

# THE Rockridge News

VOL. 25 ■ NO. 2 ■ ISSUE NO. 264 ■ February 6, 2010 ■ CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

Sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council • 5245 College Ave. PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94618 • 869-4200

**Special Program**  
Rescheduled from January

## RCPC Town Hall Meeting AGENDA February 2010

**Thursday, February 18,**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Rockridge Branch Library,**  
**5366 College Avenue**  
**at Manila,**  
**Community Room**  
**(Upstairs)**

*Presentation and discussion of RCPC projects and their status was incomplete by the end of the January meeting. RCPC has scheduled a recap and completion of the presentation and set aside additional time for audience discussion at the February 18 meeting. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend!*

■ **RCPC REPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY... and seeks feedback at the February meeting**

■ A yearly Town Hall Meeting is traditionally the opportunity for RCPC, FROG Park, and Friends of the Rockridge Library to report to the Rockridge community on the past year's actions. In turn, it's an opportunity for you to comment on the committee reports and to suggest topics for attention in 2010.

## RCPC Seeks Applicants to Fill Board of Directors Positions

If you read The Rockridge News and want to work with others to help Rockridge, here's your chance.

The Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) will be holding its annual election for seats on the board of directors on Thursday, April 15. Six board seats (out of a total of 13) will be up for election. One

of them could be yours.

What would you work on as a board-member? Among the projects currently facing Rockridge are the two major Safeway proposals, stimulating the College Avenue retail environment, improving Rockridge public schools, and confronting Rockridge's continuing problems with traffic

and crime. RCPC is involved in all these issues and more.

*Opportunity knocks!* Send your letter of interest to the RCPC, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618, or by e-mail to [chair@rockridge.org](mailto:chair@rockridge.org).

The deadline for applications has been extended to Wednesday, February 24, 2010.

## OPD Asks Public's Help to End a String of Local Robberies

As a service to the Rockridge community, The Rockridge News is reproducing the following message from Oakland Police Captain Anthony Toribio, patrol commander for Patrol Area 1, which includes Rockridge. The subject is a recent series of armed robberies, some committed in Rockridge, for which Captain Toribio seeks witnesses and people with useful information. For more information on this robbery string, look on the Greater Rockridge NCPC Web site at: <http://www.rockridgencpc.com/> (click on the link: North Oakland Crime - Area 1).

From Captain Toribio: We have a series of robberies occurring in Area One, mostly on beats 7, 9, and 12. A majority of the robberies have been in Area Two.

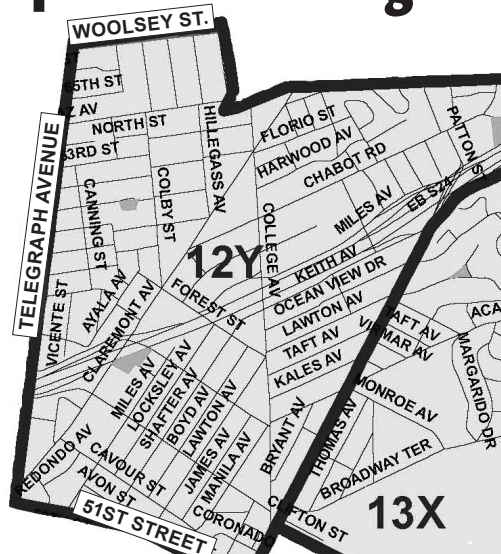
Here are the particulars:

Two suspects:

1. Male, black, 20s-30s, 6', 180-200 pounds, black mask or hoodie covering face, blue jeans;

2. Male, black, late teens-early 20s, 5'7", 150 pounds, black mask or hoodie covering face, blue jeans;

Weapon: Silver handgun.



Time of occurrence is late afternoon/evening. The suspects approach and flee on foot. The victim is either entering or exiting their residence or vehicle. The loss is money, cell phones, purses. We [police] believe the suspects are either lying in wait or following the victims to their residence.

Anyone with information related to these robberies is encouraged to contact the lead investigator, Sergeant Eric Lewis, at

238-3326. His email is [elewis@oaklandnet.com](mailto:elewis@oaklandnet.com). I am asking citizens to report all suspicious and criminal activity. We need witnesses to help us solve these crimes.

**Patrol Map:** OPD's Patrol Division uses a geographic, area command system to serve the City:

- **Area 1** includes West and North Oakland and is bordered by the Berkeley Hills on the north, Lake Merritt on the east, the Oakland Estuary on the south, and the Bay on the west.
- **Area 2** is located in Central Oakland between Areas 1 and 3 and is bordered by the city of Piedmont on the north, the Oakland Estuary on the south, Lake Merritt on the west and Redwood Regional Park to the East.
- **Area 3** covers High Street to the San Leandro border, from the Estuary to the Oakland Hills.

Each Area is comprised of beats. **Rockridge is in Area 1, Beat 12Y and a portion of Beat 13X.** Together, 12Y and 13X form the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council, or GRNCPC. Temescal is generally covered by Beats 12X and 09X.

**Note:** The patrol map portion and first section of text above is from the city of Oakland's redesigned Web site, <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/>. The full map is at <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca/groups/police/documents/agenda/dowd005013.pdf>. Other text is by the Editor.

## Telegraph Bus Lane Plans to be Heard by Planning Commission, Public, Council

by Andrew Charman, RCPC  
Transportation Committee chair

The latest details of AC Transit's proposed East Bay Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project were presented by Oakland City staff at a recent informational meeting held in the Temescal District. According to presenters, the BRT will replace the current 1 and 1R bus lines. Like those lines, it would start in San Leandro, run through downtown Oakland, and then travel the length of Telegraph Avenue into Berkeley. The new line would have a number of features intended to provide greater transit efficiency, reliability, and convenience:

- Buses would run in dedicated lanes, one in each direction;
- Bus stops/stations would be on raised platforms;
- Passengers would purchase tickets at the stop/station platform, rather than paying on the bus;
- Left-turns along Telegraph would be limited to intersections with optimally phased signals;

### Meetings, BRT Proposal

**1. AC Transit's BRT line proposal will be discussed** at RCPC's Transportation Committee meeting, February 16, 7:30 p.m., at CrepeVine Restaurant, 5600 College Avenue.

**2. The Planning Commission will discuss BRT** at a public meeting February 17, Hearing Room 1, City Hall, One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 14th and Broadway.

■ Buses would be outfitted with Advanced Signal Priority (ASP) technology that would allow buses to delay yellow lights and hasten green lights when approaching a signalized intersection.

■ Stops/stations would likely be separated by distances longer than those for the current 1 line, but shorter than for the 1R line.

AC transit circulated a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on the BRT project in 2007. RCPC submitted a comment

▶ **BRT Proposal, page 10**

## Brunner Proposes Changes to RDA/BID Rules

by Annette Floystrup

Changes are being required of the Rockridge District Association (RDA) before its contract with the city of Oakland is renewed. The Rockridge Business Improvement District (BID), administered by the RDA, may become democratic and more transparent with the addition of by-law and reporting changes submitted by Council President Jane Brunner to the Community Economic Development Committee (CED) January 26.

Brunner's prepared memorandum, handed out at the start of the meeting, supported the renewal with changes as follows:

I propose that before Council approves the Resolution to Levy the Annual Assessment at the Public Hearing on February 16th, the Rockridge BID must provide evidence that the following changes to their by-laws and/or the agreement between the BID and the City have been made:

- Allow any BID member to make a nomination to the BID board
- Allow BID members to vote for

board members by mail

■ Require the submission of an annual CPA-reviewed financial statement to the City

■ Require that quarterly financial statements be made available online

■ Require that City of Oakland contact information be included on the annual notification postcard

Lacking a quorum, no vote was taken at the committee meeting. The BID renewal vote is scheduled for the February 16 City Council meeting.

### Purpose of Proposed Changes

The purpose for the proposed changes is to allow assessed business owners in the BID to both nominate and vote for RDA board members, to provide more financial transparency, and to assist assessed business owners in exercising their rights. The RDA has a notice soliciting nominations in this issue of The Rockridge News.

In the original bylaws, the RDA board chose delegates from among the assessed and

▶ **BID Changes, page 12**

### ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY

5366 College Avenue

597-5017

HOURS:

Tues: 12:30 – 8 p.m.

Weds, Thurs, Sat: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Friday: 12 – 5:30 p.m.

