be a sad day for all of us, bookbuyers or not.

### Rockridge Readers

I recently did a little survey of local reading habits, and here is what I found:

First, we all love bookstores but, while we do buy books, and quite a few at that, we don't necessarily buy them in a bookstore. Best-sellers top the list of titles sought, but more than one person



I asked said they found it easier, cheaper and often faster to buy online.

Book venues are changing, as well. Gift shops have become pseudo-book sellers by offering free fancy wrapping and attractive displays of their wares.

Audio books are also popular; they can be borrowed from the library and returned. And then, there is Kindle, Amazon's digital book, with its updated version on the way and other brands to follow. It can hold 200 books, numerous newspapers and blogs; a perfect tool for BART commuters. The cost of a Kindle is a hefty \$329 or more, so it's not for everyone, but an almost unlimited supply of books on demand is appealing.

Still, there are also those of us who take the physical book as a sacred source of learning. We enjoy the ritual hunt for a good edition by a beloved author who does not happen to be on a best-seller list. We savor it all: the discovery, the conversation, the sight, the touch and smell and the heft of a newly printed book where the spine

has not yet been cracked.

### Books on College

In the face of formidable competition, independent booksellers have been developing survival strategies. All of them are aware that their best line of defense is to woo local buyers by emphasizing a distinct identity and a style that reinforces their connection to the community while offering the best personal service they can, both on- and off-line. They have also discovered that when it comes to the book business, small retail spaces are best. Perhaps to counterbalance the vast universe of ideas, we seek an unhurried, intimate, human space to ponder our purchase.

Along College Avenue, the book-buying experience has a laid-back, unfocused, even capricious quality. People wander down the street with their children, perhaps popping in to Mrs. Dalloway's in Berkeley's Elmwood District to search for something age-appropriate in the kids' corner, lingering there awhile among friendly staff and neighbors. At Diesel Bookstore in Rockridge, a comfortable lounge with fireplace welcomes the lone browser or the local book club. At Pendragon, the energy is different yet again. The store is small and stuffed to the gills with books new and used and people looking for a good read or greeting card. Open until late at night, it's a perfect place to complete an evening out to dinner on College Avenue.

Fewer bookstores? I think we can use more. Support our precious bookstores; let them know they are a valued part of our community.

**Editor's note:** On February 19, at 7 p.m., Diesel Bookstore, 5433 College Avenue, presents a special screening of "Paperback Dreams," a film about the tribulations of two local booksellers. See Community Calendar, page 15.

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## A Second Look

from page 2

### The Pragmatic Realists:

#### ■ 5666 Telegraph

Developer/realtor Tom Anthony put on hold plans to demolish the old veterinary building and a cottage for a 5-story condo project that would have loomed over the neighboring apartment court and Clar's Auction Gallery. Instead, he's rehabbing and renting the existing buildings.

#### ■ 780 54th at MLK Jr. Way

Developers Cotter & Coyle proposed to demolish the former Mutual Store/church to build a 5-story condo project shadowing the venerable Ace Ellis Hardware. Now, they've refurbished the existing building as part of a lease/option deal with another church.

### Holding Pattern Developers:

#### ■ 4700 Telegraph

Apartments and ground floor businesses remain, for the most part, rented out while the property with its approval for a 5-story condo project stays for sale. 4801 Shattuck and the neighboring houses are all still occupied. At the Kingfish "co-housing" project facing Claremont Avenue, the Victorian cottages are still rented out, but the bar is shuttered.

### It's better for all if properties are maintained

In the short run, Hauser would be smart (and the neighborhood better-served) to put the Global Video building back into rentable shape and generate some income, providing onsite security if necessary to stop the thieves and vandals now.

In the long term, as someone coming to appreciate – if not yet love – mid-century buildings, I can see this building fixed up and retained for active use. It's got a cousin in Lincoln, Nebraska, a fine Philip Johnson-designed University Art Museum.

Bob Brokl, an artist, is a founding member of STAND, and takes a great interest in community affairs.