Closed Friday, 2/12, Monday 2/15, and Tuesday, 2/16

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

Don Kinkead.....Editor

Ortrun Niesar.....The Muse

Barry Kaufman.....Food

Jo Ellis.....Advertising &

Community Calendar

Theresa Nelson.....Neighborhood Merchant

Susan Montauk.....Business Manager

Don Kinkead.....Graphics & Layout

#### RCPC Board of Directors, 2008-2009

Stuart Flashman.....Chair

Andrew Charman.....Vice-Chair

Michael Kan.....Secretary

Joan Martin.....Treasurer

Cesar Angobaldo, Annette Floystrup, Jonathan Gabel,

Jennifer Kaplan, William Kaufner, Don Kinkead,

Doug Patton, Ronnie Spitzer,

Katy Taylor, Ann Winterman

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 6, 2010

☛ March deadline is February 18, 2010.

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.)

## RCPC Land Use Committee

The RCPC Land Use Committee meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month.  
Next meeting: **February 24. Rockridge Branch Library, Upstairs Meeting Room: 7:30 p.m.**

## Land Use Update

by *Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee chair*

Perhaps the appropriate analogy for Rockridge land use activity this month is a frozen stream, but with water flowing underneath the ice. In a few months, the ice will crack and break, revealing a lot of activity.

### ■ Citywide Zoning Update

As reported last month, the citywide rezoning effort is continuing. You can check out the latest updates at: <http://oaklandnet.com/zoningupdate>. The commercial corridor technical advisory group (TAG) is meeting Friday, February 5, to review staff responses to community input, including input from RCPC and other groups in the Rockridge/Temescal area. TAG meetings are open to the public. There will be one final TAG meeting, probably some time in mid-March, before a final zoning proposal is brought to the planning commission and City Council for formal review and enactment.

### ■ College Avenue Safeway Shopping Center Project 6310 College Avenue at Claremont Avenue

According to Oakland planner Peterson Vollman (238-6167, [pvollman@oaklandnet.com](mailto:pvollman@oaklandnet.com)), work on the Draft EIR for this 61,000 sq.ft. project is well underway. An administrative draft of the EIR will be completed and reviewed by city staff before

the DEIR is released for a 45 day public review and comment period. Expect that to happen sometime around April. Traffic will be a huge issue. Mr. Vollman would not disclose whether the EIR will discuss land use impacts.

### ■ Rockridge Montessori School 6516 Broadway

This school's expansion (by taking over and remodeling an adjoining residence) would bring total school enrollment to over 200 students. RCPC had expressed concerns about traffic and parking impacts. While there has been no visible progress, Oakland planner Ulla Britt-Jonsson (238-3322, [ujonsson@oaklandnet.com](mailto:ujonsson@oaklandnet.com)) says the application is still active and the applicant has been revising its traffic analysis to take RCPC's concerns into account. The City has not yet decided what level of environmental review will be involved. Expect this application to resurface in the next month or two.

### ■ The College Preparatory School 6100 Broadway

City staff's approval of the school's facilities master plans had been appealed to the planning commission by a group of neighboring residents. The appeal was heard in mid-December and unanimously denied. RCPC took no position on the appeal, although it had been involved in trying to mediate this dispute. At this point, according to case planner Leigh McCullen (238-4977, [lmccullen@oaklandnet.com](mailto:lmccullen@oaklandnet.com)), no

### Land Use Meeting Agendas

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

lawsuit has been filed, so the case appears to be closed. RCPC will continue to monitor the school's compliance with the many conditions attached to the approval.

### ■ Dreyer's Building 5915 College Avenue

According to the real estate firm handling this property, a lease has been signed for the retail storefront formerly occupied by Cotton & Co. The agent would not disclose the new tenant, but did indicate that it will be a retail use. Thus, no use permit will be required.

The smaller vacant storefront formerly occupied by Galvin's Workspace Furniture remains vacant. (Powell's Sweet Shoppe was apparently unable to reach agreement with Dreyer's over improvements to the space.)

### ■ 6000 College Avenue, Corner of Harwood

As previously reported, an application had been filed to put in an Italian winebar/restaurant at this site. That application has been abandoned and a new application was submitted for a coffee shop coupled to retail sales of coffee-themed merchandise. The good news is both that a long-vacant storefront gets filled and that the business, unlike many restaurants, will be open during daytime hours. Hopefully this will help restore the vitality of this part of College Avenue. Nevertheless, the continued shift toward restaurant uses reinforces RCPC's concern about maintaining College Avenue as a retail venue.

## The Zoning Counter

The Zoning Counter is a compilation of recent applications filed with the Oakland Planning Department. Individuals may contact the case planner or the Planning Department for additional information by phone or on-line at <http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/ceda/revised/planning.html>.

### 6000 COLLEGE AVENUE

**Proposal:** To establish a limited-service restaurant with a minimum of 20 seats in an approximately 1,300 square-foot ground floor commercial space. (sale of alcoholic beverages are not proposed under this application)

**Applicant:** Shawn Allison, 510/520-0236

**Owner:** Alan Pricco Et Al. Trust

**Planning Permits Required:** Minor Conditional Use Permit for Limited Service Restaurant Commercial Activity in C-31 Zoning District

**Historic Status:** Potential Designated Historic Property; Survey rating: Dc3 (minor importance)

**Case Planner:** David Valeska at 510/238-2075 or [dvalleska@oaklandnet.com](mailto:dvalleska@oaklandnet.com)

### 6225 BROOKSIDE AVENUE

**Proposal:** To construct a 720-square-foot two-story residential rear addition.

**Applicant:** Andrea Sessa / Ash Design, 510/295-9261

**Owner:** Sandre Skatter

**Planning Permits Required:** 1) Regular Design Review for an attached addition to a single-family residence located in the R-30 Zone; 2) Minor Variances to provide a westerly building wall length of 71 feet where 35 feet is the maximum; and to reduce the rear yard setback where to [sic] 29-feet where 32'-6" is required for lots with depth greater than 100 feet

**Case Planner:** Mike Rivera at 510/238-6417 or [mriviera@oaklandnet.com](mailto:mriviera@oaklandnet.com)

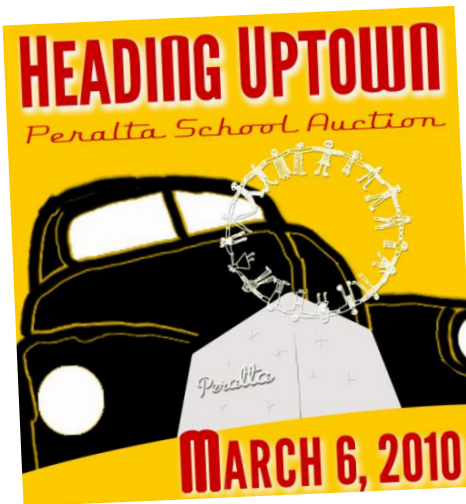


## Peralta Elementary School Auction Fun: March 6

by Jenny Summers

Mark your calendars for March 6, 2010, 5-9 p.m., for the Peralta Elementary School Auction.

This year, the Peralta Auction will be held at one of Oakland's coolest, most unusual venues: Uptown Body & Fender, 401 26th Street in Oakland. Yes, it's an auto shop — but wait until you see it! View photos of the stylish Uptown at <http://tinyurl.com/yl4h829>. This event is for adults only, so take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy a night Uptown.



Featured will be delicious food and entertainment, as well as silent and live auctions. Browse a huge selection of handmade crafts and jewelry, date-night packages and even weekend getaways. Feel good spending money, since it all goes back to Peralta's kids.

We hope to encourage everyone to join us, as the tickets are being sold for the low price of \$10/person advance purchase, \$15 at the door. Alcohol will be sold separately.

If you can't make it, please visit [www.peraltaschool.org](http://www.peraltaschool.org) to find out how you can bid on fabulous auction items online.

In addition to attendees, we're looking for donations (goods and services). If you're a Rockridge business and interested in donating to benefit our wonderful school, please let us know. Visit Peralta's website at [www.peraltaschool.org](http://www.peraltaschool.org), or contact Erin McDevitt ([erin\\_mcdevitt@yahoo.com](mailto:erin_mcdevitt@yahoo.com)) for more details on attending or donating.

## Residential Parking Fees Hiked Prior to Final Audit

by Jon Gabel, boardmember, RCPC

The Oakland City Council voted unanimously on January 5 to raise Residential Permit Parking (RPP) renewal fees from \$20 to \$35 per year. The vote was calendared as a consent item, defined as "any action item that a subject matter Committee has forwarded to the full Council with unanimous recommendation for approval and is not controversial, and does not have a high level of public interest as determined by the Rules Committee." The fee hike was opposed by RCPC but only after the first affirmative vote on the ordinance at the December 8 Council meeting.

Because public notice of the proposal was provided just three days prior to that meeting, RCPC had no time to take a position. Additionally, the final vote on January 5 coincided with the publication date of The Rockridge News, so that the Council meeting could not be well publicized.

RCPC Chair Stu Flashman wrote to the Council that "RCPC opposes approving this fee increase ordinance on procedural grounds: specifically, that the present costs of the RPP program are unknown and therefore cannot justify the fee increase. RCPC asks that any decision on raising fees for the RPP program be put over until the final Performance Audit Report is issued, actual program costs have been fully disclosed, and proposed changes to the RPP program's administration have been released to the public."

No written reply to this letter was received from any councilmember. At the January 5 Council meeting, in response to a statement read by RCPC boardmember Jon Gabel, Council President Jane Brunner, who represents Rockridge, commented that the RPP program costs \$188,000 per year; that there are more than 4,000 permits; and that the fee increase is intended to cover some of those costs. This cost estimate is not contained in the interim RPP Program Performance Audit Report issued in May, 2009 ([http://www.oaklandauditor.com/images/oakland/auditreports/rpp\\_interim\\_report.pdf](http://www.oaklandauditor.com/images/oakland/auditreports/rpp_interim_report.pdf)). The final report has not been issued, more than one year after it was mandated by the Council.

RCPC has requested that the city of Oakland provide all documents related to the RPP program costs and revenues, as well as plans for changes to the program that were briefly mentioned by City staff at the December 5 Council meeting.

**Your Small Business:  
Get noticed like  
a BIG business.**

**FREE  
CONSULTATION**

**Affordable  
Rates**

**305-6660**

**CANNING  
DESIGN**

ROCKRIDGE STUDIO [canningdes.com](http://canningdes.com)

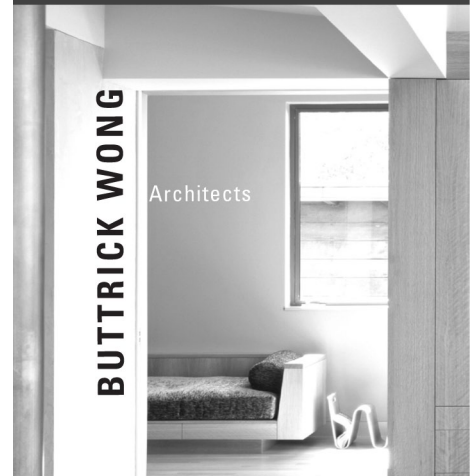
## Rockridge Optometry

*Your neighborhood  
family eyecare providers  
since 1947*

Dr. Donald Sarver  
Dr. Larry Sarver  
Dr. Scott Yokoi  
Dr. Cindy Sakai

5321 College Avenue, Oakland  
510-655-3797  
[www.rockridgeoptometry.com](http://www.rockridgeoptometry.com)

local sustainable residential architecture



Jerome Buttrick, AIA  
[www.buttrickwong.com](http://www.buttrickwong.com)

Tim Wong, AIA  
510.594.8700



# Rockridge District Association Announces Annual Election, Calls for Nominees

The Rockridge District Association (RDA) will hold its annual board of directors election at the Rockridge Library on



are for two years. All board members are encouraged to be involved with at least one of our committees.

March 18, beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 10 a.m. Nominations are being accepted now for business tenants (RDA members), business property owners and representatives for the community at large.

The RDA board meets once a month. Our committees, Executive, Marketing & Promotion and Streetscape & Security, also meet once a month. Our board member terms

The RDA is a 501(C)3 community based organization, organized as a Business

For more information, or if you wish to nominate someone or yourself, please send your name, address and contact information to: Susan Bernosky c/o Allstate Insurance, 5940 College Avenue, Suite A, Oakland, CA 94618, or email to: [info@rockridge-district.com](mailto:info@rockridge-district.com)

— Susan Bernosky, Secretary, Rockridge District Association

Improvement District with the City of Oakland. — From the RDA Web site

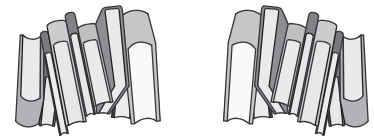
# Rockridge Library Friends Set Board Elections: Sign Up!

by FORL board of directors

Your library needs you to make a difference. The Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) will hold elections for new members of the governing board this April. The board, a subcommittee of the Rockridge Community Planning Council, meets four times a year and oversees FORL's support of the Rockridge branch of the Oakland Public Library by helping to raise funds and by organizing special projects.

Members of the board, whose number varies from eight to 11, serve for a two-year term. We hope to recruit at least one new member of the local community to the board this spring. No speeches or campaigning are required, and no prior experience: only a willingness to aid your local library.

Please join us. For further information, contact co-chair of the board Carol Bieri at [cbieri@pacbell.net](mailto:cbieri@pacbell.net).



**WINSTON'S PLUMBING**  
HEATING & ELECTRICAL  
Lic.# 537739/554406  
Since 1979

- Trenchless Sewers
- Earthquake Protection
- Tankless Water Heaters
- Remodel & Repair

510-652-8014  
[www.winstonsplumbing.com](http://www.winstonsplumbing.com)  
"May your toilet never runneth over!"

**Jeff Auen**  
**REMAX ACCORD**



- Residential
- Income Properties
- REO Specialist

WWW.REO-SFBAY.COM  
WWW.JLAHOMES.COM  
[JeffAuen@comcast.net](mailto:JeffAuen@comcast.net)  
**800-805-8827**

A cross-cultural congregation striving to partner with the Rockridge community in lifestyle and service.


**College Avenue Presbyterian Church**  
5951 College Avenue, Oakland 510 658-3665  
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM • VISIT: [CAPCCHURCH.ORG](http://CAPCCHURCH.ORG)  
OUR WONDERFUL COMMUNITY MEAL, FRIDAYS, 6-7PM  
A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

 **Mariposa**  
Gardening & Design  
Design, Installation and Maintenance  
Native Plant Gardens & Stonework



Andrea Hurd, Horticulturist and Stonemason  
License #883905 \* tel. 510.558.8429  
[www.mariposagardening.com](http://www.mariposagardening.com)

**NEW BUS HOURS**  
**BREAKFAST/LUNCH**  
tues-sun 8am-3pm

 **aunt mary's CAFE**

510.601.9227  
WWW.AUNTMARYSCAFE.COM  
4307 TELEGRAPH AVE. OAKLAND 94609

**WE NO LONGER SERVE DINNER**  
BUT WILL BE AVAIL. FOR EVENING SPECIAL EVENTS

**GARDEN CLEANERS**



**\$5 FREE DRYCLEANING with garment orders over \$28**  
or \$3 OFF orders over \$15  
Dry Cleaning only • Present with incoming order

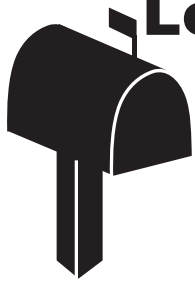
**EXPERT SHIRT LAUNDERING!**

**Garden Cleaners**  
5808 College Avenue, Oakland  
601-1188  
Mon - Fri 7 - 7 • Sat 8 - 6  
Across from Trader Joe's and Zachary's Pizza

**Regency Antique Restoration**  
Professional and Experienced  
ALL Furniture Repairs



In-Home Services  
New finishes & waxing  
FREE ESTIMATES  
Pickup & Delivery  
517-6280  
Bruce Wagg  
[bruce@bayareaantiques.com](mailto:bruce@bayareaantiques.com)



# 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.

## WE ARE A COMMUNITY. ARE NEIGHBORS AWARE OF OTHERS IN DISTRESS?

### EDITOR:

Several weeks ago my granddaughter, who lives with me, was accosted by two men as she was walking home from class one evening. They threatened her and told her not to run. She ran as fast as she could, screaming, and got home safely.

I spoke with some of the neighbors afterwards. Several recalled hearing someone screaming. But no-one, *no-one* came out to check!

What does that say about our neighborhood? Are people scared? Or don't they care?

This is not an isolated incident. It's happening all over. With the current state of the economy, there are more and more people out there who are desperate and they are preying on whoever appears vulnerable.

We can't just depend on the police to chase them away. There are things we can do: carry whistles and carry mace, for two

examples.

Basically, we need to think of ourselves as a community, stay in touch with our neighbors, stay alert to what is going on around us and be ready to respond to a call for help.

I'd like to think we really do care.