# Filippos

Rockridge: 5400 College Avenue  
Elmwood: 2930 College Avenue  
Weekend Brunch in Elmwood

## RCPC Election

from page 1

the RCPC. The organization represents Rockridge and its residents before the City of Oakland and other government agencies. Board members are elected each April by a vote of Rockridge residents. As usual, there are six seats up for election. Board directors serve for a two-year term (uncompensated) and are expected to attend Board meetings (usually once a month) and participate in RCPC committees and other activities.

Interested? Send a short statement of your interest, including contact information, to RCPC Board Elections, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618, or e-mail [chair@rockridge.org](mailto:chair@rockridge.org).

Statements of interest must be received no later than 5 p.m. Friday, February 13. Questions? E-mail [chair@rockridge.org](mailto:chair@rockridge.org) or leave a voicemail message at 510/869-4200.

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## Fun-raiser: Claremont Middle School Invites All to a Silent Auction Night

Please join the Claremont PTA for an evening of fun and fundraising. Our Second Annual Silent Auction will take place Saturday, February 21 from 6 p.m. - 11 p.m.+ at the Thelma Harris Gallery, 5940 College Avenue, Oakland.

Our theme this year is "\$9.99 and some CHANGE." Ticket price is \$9.99 per person. CHANGE happens with the support of our wonderful families and community at large.

Delicious appetizers will be served as well as a no-host bar. Can we continue to serve our community through these fabulous school events? YES WE CAN!

— Alice Chegia, Claremont PTA



Me. I've been an Allstate Agent for 10 years. And riding bikes for 17. That means I can talk all day about insurance features and discounted rates, but I'd just as soon talk about a new route you've found. Let's talk today.

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An early morning single-vehicle truck crash January 7 on Highway 24 near the Rockridge BART station (inset) showered the parking lot below with truck parts, concrete debris and a passenger, catapulted from the truck when it hit the railing. Badly injured, the passenger was hospitalized but expected to recover.

This event emphasizes the need for the debris barrier at FROG Park negotiated with Caltrans by Fourth Bore Coalition attorneys. Story, page 1.



**New Date! - Feb 19**

## City Convenes a Public Economic Roundtable

Tuesday, February 19, 2009: 7 - 9 p.m.  
Oakland City Hall, Council Chambers

The Economic roundtable discussion has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 19. Topics include economic challenges facing Oakland, the effects of the bailout on urban communities such as Oakland, and what the economic stimulus package can include to address the needs of urban communities.

For more information, contact Council President Jane Brunner at 510/238-7001 or jbrunner@oakland-net.com.

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**Princess Project seeks prom  
dress donations**

With prom season right around the corner, one Bay Area non-profit is hoping to help nearly 2,500 high school girls attend this taffeta-filled rite of passage by providing free prom dresses.

The Princess Project, a Bay Area non-profit, is collecting new and nearly new gowns and accessories. The organization is depending on the generosity of women, girls and companies throughout the East Bay to help send local girls to prom this year. The organization will host dress "giveaway" events in March, where girls can pick out that special dress of their dreams, at no cost.

From February 8-14, readers can drop off dresses or accessories at nearby Oakland locations, including:

- Crush – 5550 College Avenue
- College Preparatory School's
- Cougar Café at 6100 Broadway

For a dress drop location near you, visit [www.princessproject.org](http://www.princessproject.org). All donations are tax deductible.

**RCPC Town Hall**

from page 1

resident's concerns and to help set the board's priorities for the coming year.

Join your friends and neighbors Thursday, February 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge Library, for an open community forum. You can learn about the accomplishments of RCPC in 2008 and share your ideas about the future direction of the organization.

RCPC board members will provide updates on recent and current projects and discuss commercial & residential developments such as the proposed Safeway rebuild, transportation projects, the BART retrofit, the Caldecott Fourth Bore settlement, and the new RCPC Website. Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) and FROG representatives will highlight their achievements.

Previous such meetings have led to fulfilled visions such as the Rockridge Branch Library and FROG Park.