— Lydia Gans



Welcoming boys & girls ages 5 and up  
(510) 547-4441 • www.piedmontchoirs.org

PIEDMONT EAST BAY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

## LOTUS CLEANING SERVICES FOR HOME AND OFFICE

Non-Toxic Eco-Friendly  
Housekeeping Office Cleaning Auto Detailing Carpet Cleaning

(510) 452-0755

www.lotuscleaningservices.com

EXPERIENCED, LICENSED, BONDED AND INSURED

something  
for every  
valentine!



rockridge home

furniture accessories gifts

5418 College Ave. (510) 420-1928

## Praying - Serving - Growing

St. Augustine  
Roman Catholic  
Church

400 Alcatraz Ave.  
Oakland  
(between Telegraph  
and College  
Avenues)  
510-653-8631



Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5 p.m.  
Sunday: 8 a.m.  
& 10:30 a.m.  
Weekdays: 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation  
Saturday, 4 p.m.

www.staugustineoakland.com

Sogno  
Sogno Design Group



NEW HOMES,  
REMODELS,  
ADDITIONS,  
KITCHENS,  
BATHROOMS,  
SUNROOMS,  
DECKS  
GARAGE CONVERSIONS,  
SMALL SPACES,  
HOME OFFICES,  
OUTDOOR ROOMS,  
GREEN BUILDING...

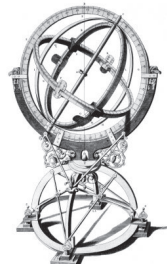
Kathryn A. Rogers Architect  
1496-C Solano Avenue  
Albany, CA 94706  
tel. 510.526.2720  
www.sognodesigngroup.com

Peace of Mind  
Bodywork

A touch therapy to relax  
the fabric of your being.

Sharon Smith, CMT  
6097 Claremont Ave., Oakland  
www.peaceofmindbodywork.com

510-461-6431



Ubiquity International, LLC  
PO Box 21265  
Piedmont, CA 94620-1265  
CST: 2070359-40 WA SOT: 602-549-382

There is a lot of world to explore.  
new discoveries - new friends - renewed life

### Contact Us Today

Call Thomas Talboy  
(866) 984-8687

or visit us online at:

www.UbiquityInternational.com

Family and Student Travel

School Travel • Pilgrimages • Special Interest  
ISIC, IYTC, ITIC • European Rail





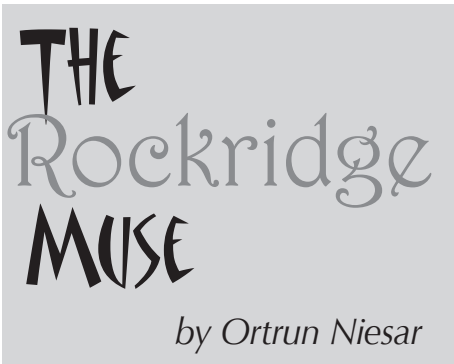
**Celebrating Our Artists**  
**Patricia Polacco**

Over the past decades, Rockridge has produced an impressive number of successful artists, film makers, writers, musicians, scholars and more. But Rockridge is small, and inevitably our luminaries leave to seek wider horizons. Nevertheless, like homing pigeons, some of our best loved Rockridge graduates fly back into our coop now and then to say hello and remind us that this place and those of us who stayed behind still matter.

**Patricia Polacco**

Last week one of my favorites, Patricia Polacco, award-winning children’s book writer and illustrator, fluttered into town. She first met a storefull of fans for a talk and book signing at Mrs. Dalloway’s Bookstore in Berkeley’s Elmwood District, then spent the week visiting neighborhood schools. I followed her to Redwood Day School where she spent a day speaking to children aged 5 to 14 years.

A vivacious, mature woman, not too tall, with her hair knotted high on top of her head and an intense, engaging gaze, Patricia conjured up a compelling figure as she stood in front of an auditorium full of middle-school students and began her afternoon talk tailored to teens. They listened spellbound as she deftly turned painful personal stories into one powerful lesson after another about family,



friends, hope, loneliness and growing up disadvantaged right here in Oakland.

In the guise of marvelous narrative and visual imagery, she was able to discuss tough topics like racial prejudice, inequality, disabilities, fear of failure, not fitting in and bullying. The crowd was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. When she finished, the questions flowed freely. The kids, clearly trusting her to speak the truth, couldn’t get enough of her.

Patricia doesn’t mind telling people that, while she could draw well, she could not read until age 14. A sympathetic teacher by the name of George Falker at Willard Junior High finally discovered her dilemma and likely saved her life. In her eyes, this teacher is a saint and, of course, she eventually wrote a book about him (“Thank You, Mr. Falker”). Still, a writing career seems an unlikely move for someone who struggled with severe dyslexia as a child. In fact, Patricia did not become a published writer until age 41. When I first met her, she and then-

**About the Photos**

Coincident with Black History Month, Patricia Polacco, far left, ①, tells parents and children at Ms. Dalloway’s of her book involving the Underground Railway, “January’s Sparrow.” Middle, ②, the wall-to-wall crowd at the bookstore. Bottom left, ③, Patricia autographs books for Bobbie Kinkead and granddaughter Julia, and, ④, Cole and Sophie Foster of Lafayette.

PHOTOS: DON KINKEAD

husband Enzo, and children Steve and Tracy, resided on Thomas Avenue. Her day job had to do with art restoration – she had studied iconography – but I remember her always telling stories and making beautiful illustrations.

One day she joined a workshop for writers of children’s books in Berkeley, and the rest is history. In the 25 years that followed she has published 47 books, and there are more to come, I am sure. She specializes in personal narrative, drawing on a rich heritage of storytelling in her family and on personal experience, giving equal value, it seems, to illustration and text as she develops tales that appeal to young children, teenagers as well as adults. She has probably won every writer’s award for her category there is. And many of you probably have at least one of her books in your collection. Tell me you haven’t heard of “Chicken Sunday,” a beloved Easter story set in North Oakland that is presented every year or so as a play by Stage Bridge senior actors and Oakland school children. Or, what about “Pink and Say,” the story of Patricia’s great-great-great grandfather who shook the hand that shook the hand of Abraham Lincoln? Or “Rechenka’s Eggs,” or “The Keeping Quilt,” or “I Can Hear the Sun”, or, one of my favorites, “Meteor!” and so many more.

If we ever decide, as Berkeley has, to grace College Avenue with banners or plaques acknowledging the achievements of our brilliant residents, Patricia Polacco should most certainly be among those honored.

Perhaps we should begin making a list of honorees and get such a project under way. What do you think? Let me know. My e-mail is oniesar@sbcglobal.net. And go to www. PatriciaPolacco.com for more information about our famous children’s book author.

Ortrun Niesar offers her views on art, culture and quality-of-life questions in this monthly column. She can be reached at oniesar@sbcglobal.net





# Claremont School Class Offerings Continue to Expand Opportunity

by Shona Armstrong

Shona Armstrong is a parent at Chabot Elementary with three children headed to Claremont Middle School one day. She is active on the Chabot PTA and the Claremont PTA and lives around the corner from Claremont School. Armstrong believes

Claremont (and most Oakland schools) is better than most people realize. The problems get the publicity, she believes; improvements and positive change are less widely noticed. Armstrong hopes to change that. In this interview, she talks with Vice-Principal Kevin Taylor, focussing on classes and electives.

## Shona Alexander: Can you talk a little bit about the math programs offered at Claremont?

**Vice-Principal Kevin Taylor:** Claremont offers the standard array of middle school math classes. One unique thing about our school is that the math classes are currently divided by gender. Numerous studies have shown that students in single sex classes outperform students in mixed-gender classes, and we believe we are seeing some of those benefits at Claremont. (See, e.g., <http://www.singlesexschools.org/evidence.html>.) After one full year of running this pilot program, we will assess its success and determine whether to continue.

In addition to the standard middle school menu of math classes, Claremont offers advanced Geometry during the 0 period (before regular classes begin) at Oakland Tech. The students that attend Tech are achieving beyond middle school standards. Studying geometry in 8th grade is a year ahead of the normal college track. Using nearby Oakland Tech to incorporate high school geometry into the middle school curriculum has been a practical way for our small community middle school to offer additional electives despite our size.

For the very, very, very enthusiastic math students, Rick Prime, the parent of a Claremont student, is heading a program called Math Counts, in which a group of students meet weekly to prepare for math competitions and to tackle even more rigorous math material. (See [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org).)

I am especially glad that you asked me about our math program, because it gives me a chance to congratulate our math teacher extraordinaire, Ruth Nagash, who not only taught the highest scoring math academy (a program offered for struggling students) this past summer, but whose class this fall also had the highest scores on the first overall district wide benchmark assessment. Congratulations, Ms. Nagash!

[The first school-wide benchmark test results, just published, were not as strong as the school had hoped. The school is taking steps to identify and remedy problems so future student performance will improve. — S. A.]

## SA: What kinds of electives are available to students at Claremont Middle School?

**KT:** During the regular school day, students can choose from Physical Education, Art, Computer Animation, Study Skills, and Music (Band, Orchestra, etc.).

Our Computer Animation program is unique among middle schools in Oakland. It is supported by a PTA program called "Project Seven." The mission of Project Seven is to develop and facilitate a professional digital media program for Oakland middle school and high school students. (The "seven" in the title refers to the whole seven-year period of training from middle school through high school.) The program aims to prepare students so that, upon graduation, they will be qualified to embark on careers in the digital media and technology industry. You can learn more about the program at [www.projectseven.org](http://www.projectseven.org).

[projectseven.org](http://www.projectseven.org).

Our band, led by the dedicated Ms. Briggs, has blossomed over the past few years into an award-winning group of dedicated students. They perform at numerous events both locally and around the state. We recently had the opportunity to congratulate musicians Akiro Duey, Sirmorian Johnson and Reva Sweidler who participated in the California Music Educators Association (CMEA) Bay Section All Region Honor Band & Orchestra

► Claremont Classes, page 9



**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.

**Susan Bernosky, LUTCF**  
(510) 450 9050

5940 College Ave, #A  
Oakland

[susanbernosky@allstate.com](mailto:susanbernosky@allstate.com)



The Cupped Hands logo is a registered service mark of Allstate Insurance Company. Life insurance and annuities issued by Allstate Life Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL and Lincoln Benefit Life Company, Lincoln, NE. In New York, Allstate Life Insurance Company of New York, Hauppauge, NY. Property-casualty insurance products issued by Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Company, Allstate Indemnity Company, Allstate Insurance Company, Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL. © 2007 Allstate Insurance Company

ANGELISSE KAROL  
COLOR & DESIGN

510-658-2599

Hourly consultation  
to fit the size  
of your interior or exterior  
home projects.

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

**For Sale** Superb Views Overlooking the Bay

773 Euclid Ave, Berkeley

Immaculate 3+ bedroom, 3 bath home plus office/in-law space with separate entrance. Recently landscaped, retaining walls and new detached garage, updated plumbing and electrical. A real gem.

To preview this home, please contact:

**Elisa Uribe** Realtor®  
(510) 485-7272

Wells and Bennett Realtors  
[www.rockridgedigs.com](http://www.rockridgedigs.com)

#01427070

# Claremont Classes

from page 8

in early January.

During the after-school program, students can participate in Spanish, wrestling, basketball, flag football, tennis, computer animation and 3D modeling, music engineering, fashion design, student leadership, poetry, hip hop composition, hip hop dance, and school newsletter (via our blog at [www.claremontknighttime.blogspot.com](http://www.claremontknighttime.blogspot.com)).

The after-school wrestling program is new to Claremont. It is run by a non-profit called Wan-Tu-Waziri. Wan-Tu-Waziri operates a year-round wrestling club at Claremont Middle School, Oakland Tech, and a few other Oakland schools. The coaches use wrestling training to instill in their students self-confidence in all aspects of their lives. The Director of Claremont's after-school program, Sylvester Gaskin, says that he sees a direct correlation between students' participation in this wrestling program and improved academics and social skills. Wan-Tu-Waziri has given many Oakland kids a positive outlet. One of their best-known alumni is Stephen Abas, who went on to receive a wrestling scholarship at Cal Sate Fresno, and eventually earned a silver medal in the Olympics. The coaches are extremely

dedicated, taking the kids to tournaments on weekends, making sandwiches with their own money, and never asking parents for donations.

Although Claremont has a smaller wrestling program than most other teams, we have been able to place in every tournament we have entered and we have produced numerous individual champions.

The students' work in the after-school and electives programs was on display at an exhibition before the winter break, and we will hold another open house in the spring.

**SA: What is the status of the Claremont Library?**

**KT:** With the help of our wonderful PTA, we have been able to re-hire Debbie Hughes part time to assist us in re-launching our successful library with all of its components. She began work on January 13. We could definitely use some community

participation on this project. Volunteers are needed to increase the hours of operation during the second half of this year. If you are interested, I invite you to contact our PTA Vice President, Mike Napolitano at 510/655-4725.

**SA: Any final message for the community?**

**KT:** Our school seeks to be a vibrant part of the community. Check us out at [www.claremont.org](http://www.claremont.org) and keep your eyes on the school bulletin board by our front entrance on College Avenue. We hope you'll enjoy our many exhibitions, performances, and events, and you may also find some fun and rewarding opportunities to support the school. If you're especially interested in staying abreast of events, you can sign up for the Claremont KnightLine e-mail newsletter at [www.claremontms.org/Claremontms/Broadcast.html](http://www.claremontms.org/Claremontms/Broadcast.html)

94618

For the week of 11/30/09:  
 Median List Price: \$795,000  
 Avg. Days on Market: 162



**Want all the facts?**  
 Stop by and discuss 94618  
 weekly updates with a  
 Rockridge McGuire agent.

**510.622.8300**  
 5327 COLLEGE AVENUE | ROCKRIDGE  
[mcguire.com](http://mcguire.com)

 School Board Director Jody London invites you to a 

**COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**

**Parent Empowerment: Building Mutually Satisfying Home-School Partnerships**

**Saturday, February 27, 2010, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**  
**Emerson Elementary School**  
**4803 Lawton Avenue, Oakland**

Recent State and Federal initiatives give parents new power to shape and move their schools. Yet devastating budget cuts mean schools have increasingly less to work with.

How can parents and guardians partner work with schools to provide the education they want for their children?  
 How can engaged parents and guardians recruit others to join in their efforts?  
 How can the constituents of District 1 create efforts for all children to succeed? Are we all in this together?

**Refreshments and childcare provided**

Please RSVP if you require childcare

**For more information and to RSVP:**  
**Jody London    [Jody.London@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Jody.London@ousd.k12.ca.us)    510/459-0667**

Rockridge Dental™

[rockdent.com](http://rockdent.com) 510.653.6677

3rd Floor  
Market Hall  
Ste. 312

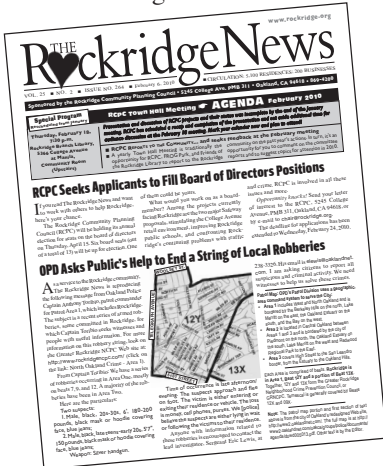
Bruce D. Fong, D.D.S.  
 Rana Baroudi, D.M.D.

Advanced Preventive, Restorative, Cosmetic Dentistry, and Periodontal Gum Care.

# Here's Your Chance to Join The Rockridge News Team

Thanks to Jeff Rabb for his many years of service as The Rockridge News Block Captain for two routes on Keith and Ocean View Avenues.

Jeff is moving so we need one or two



# BRT Proposal

from page 2

letter that did not oppose the project, but raised concerns about potential impacts on traffic, parking, transit, local businesses, and increased "cut-through" traffic on nearby residential streets by drivers frustrated by congestion on Telegraph Avenue. The DEIR also provoked strong comments from the affected cities. AC agreed that each of the cities through which the BRT would run – Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro – could identify "Locally Preferred Alternatives" to the draft plan analyzed in the DEIR. AC would, in turn, incorporate aspects of these alternatives into BRT "build alternatives" that would be analyzed in the Final EIR.

At the meeting, Oakland staff showed a preliminary Oakland preferred alternative and highlighted its differences from AC's draft plan. Oakland's plan adds bicycle lanes throughout the Temescal/North Oakland corridor, as well as additional left turn lanes. Some bus stops are added, to better serve pedestrians, drivers, and transit-riders in the area, while other stops are moved to improve traffic flow at certain congested intersections, notably Alcatraz and Telegraph. Oakland staff also intends to propose an intermediate "Rapid Bus Plus" alternative, which would include some BRT features, but not dedicated bus lanes.

The Oakland Planning Commission will hear about BRT and the City's proposed alternatives in a director's report at its February 3 meeting, followed by a full public hearing on February 17 (<http://www.oaklandnet.com/>

government/CEDA/revise/planningzoning/commission/docs/021710\_Planning-Commission-Agenda.pdf. Confirm meeting and time: 510/238-3941). The Planning Commission's recommendations will then go to the City Council's public works committee on March 23, and finally to the full City Council for a public hearing and council vote on April 6.

More details of AC Transit's BRT proposal can be found on the AC Transit website at: [http://www.actransit.org/planning\\_focus/brt/](http://www.actransit.org/planning_focus/brt/), while preliminary plans for Oakland's preferred local alternative can be viewed at: [http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/ceda/dcsd\\_ts\\_brt.asp](http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/ceda/dcsd_ts_brt.asp).