If you have not attended a Rockridge community meeting before, this will be a perfect opportunity to join friends and neighbors to learn what is happening in your neighborhood and to help the board set its goals for this coming year.

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# Transportation Projects Head RCPC Traffic, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Safety Agenda

by Ronnie Spitzer, TPBS chair

In wide-ranging remarks, guest speaker Wlad Wlassowsky, Oakland Transportation Services Manager, reported on Rockridge-related transportation topics at the January RCPC Traffic, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Safety (TPBS) committee meeting, held with the Fourth Bore Coalition (FBC) meeting.

Wlassowsky's topics included:

- Oakland's candidate Caldecott Improvement Project (CIP) projects for surface street improvements (intersection-, pedestrian-, and bike-related)
- AC Transit Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) impacts on the Alcatraz/Telegraph intersection, and
- Fixing Rockridge trouble-spots.



## Caldecott Improvement Project CIP Settlement Provisions

In November, the Oakland City Council settled its potential lawsuit with Caltrans over the Caldecott Improvement Project (Caldecott fourth bore). The \$8.2 million package includes items benefitting Rockridge:

- Broadway/Lawton: New signal
- Broadway/Keith intersection, College/Keith; College/Miles; Telegraph on/offramps: Signal upgrades
- Install sidewalks along Broadway between Golden Gate Avenue and Kay Overcrossing
- Noise and environmental monitoring at Rockridge schools & park (no mitigation funds)
- Sound study along corridor (first phase in sonic reduction for Rockridge)
- Soundwalls at locations, to be identified, through the ACCMA program.

Oakland's first \$4 million funding is assured, the rest programmed into the regional Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) budget. Once the Caldecott Tunnel construction contract is awarded, a

\$100,000 funds release to begin technical and engineering work is anticipated.

The Broadway Avenue repaving project is included in Oakland's five-year pavement plan although not scheduled for 2009. If Oakland does not have sufficient funds in the future, it is possible settlement monies could be used.

## AC Transit BRT Study to Revisit Alcatraz & Telegraph Intersection

The RCPC hopes the BRT process will undergo a transition from a completely AC Transit-driven process to a collaboration between the cities and the transit company. That approach would benefit the Rockridge community and lead to a better project.

AC Transit's proposed BRT line along Telegraph Avenue potentially provides a swift, modern transportation mode. The BRT Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) predicted a significant impact at the Alcatraz/Telegraph intersection while glossing over important implementation details. The RCPC drafted a letter detailing the neighborhood's concerns; see it at: [www.rockridge.org](http://www.rockridge.org). Concerns include:

- Delays of over two minutes at the Alcatraz/Telegraph intersection
- Shortcutting through the neighborhood caused by Telegraph median blockage and congestion.

In preparation for the Final EIR, AC Transit is currently working with Oakland, Berkeley and San Leandro to refine the project based on the comments received from the cities and from the public.

Help establish Rockridge transportation priorities for 2009. Oakland is working on its transportation funding priorities for FY 2009-10. The RCPC TPBS committee will submit a comprehensive list of Rockridge problem bike/ped/intersections to the City. Visit the RCPC Web site: [www.rockridge.org](http://www.rockridge.org) to view the full list and send your input to [Ronnie@rockridge.org](mailto:Ronnie@rockridge.org)

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## RCPC Meeting

from page 1

Organized in Oakland as a Business Improvement District (BID), RDA serves as the advisory board for the Rockridge area's business district. Wilson said assessments paid by businesses and volunteer work by business owners support many of the district's activities. Businesses pay between about \$50 and \$3,000 per month, depending on their sales. RDA collects about \$150,000 annually, spending at least half of that on security patrols in December alone. RDA also employs a full time street cleaner, and supports many Rockridge improvement projects and events such as Out and About in Rockridge.

Wilson said the RDA is considering re-organizing as a Community Benefit District (CBD), which could increase annual revenue to about \$300,000.

The RDA speakers reported mixed news for local businesses in 2008: six stores on College Avenue had their best holiday season ever, while other stores failed to inspire shoppers and will have an uphill battle in 2009. If the economy doesn't improve quickly, Sara Wilson estimated that 5 to 10 percent of all stores could close in 2009. However, RDA intends to do all it can to prevent store closures and to attract new businesses. The speakers noted that

\$0.68 of every dollar spent in Rockridge stays in Rockridge.

According to Wilson, Copland and Jackson, Rockridge residents can expect to see changes on College that RDA believes will enhance the area's drawing power. For example, Chris Jackson wants to remove parking meter poles and derelict meter heads left over when the parking fee payment kiosks were installed. The now unnecessary meters are a visual blight that attracts graffiti, he said, and they confuse drivers who think the meters are out of order, make no payment, and get ticketed. He wants attractive, sturdy bicycle parking racks in their place.

RDA is also exploring ways to include the College Avenue businesses north of Claremont Avenue in events planned by the organization. The intersection separating those businesses from the rest of College Avenue is so busy and complex that it has stymied previous planning efforts, Wilson said.

Tiffany Copland noted the opportunity to plan a new Rockridge event between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Strong attendance at the December tree lighting the group sponsored is a testament to the desire for an event in this time period, she said. Tiffany is also redesigning the RDA Web site to ensure it is a better resource for those planning to shop in Rockridge. She said RDA estimates that 50 percent of all

## "\$0.68 of every dollar spent in Rockridge stays in Rockridge."

shopping is done by tourists and visitors who live outside of Rockridge's boundaries. A stronger Web site could be a big help to shoppers planning which Rockridge businesses to patronize, she said.

RDA also plans to maintain the atmosphere of a successful shopping area, even though some storefronts may be temporarily vacant, by filling store windows with attractive and useful designs. This project can also help storefront rental efforts by continuing to present a vibrant atmosphere.

Other ideas or projects in progress include remodeling the area under BART to make it more appealing, hanging banners on streetlight poles to invite people into Rockridge and installing an information kiosk at a central location.

Visit RDA's Web site for further information about the organization and its work with College Avenue merchants: <http://www.RockridgeDistrict.com/>

Learn about Business Improvement Districts here: <http://newcityamerica.com/pbid.asp>

Learn more about Community Benefit Districts at: <http://newcityamerica.com/whatiscbd.asp>

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# Digital TV is Here and Rabbit Ears are Still Cool

by Bill Kaufner, RCPC boardmember

In 2005, Congress enacted the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act mandating analog television stations to convert to digital transmissions on February 17, 2009.

There are three reasons for the conversion:

1) The analog system is 50 years old. Digital transmission will provide better pictures and enhanced features

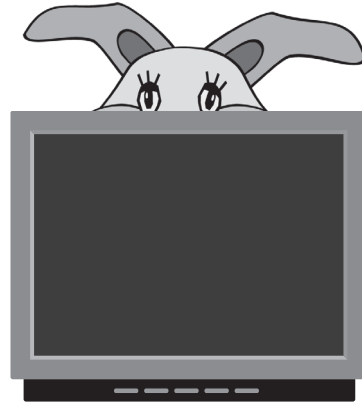
2) Recovered analog spectrum will be made available for public safety services

such as police, fire, and rescue squads.

3) Some recovered spectrum will become available to provide consumers with more advanced wireless services (such as wireless broadband). A good Web site for information is <http://www.dtv.gov>.

Digital signals for current cable or satellite subscribers will automatically be sent to their television receivers.

Those who are not signal service subscribers and do not want to buy a new TV can still get great digital television reception with a converter box and rabbit ears. Go to <http://www.dtv2009.gov> to apply for up to two \$40 coupons to purchase converter boxes. Most converter boxes cost \$40-\$60 and take about five minutes to set up. Electronics stores have stylish new versions of



the old ears including picture frame antennas. New rooftop antennas are on the market and also promise to bring in more distant stations.