AC hopes to begin construction of BRT in 2012 or 2013, but many "decision points" remain, as do opportunities for public comment. Concerned Rockridge residents can share their concerns through RCPC via letter to RCPC, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618, or by e-mail to [andrew@rockridge.org](mailto:andrew@rockridge.org), or by attending the next meeting of RCPC's Transportation Committee. See box, page 2, for details.

Join the committee's Yahoo! group at [RCPC\\_Traffic\\_Pedestrian\\_and\\_Bicycle\\_Safety\\_Committee](http://RCPC_Traffic_Pedestrian_and_Bicycle_Safety_Committee) to stay up to date on transportation committee news.



people to replace him. If you like to walk, and live on or near Keith Avenue or Ocean View, please let us know if you would like to pick up route 10D or 09H. Call Susan at 547-3855 or email her at [smontauk@gmail.com](mailto:smontauk@gmail.com) to volunteer.

- 10D Even numbers along College from 5620 (Eve's Hunan), up Ocean View even numbers to 5656 OceanView, across street to 5659 Ocean View odd numbers and then along College to 5540 College
- 09H Up Keith from McMillan to 5925 Broadway.



**piedmont dental** BY DESIGN  
Dale Herrero, DDS & Jill Martenson, DDS

IMPLANT, AESTHETIC & FAMILY DENTISTRY



"Hi! Jenner and Erin here with mommy and daddy reminding you to take good care of your teeth!"

**New Patient Special : \$149**  
CALL TODAY!

INCLUDES A COMPLETE COMPREHENSIVE EXAM,  
FULL MOUTH DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHS &  
A SMILE EVALUATION.

Dr. Jill Martenson : Rockridge neighbor since 1999

1331 GRAND AVENUE, PIEDMONT, CA 94610 T 510 652 2911  
[piedmontdentalbydesign.com](http://piedmontdentalbydesign.com)

a  
\$300  
value!

**The GRUBB Co.**  
REALTORS



The Right Agent Communicates Well!

[piedmontperspective.com](http://piedmontperspective.com)

**Julie Gardner**  
510.339.0400/264  
[jgardner@grubbco.com](mailto:jgardner@grubbco.com)  
GRUBBCO.COM





# City's Parks Need You

by Susan Montauk, chair,  
Oakland Parks Coalition (OPC)

We're sure it is not news to you that Oakland is in a financial bind, facing extraordinary deficits in 2010 and 2011 and scrounging for ways to cut the budget or raise revenues that do not irreparably harm the quality of life for its residents. A tall order!

It thus becomes crucial that those who can help out do. OPC has always focused on park volunteerism as a way to build community around parks but now it is more important than ever. We are proud to say that 67 Oaklanders have signed the OPC Stewardship Pledge, promising to monitor and care for their parks and, thanks to those volunteers and scores of others, our parks may weather the storm.

If you have thought about volunteering in a particular park, please contact us via oaklandparkscoalition@gmail.com. We can connect you with people who are already active; or, you can rescue a park that has no steward. Just visit our Web site (address below) and go to the page marked Stewardship to find a list of parks, by districts, that do not have OPC stewards. Choose one and contact us to get you started.

OPC meetings are open to the public. They generally occur on the 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:30 a.m. at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, phone 510/238-3208.

Contact us via e-mail at oaklandparkscoalition@gmail.com if you wish to attend our next meeting.

Visit our Web site, www.oaklandparkscoalition.org, for more information and to learn about ways to help.

# Hotline Established to Report Fraud, Waste and Abuse

by Oakland City Auditor Courtney Ruby

Last year, the office of the City Auditor launched the Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Prevention Program (FW+A) to help residents and employees report suspected misuse of City resources. As part of this program, a hotline has been launched to provide a safe, confidential, and most importantly, reliable method to report suspected fraud, waste, and abuse.

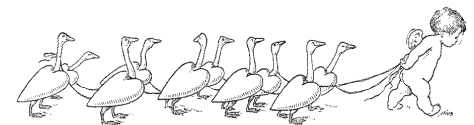


**City Auditor Courtney Ruby**

If you have knowledge of fraud, waste, and abuse in Rockridge — or anywhere in Oakland — we want to know. Only by having a collaborative relationship with dedicated employees, concerned citizens, and accountable leadership can Oakland ensure transparency, accountability, and integrity in its government.

To learn more about the FW+A and the hotline or to provide a tip via the Web, visit the the City Auditor's Web site: www.oaklandcityauditor.com.

To report suspected fraud, waste or abuse, call toll-free: 888/239-6390.



**Upgrade Your Office View...**

Learn to fly with one of East Bay's most qualified flight instructors at an FAA approved flight school 20 mins from Rockridge

**\$99 Discovery Flight**

http://flymatt.com ☎ (415) 412 9011

**My neighborhood gym!**

"After working out here for years, I bought the place! Check out our new equipment & classes. Bring in this ad & get a \*FREE WORKOUT\*"

- Lisa Gartland, gym owner

**Inside Outside Fitness** \* New members only \*

(510) 655-8308  
4444 Piedmont Ave  
Oakland, CA 94611  
www.InsideOutsideFitness.com

**THE 40-DAY CHALLENGE**

co-led by Pete Guinosso & Michelle Cordero

**Saturday, February 27 - Sunday, April 11**

Radically transform your body and awaken the sacred within during a supported 40-day program of yoga, meditation and balancing diet.

"Be the change you wish to see in the world" -Gandhi

**namaste**  
yoga in rockridge

www.namasterockridge.com  
5416 College Avenue (near Rockridge library)

Realtor® Specializing in Rockridge

**Saraya P. Motley**  
510-280-2162

**ROCKRIDGE SALES JUMPING SO FAR THIS NEW YEAR**

Closing Date	BR	Bth	Address	LP	DOM	SP	Original Price
12/23/2009	2	2.5	5940 Chabot Road	\$749,000	7	\$783,000	\$749,000
12/31/2009	1	2	5405 Carlton Street	\$475,000	28	\$465,000	\$525,000
1/5/2010	3	1/2	5835 Ocean View Drive	\$799,000	4	\$780,000	\$799,000
1/8/2010	3	1	332 62nd Street	\$689,000	9	\$757,000	\$689,000
1/15/2010	3	2	6015 Hillgass Avenue	\$825,000	57	\$779,000	\$855,000
1/15/2010	1	1	5343 Broadway Terrace	\$345,000	50	\$335,000	\$359,000
1/20/2010	3	1.5	5876 Ocean View Drive	\$699,000	3	\$725,000	\$699,000

\* 42% of the properties sold in the last 30 days sold for over the original list price  
 \* The average market time in Rockridge has increased by just 13%  
 \* The average List to Sell price was 99% in the last 30 days, last year at this time it was only 82%  
 \* A year ago this time, only 1 property had sold in Rockridge, this year 7 have sold  
 \* There is currently less than a 2 week supply of inventory in Rockridge

Visit my website at [www.eastbayhouse.com](http://www.eastbayhouse.com)!

If you're thinking of buying or selling, give me a call for a free consultation.

## BID Changes

from page 2

non-assessed business owners in the BID to participate in voting for a new board. After by-law revisions in 2007, the delegates were eliminated and the board directly selected and voted for its own members.

Perhaps as a consequence of this "closed" election process, several current RDA board members have served for extended periods. The Rockridge BID is just beginning its 10th year; three members have been on the board the entire ten years, and all but one of the others have served four years or more.

It remains to be seen whether this longevity will continue with the more open election process proposed by Brunner.

### No Members, No Vote

The RDA by-laws specify that the organization has no members, and that any rights "members" might have in the organization belong exclusively to the board. This includes the right to vote for the board. As written, the proposed changes still might not grant voting and nomination rights to anyone outside the board unless the by-law revisions specify "assessed business owners" instead of the proposed wording "members."

### Financial Statements

The RDA contract with the City of Oakland currently requires that "a full disclosure financial statement" be submitted for each calendar year within 90 days of December 31, and be available for public inspection. It is unclear if RDA Treasurer, Hank Levy, himself a CPA, or a member of his firm, is eligible to meet the requirement in Brunner's memo to the CED committee.

The addition of online financial reports will allow all assessed business owners easy access to see how their money is spent. This has been an issue of major concern raised in letters to the CED committee.

The right of an assessee or his/her designated agent to review the RDA financials on an individual basis has always existed, but in a recent example, it took two months, from early November to mid-January, for the requested information to be provided.

### Notification Changes

The RDA has an annual obligation to provide a formal notification of renewal to assessees. This notice explains that the assessees have the right to protest the assessment district and to disband it, following a specific course of action. Previous notices, however, failed to indicate where to send protests. While there have apparently been past protests submitted, there are none on file with the City, presumably because they weren't sent to the right place.