A good first place to look is at <http://www.antennaweb.org>. The site gives buying advice, directional placement to best receive distant stations, and lists of receivable stations based

on the street address. With the converter box and antennas, sets should receive about 34 channels sharply and clearly with no ghosts or snow since television stations now multi-cast in digital format. For example, Channel 4 broadcasts on three channels (4-1,4-2,4-3). Six or more PBS channels (KQED, KCSM, KTEH) should be viewable, as well. It won't seem like receiving television over the air.



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**Rockridge Sales Slow Drastically in January!**

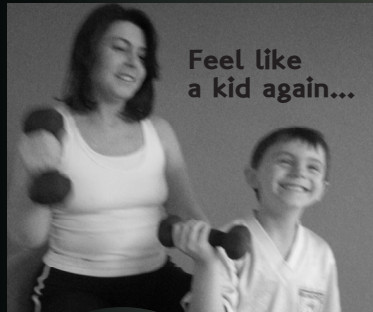
Closing Date	BR/Bth	Address	Orig Price	DOM	LP	SP
1/22/2009	2/1	484 Florence Ave	\$699,000	107	\$649,000	\$583,000
1/21/2009	3/2	5766 Claremont Ave	\$849,000	57	\$819,000	\$800,000

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- There has been a 50% decrease in sales in January of 2008 compared to January 2009.
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I build outdoor amenities and have 20 years experience with lots of Rockridge references. [www.Diegodesigns.com](http://www.Diegodesigns.com). Call Diego: 510/828-9473. "We listen to your dreams."

## Judith Glass & Sheila Sabine

Your Grubb Company Agents appreciate Rockridge. If you are thinking of selling your home contact us-Moving changes your life-we make the process easy. [www.GlassSabine.com](http://www.GlassSabine.com).

## RockridgeResidents.Org

We're a non-profit, no-ad based website intended to increase the sense of community between Rockridge Residents. Connect with neighbors on the Online Forums. Read resident-submitted articles, review local businesses. Visit [www.rockridgeresidents.org](http://www.rockridgeresidents.org) today!

## Jazz and Classical Piano Lessons

Jazz and classical piano lessons from Rockridge jazz pianist with B.A. in music from U.C. Berkeley, 15 years experience teaching and performing. Reasonable rates, patient, dedicated. All ages welcome. Janet 653-6783.

## Help with your PC or Mac

College student can help you in your home. Affordable rates. Experienced & patient. Routine scans/maintenance \$35/hr. Internet applications training, repairs & upgrades \$25/hr. Call Tony, 510/653-1079. Rockridge only.

## V & V Trim & Flooring

Update your home with Crown Moulding and baseboard. We specialize in finished carpentry, wood, laminate, bamboo or tile floors. Ask about our special offer. Licensed & Bonded. 510/366-5253.

## Spiritual Journey

Join us on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje and the shrine of Our Lady of Peace, International Youth Festival (all ages), July-August, 2009. Visit [www.MyUITour.com](http://www.MyUITour.com) or call 866/984-8687. CST: 2070359-40.

## Skin Care Salon

Penelope's Aesthetics, a serene garden setting in Rockridge 12 years, specializes in professional beauty needs. Facials, waxing, lash/brow tints, skin tag/capillary removal, permanent make-up, reflexology and more! 30% off w/ad. [www.penelopecafe.com](http://www.penelopecafe.com) 510/594-1552.

## Unexpected Guest?

Short-term rental, lovely room 2 blocks from Rockridge BART in owner's flat. A steal. Photos available. Wi-fi, cable, TV. Suitable for one person. Photos available. [Barbird@aol.com](mailto:Barbird@aol.com) 510/652-7044.

## Feather River Art Camp

For adults (and kids), June 21-28, 2009. "A perfect joyful blend of art, nature, creativity and comradery." Painting, writing, papermaking, classical guitar, mosaics, bookmaking, glass-beadmaking, gourd-craft, Ikebana, cartoneria. Details: [www.featherriverartcamp.com](http://www.featherriverartcamp.com)

## Single Again

Reconstructing lives after separation/divorce: grief, money, custody, self-esteem, anger, friendship, sex, hope, purpose. Support groups in Rockridge area, weekly/evenings. Carla Haimowitz, Ph.D. 510/655-7828. 30 years experience leading groups.

## Decorative Painting

Faux finish, children's murals, refinishing, interior painting and color consultation. Call Deco Art. 510/593-4574

## Support for Separated & Divorced Parents

Co-parenting counseling and mediation to support parenting effectively through separation, divorce and beyond. Over 20 years experience working with families in transition. Natalie DaSilva, MFT. 510/823-7727.

## Your Own Home Food Garden

Beautiful, dynamic, fun, economic, eco-friendly, fresh, organic, healthy delicious. Learn and connect with nature. Installation, maintenance, consulting. Passionate, experienced Oakland/Berkeley-based farmers. Great references. Competitive rates. 650/303-4237 or [eastbayfarmer@gmail.com](mailto:eastbayfarmer@gmail.com).

## Party Girl: Assistant and Organizer for Your Parties

Enjoy your party while I do the work. Assist with organizing, shop, food prep, bartend, serve, or clean-up. Also personal organizing, bookkeeping and tax prep. Sandra 655-5168.

## A Portrait of Your Home

East Bay artist will paint a vivid, expressive portrait of your home. A thoughtful gift. Original artwork—not computer-generated. You pay only if you approve the final artwork. [www.bourlandstudio.com](http://www.bourlandstudio.com); 510/748-9214.

## Office Space for Rent

Professional office space for rent in unique College Avenue Victorian building. 510/655-7141; [lmoll@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lmoll@sbcglobal.net).

## Lake Tahoe Summer Rental

Two-bedroom, 2 bath, full kitchen condo for rent weeks of July 10-17 and August 14-21. On beach: pool, hot tub, kid's playgrounds. Close to shopping, casinos, parks. E-mail [janebc@al@yahoo.com](mailto:janebc@al@yahoo.com) or 510/658-9530.

## Quality Building & Repair

Decks, slate, concrete, siding, fences, custom gates, bathrooms, kitchens, expert retrofitting, carpentry, sheetrock, plumbing, electrical. Licensed, bonded & insured. Ned 510/301-5448.

## Need Change in Your Home?

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## Cape Cod House Available June-September

\$1200-1800/week. Located in Truro, minutes away from beaches and Provincetown. Three bedroom, huge deck, wireless, cable, outdoor shower and more. Ideal summer getaway for Rockridge folks. Peter 653-0107.



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E-mail *Rockridge News* Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210 (after noon), or mail to: *Rockridge News* Community Calendar, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the month.

Compiled by Jo Ellis

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Roundtable Discussion

"A Progressive Perspective on the Economic Crisis" featuring Mayor Dellums, Council President Jane Brunner, Assemblymember Swanson, Dr. Steven Raphael from UCB School of Public Policy and others. Topics include key economic issues facing Oakland and the State. Thursday, 2/19, 7 to 9pm. Oakland City Hall, City Council Chambers. Reserved seating, RSVP 238-7001 or ebuchen@oaklandnet.com. Additional seating on a first-come basis.

## N'hood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

Residents and business members of NCPC's 12Y and 13X areas are invited to voice their concerns about crime and public safety, 4th Thursday each month, 7 to 8:30pm. Rockridge Library, upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Ave. info@rockridgencpc.com or infofordenise@yahoo.com.

## Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

### FOR CHILDREN:

- **Toddler Story Time: Every Saturday, 10:30am.**
- **New additional Baby and Toddler Story Time: 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 10:30am, upstairs Community Room (same days and times as pre-school Story Time).**
- **Pre-School Story Time: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10:30am.**
- **Pajama Story Time: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm (see special event on 2/10).**

### SPECIAL EVENT FOR CHILDREN:

- **Celebrate Black History Month:** (and in anticipation of the City-wide "Big Read") James Henry of Drumm! presents a musical history of percussion in African and African-American cultures. All ages welcome. Tuesday, 2/10, 7pm.