The new requirement on annual notification clarifies that such protests should go to an address at the City of Oakland, not to the RDA. The protests would then become public information.

## LOOKING FOR DIRECTION IN THIS VOLATILE MARKET? LET'S TALK.

Lan J Shaw  
Financial Advisor

2161 Allston Way Suite A  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
510-704-8854

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



After 25 years of preparing authentic Japanese cuisine for exceptional restaurants such as Kiku of Tokyo, Mikaku San Francisco, Kirala, and We Be Sushi, Chef **Tatsuya Koyake** decides to have his own space to share his passion for cooking. Come join him for a taste of Japan.

Address: 5335 College Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618  
TEL: 510 595 7388

Authentic Japanese Cuisine  
JAPANESE RESTAURANT

## In and Around Rockridge, There's Only One #1 Find Out Why!

### Homes SOLD in 2009 by Ron Kriss



List Price \$695,000  
Sale Price \$745,000  
www.331-63rdSt.com  
**SOLD**



List Price \$1,195,00  
Sale Price \$1,200,000  
www.5677OceanView.com  
**SOLD**



List Price \$739,000  
Sale Price \$742,500  
www.331Clifton.com  
**SOLD**



List Price \$839,000  
Sale Price \$840,000  
www.5906Colby.com  
**SOLD**



List Price \$519,000  
Sale Price \$514,000  
www.367-49thStreet.com  
**SOLD**



List Price \$1,160,000  
Sale Price \$1,160,000  
www.2902Hillegass.com  
**SOLD**



List Price \$750,000  
Sale Price \$720,000  
www.492-58thSt.com  
**SOLD**



List Price \$1,395,000  
Sale Price \$1,300,000  
www.3040Benvenue.com  
**SOLD**



List Price \$869,000  
Sale Price \$902,000  
www.5241Manila.com  
**SOLD**



List Price \$784,000  
Sale Price \$755,000  
www.5247Locksley.com  
**SOLD**



List Price \$719,000  
Sale Price \$724,500  
www.5616Kales.com  
**SOLD**




List Price \$899,000  
Sale Price \$855,000  
www.5336Locksley.com  
**SOLD**



**Ron Kriss, Broker**  
510-547-5970 Ext. 55

**Lawton Associates**  
ronkriss@jps.net



GRUBBCO.COM

510.652.2133  
3070 Claremont Avenue • Berkeley

510.339.0400  
1960 Mountain Boulevard • Oakland



# Ambience. In Rockridge?

**Ambience:** atmosphere; a particular environment or surrounding influence; the feeling or mood evoked by an environment.

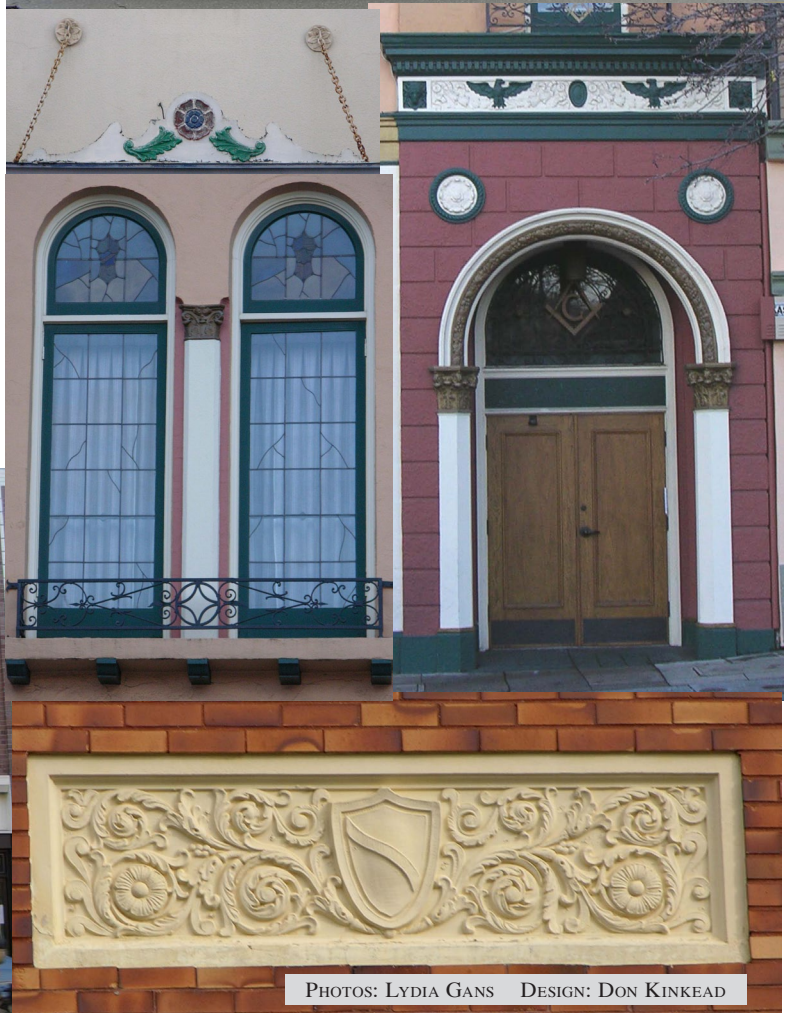
Has someone told you lately how much they enjoy Rockridge's *ambience*? Were they talking about the restaurants? The bookstores? The coffee shops? Market Hall? Surely they were. And did they mention the unique shops, the lively watering holes, the good humor of other pedestrians? Of course.

Perhaps without realizing it, they were also talking about "the mood evoked by an environment," a part of the very definition of ambience. In these views of College Avenue buildings, photographer Lydia Gans shows us some of the wealth of architectural embellishments that evoke that part of Rockridge's ambience.

But one person's ambience can be another's opportunity, which can sometimes lead to unnerving change. In the wrong hands, the result can be outsized, slab-sided, featureless buildings heralded as worthy additions to our otherwise pleasing ambience. They are not!

Change will come; we must continue to demand that change be channeled into coherence with the existing evoked mood of Rockridge. Rockridge must be enhanced by change, not eroded by mediocrity.

— Don Kinkead, Editor



PHOTOS: LYDIA GANS DESIGN: DON KINKEAD



**BEYOND *the* PALE**  
 COLOR AND INTERIOR CONSULTATION

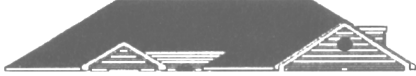
JODY STEVENS  
 w. 510.595.1587 m. 510.681.6035

**Curves**  
 Rockridge®

Located on Market Hall's Lower Level  
 Entry on Shafter Avenue  
**510-655-8808**

Open 7 Days [www.curvesrockridge.com](http://www.curvesrockridge.com)  
 Mon- Fri 6:00 -7:30 Free Parking!  
 Sat & Sun 8:00 - Noon Across from BART

**COLLINS ROOFING**  
 Family Owned & Operated



**482-2227 Seamus**  
[www.collinsroofing.com](http://www.collinsroofing.com)  
 Quality Work • Free Estimates  
 Lic # 695711



# RN Classifieds

## Your Message Could Be Here

Your 36-word message is \$22. (Phone number counts as one word). Mail to: **RN Classifieds**, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618. *March deadline is February 18.* For information: smontauk@gmail.com

## Home Repair Expert

Carpentry, remodeling. Doors and windows, glass and locks, small electrical, plumbing jobs, drywall, painting, fences, decks and other odd jobs. Good rates. Rick 510/761-7168.

## High Quality Gardening

Skilled maintenance, clean-ups, aesthetic pruning, irrigation, design and installations. Ecologically-minded since 1995 in the East Bay. Personal attention, local refs, free estimates. Green's Gardens. 510/593-3490.

## Stimulus Package, Penelope's Aesthetics

Professional Skin Care offering a full custom facial with massage and eyebrow wax for \$44. Gift certificates available. www.penelopeca-lef.com 510/594-1552.

## Repairs

Carpentry, electrical, kitchen, bath, decks, fences, drainage, tile, windows, walls, dry rot, termite damage, foundation. Lic# 458473. Don 510/812-0310.

## Non-Toxic House Cleaning

Lotus Cleaning Services provides excellent service while protecting your health and the planet. Licensed, bonded and insured. Experienced, reliable cleaners. Great for households with allergies, asthma, small children. Reasonable rates. 510/452-0755, lotusclean@comcast.net

## \$1699, 3/I BR

3242 Linden St., Oakland. In 4-plex, close to BART, JLS, shopping and more. \$1699 deposit. \$42 application fee. Open house Feb. 15, 3-5 pm. Contact M. Parker at 510/879-7217.