### FOR TEENS:

- **Rockridge Ninjas (Anime Club): Teens 13 and up,** watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation) with other teens. Second Tuesday each month (2/10), 5 to 6:30pm in upstairs meeting room.
- **Guitar Hero III Tournament:** Compete in a double elimination tournament. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will go to the final at the Main Library. **Must be 12-18 to enter.** Great prizes given! Saturday 3/7, 2-4:00pm.

Info: Susy, 597-5017.

### FOR ADULTS:

- **Writers' Support/Critique Group:** ALL writers welcome. Bring 12 copies of up to 5 pages of your prose for on-site reading/discussion. **Note: this month only,**

**4th Saturday, (2/28), 1 to 5pm.** Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch ([www.berkeleywritersclub.org](http://www.berkeleywritersclub.org)). Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.

- **Knitting Classes for Seniors (50+):** instructor Teri Barr. All levels welcome. Beginners bring light color yarn and a pair of size 8 needles. If experienced, bring projects to work on. **Every Tuesday, 12:30-2:30pm,** upstairs meeting room.
- **Honoring Black History Month:** Presentation by Regina Jackson, Executive Director, East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC) and recipient of the Jefferson Award for Community Service. February 21, 2009. 2:00pm-4:30pm. Co-sponsored by the American Association of University Women, Oakland-Piedmont Branch and the League of Women Voters of Oakland.
- **Transformational Writing Workshop:** How to Use Writing for Spiritual Growth and Transformation, with Susanne West, Professor of Psychology at JFK University. Saturday, 2/28, 2-4:30pm. Advance registration recommended; call 597-5017.

**Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice.** First Tuesday each month from 6 to 8pm. Advance sign-up starts 5pm. More info: 597-5017.

### ART EXHIBITS

**Gallery:** Feb.: Julie Cohn Group Exhibition: Oil and watercolor.  
March: Darrell Hunger: Paintings, drawings and photos of desert scenes.

### LOBBY DISPLAY CASE:

Feb.: Leila Warhaftig: prints and handmade paper sculpture.  
March: Anne Prescott: Illustrations of Chaucer's House of Fame.

### LIBRARY HOURS:

Mon. and Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.  
Wed., Thurs. and Sat. 10am to 5:30pm.  
Fri., 12 to 5:30pm. Closed Sundays.

**Also closed: 2/12 & 2/16 for holidays & 2/13 for City of Oakland Non-Emergency-Services Shutdown.**

## Diesel Readings and Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Wednesday, 2/11, 7pm. Jonathon Keats: *The Book of the Unknown: Tales of the Thirty-six.*
- Sunday, 2/15, 3pm. Suzanne Freed: *Loving Richie.*
- Thursday, 2/19, 7pm. Alex Beckstead presents a special screening and discussion of his film Paperback Dreams, which follows the owners of Cody's Books and Kepler's Books over 2 tumultuous yrs. in the book business.
- Sunday, 2/22, 3pm. Charles Bock: *Beautiful Children.*
- Tuesday, 2/24, 7pm. Debra Gwartney: *Live Through This.*
- Sunday, 3/1, 3/4, 1pm (note early time). Dayiyal Mueenuddin: *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders.*
- Wednesday, 3/1, 7pm. Local Author Christina Sunley hosts a book launch party for *The Tricking of Freya.*
- Thursday, 3/5, 7pm. Daniel Pinchbeck: *Toward 2012: Perspectives on the Next Age.*

DIESEL, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave. Info about other events, book discussion groups and El Grupito, the Spanish discussion group: 653-9965 or

[www.dieselbookstore.com](http://www.dieselbookstore.com).

## An Evening with the Peace Corps

Meet a Peace Corps Recruiter to learn about opportunities in 76 countries in education, health, business, environment and more. No upper age limit to join. Tues., 2/24, 6 to 7:30pm, Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave. More info: Nick Bosustow, 452-8444, nbosustow@peacecorps.gov, or [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov).

## Wisteria Ways Concert Series

**Leftover Dreams: Patrice Haan and Tony Marcus** present the best of the classic songs of the Great American Songbook: standards of the 1920s through the '50s. Saturday, 2/14, 8pm (house opens at 7:30pm). \$15-20 suggested donation for musicians (cash please at the door). 383 61st Street (inside venue, not wheelchair accessible). For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to info@WisteriaWays.org or 655-2771.

## Calif. College of the Arts (CCA)

■ **ARTREAD: Bookworks Exhibition:** Students and faculty in CCA's Printmaking Program highlight the book as an interdisciplinary, dynamic, expressive medium. 2/9-16. **Reception:** Tues., 2/10, 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Hrs: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 8:30am to 4:40pm; Wed., 1 to 4:30pm; Sat., noon to 4pm. Info: [www.the-exquisite.com/artread](http://www.the-exquisite.com/artread).

■ **PAST INFINITY: CCA Math and Science Fair:** Projects and demonstrations showcase the intersection of art with math and science. 2/20-25. **Reception:** Fri., 2/20, 7 to 10pm with Shawn Lani, artist and Exploratorium exhibition designer. Mon., Tues., and Fri., 8:30am to noon and 1 to 4:30pm; Wed., 1-4:30pm. Info: 597-3709.

CCA Oakland campus, 5212 Broadway, Oliver Art Center. [www.cca.edu/](http://www.cca.edu/).

## Oakland Heritage Alliance (OHA)

### SECOND THURSDAY LECTURE SERIES

Historical geographer Gray Brechin discusses the WPA and the Oakland Park system. 2/12, 7:30-9pm. Presented monthly, OHA local preservation experts discuss architecture, history and cultural heritage. \$8 (OHA members) - \$10. Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. Info: 763-9218 or info@oaklandheritage.org.

## Free Hands-On Bicycle Classes

Learn to maintain your bike in excellent working condition. Sundays, 2/8 and 2/22. The 2/8 class: flat repair. The 2/22 class: safety inspection; how to check wheels, derailleurs, gears, etc. for wear and tear. Bring your bike and tools; the REI bike technician will provide expert guidance. **No membership or registration required.** REI, 1338 San Pablo Ave. (at Gilman), Berkeley, in the bike parking area. More info: REI bike shop, 527-4140.

## North Oakland Senior Center

**AARP Free tax assistance for seniors, Thursdays only,** Feb. 5 through Apr. 2. Make appt. at reception desk. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.

## American Red Cross

■ **Volunteer Orientations:** Learn how to: serve, inform and thank blood donors; deliver blood; special projects. Tues. 2/10 or Wed. 2/18, 6 to 8pm, 6230 Claremont Avenue (across from College Ave. Safeway). Info or to sign up: Anne at 594-5165 or BlackstoneA@usa.redcross.org.

■ **Donate blood: Mobile blood drive:** Fri. 2/16, 8:30am to 1:30pm. Children's Hospital, 747 52nd St. in the American Red Cross bus. Call 800-GIVE LIFE or go to [www.BeADonor.com](http://www.BeADonor.com) (Code: CHO) to schedule an appt.



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Join the Claremont PTA for an evening of fun at the Second Annual Silent Auction, Thelma Harris Gallery, 5940 College Avenue, on Saturday, February 21, from 6pm - 11pm. The theme is "\$9.99 and some CHANGE". Tickets are \$9.99 each. CHANGE happens with your support. Delicious appetizers and a no-host bar. For more information: [www.claremontms.org](http://www.claremontms.org) or call 510-350-6419.

**Terry Kulka 510/339-4789**

[terrykulka@att.net](mailto:terrykulka@att.net)

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[www.5247Locksley.com](http://www.5247Locksley.com)

**Coming in February - Temescal**

367 49th Street - Call for Pricing  
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[www.367-49thStreet.com](http://www.367-49thStreet.com)

**Coming in February - N. Oakland**

658 Fairview Street - Call for Pricing  
4 Beds & 2 Baths - Completely Redone  
[www.658Fairview.com](http://www.658Fairview.com)

**Coming in February - Elmwood**

3040 Benvenue Avenue - Call for Pricing  
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