## Aesthetic Pruning.

I specialize in pruning trees & shrubs under 20 feet tall. I work with trees to enhance their natural beauty. Specialties: maples, camellias, fruit trees, & focal points. Pruning instructor Merritt College. Bruce Thompson 510/428-4964.

## Electrical Repairs & Remodels

From doorbell repair to whole-house rewiring, we've been doing electrical work in Oakland and Berkeley for over 30 years. Sutorik & Company, www.sutorikandco.com, lic#397149. 510/655-3677.

## Rockridge Bungalow Vacation Rental.

Fully outfitted with style! Best location. Steps to College Avenue shopping, restaurants & cafes. Home away from home. www.rockridgebungalow.com

## Design, Construction

Victorian, Edwardian, and Craftsman rehabs. Interior, exterior, big, small. Many local references. Lic. #813074, insured. See www.catconstruction.biz Craig 510/232-5978.

## Reduced Commissions!

Why pay 6% to sell your home when Hal Feiger with Realty Advocates offers the same full service as other companies for 4%? Call me today. 510/428-0757 or check us out on the web. www.realtyadvocates.com

## 8 Weeks to Look & Feel Your Absolute Best

Enhance your fitness or weight loss program just in time for the holidays! Classes-Tuesdays/Thursdays, 6-7 pm at Danspace, 473 Hudson St. Visit: www.fit4livingnow.com E-mail Geneva@fit4livingnow.com. Call 510/918-7108.

## Sitcom Furniture Outlet

Visit furniture designer and manufacturer Sitcom's outlet in Oakland featuring affordable high quality, contemporary designs on super discount. Store hours are M,T,W,Th, Sat 10am-5pm and Fridays from 10am-4pm. 850 42nd Avenue, Oakland. www.sitcomfurnitureoutlet.com

## Therapist's Office

\$600, utilities included. Sunny and light, new paint and carpet, lobby buzzer system. Located at corner of Claremont (#6097) and College. For info or to see, contact Mike Mee. 707/785-3999. meemike@yahoo.com

## Have Baby Boomers Given Up?

Do you know Baby Boomers who have given up on love? What I do is get them out of the house and into a satisfying and meaningful relationship. 15-20 minutes free consultation. Barbara. 510/917-0299.

## Spectacular Service Housekeeping

We provide excellent housecleaning services with the greatest attention to detail. Let us create free time for you. Call today! FREE ESTIMATE Ask for Olivia. 510/228-5704.

## Record your Music in Rockridge

Comfortable music production studio. Experienced Producer/Engineer/Multi-instrumentalist. Vintage and modern gear. Professional, affordable rates. Contact Ben Bernstein for more information. 415/531-4671. www.benbernsteinmusic.com

## Quality Tutoring with a Conscience

Achieve learning. Local non-profit founded by UC Berkeley professor Dr. Sanchez offers: exceptional quality, convenience, and rates starting at \$15/hour. CALL 510/903-2224 or visit us at www.achievelearning.org today

## Gardener

Over 15 years of service to the Rockridge area. Maintenance and garden restoration. Reasonable rates and excellent references. Please call Chris: 510/655-0157.



**Norman H. Burg, DDS**  
**General Dentistry**  
 (510) 652-1517  
 5700 Broadway, Oakland  
 A Prevention Oriented Practice

  
**REALTY ADVOCATES**  
 23 Years in Rockridge  
**Highest Sales Prices + Lowest Commissions**  
 (510) 428-0757  
 realtyadvocates.com

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

## Council President Brunner's Community Advisory Meeting

Saturday Feb. 20, 10am to noon. Peralta Elementary School: 460 63rd St. (parking on Alcatraz, east of Telegraph). **Meeting topic: Oakland's Energy and Climate Action Plan.** Info: 238-7001, or view Brunner Report at [www.oaklandnet.com](http://www.oaklandnet.com) (the site for all City-related information).

## Community Workshop

School Board Director Jody London invites you to discuss **Parent Empowerment: Building Mutually Satisfying Home-School Partnerships.** Sat., 2/27, 9am to 12pm, Emerson Elem. School, 4803 Lawton Ave. Refreshments and childcare provided. For more info and to RSVP: Jody.London@ousd.k12.ca.us or 459-0667. See Article page 9.

## Neighborhood 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, 2nd Thursday each month, 7pm. Rockridge Library, upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Ave. [info@rockridgencpc.com](mailto:info@rockridgencpc.com) or [inforfordenise@yahoo.com](mailto:inforfordenise@yahoo.com).

## Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

### FOR CHILDREN:

- Toddler Story Time: Every Saturday, 10:30am.
- Pre-School Story Time: 1st and 3rd Wed., 10:30am.
- Baby and Toddler Story Time: 1st and 3rd Wed., 10:30am, upstairs.
- Pajama Time (stories and crafts): 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm. Kids invited to come in pajamas.
  - African American Folktales: with coloring fun. 2/9, 7pm.
  - Tigers for the Chinese New Year: making a dodecahedron ball with zodiac animals. 2/23, 7pm.

**Special Event: Shadow Puppet Workshop with Cheryl Perko** from the Oakland Museum. Celebrate the Chinese New Year with a story and shadow puppet play, then learn to make your own shadow puppet. All ages welcome. Kids under 8 please bring an adult. Saturday, 2/13, 2 to 3pm.

### FOR TEENS:

- **Rockridge Ninjas (Anime Club): Teens 13 and up,** watch and talk about anime (Japanese animation). Second Tues. each month, 5 to 6:30pm, upstairs meeting rm. Susy: 597-5017.

### FOR ADULTS

- **Writers' Support/Critique Group:** All writers welcome. Bring 15 copies of up to 5 double-spaced pages of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (you're also welcome to come empty-handed). Meets 3rd Saturday each month, 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](mailto:Writefox@aol.com).
- **Lawyers in the Library:** Free legal advice. First Tuesday each month from 6 to 8pm (call to confirm). Advance sign-up starts 5pm. More info: 597-5017.

ART EXHIBITS: (Call 597-5017 to get details).

Gallery:

- Feb.: **Richard Vannucci** photographs.

**Lobby Display Case:**

- TBA (Call for info).

### LIBRARY HOURS

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.

Wed., Thurs. and Sat. 10am to 5:30pm.

Fri., 12 to 5:30pm. **Closed Sundays and Mondays (Library branches no longer open on Mondays). Also closed: Fri. 2/12, Mon. 2/15 and Tues. 2/16.**

## Diesel Book/Poetry and Events

All events are FREE and open to the public.

- Mon., 2/8 (and 3/8), 7pm. **Amnesty International Meeting:** All invited to exchange ideas on action.
- Tues., 2/16, 7pm. **Rachel Venning:** *Moregasm: Babeland's Guide to Mind-Blowing Sex.*
- Thurs., 2/18, 7pm. **Greil Marcus:** *A New Literary History of America.*
- Sun., 2/21, 3pm. **Poetry Flash with Molly Bendall, Gail Wronsky and Karen Kevorkian.**
- Thurs., 2/25, 7pm. **Zachary Mason:** *The Lost Books of the Odyssey.*
- Thurs., 3/4, 7pm. **Kathleen Norris:** *Acedia and Me.*
- Sun., 3/7, 3pm. Local authors **Kyle Kurpinski** and **Terry D. Johnson:** *How to Defeat Your Own Clone.*
- Wed., 3/10, 7pm. **Mary Gaitskill:** *Don't Cry.*

DIESEL, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave. Info about other events and book discussion groups: 653-9965 or [events@dieselbookstore.com](mailto:events@dieselbookstore.com).

## Wisteria Ways House Concert Series

**Cindy Kallet and Grey Larsen:** Acoustic Folk Duo performing original songs and traditional and contemporary music from around the world on a variety of instruments, including guitar, Irish flutes and whistles, fiddles, harmoniums and more. Sunday, 2/14 (Valentine's Day), 3pm (house opens 2:30pm). \$15-20 donation for musicians (cash only at the door). 383 61st Street (inside venue, not wheelchair accessible). For reservations (highly recommended), RSVP to [info@WisteriaWays.org](mailto:info@WisteriaWays.org) or 655-2771.

## Singers Wanted

**The Distaff Singers,** the Bay Area's longest-running women's choral group, is seeking new members. No auditions necessary, just ability to match pitch. Practice Tuesdays, 7:15 to 9pm at Bishop O'Dowd HS, 9500 Stearns Ave. A benefit concert in the fall supports local K-12 music programs. Info: Carola Ingram, 547-1191 or [carolaingram@mac.com](mailto:carolaingram@mac.com).

## Christensen Heller Gallery

Exhibit of paintings by **Kim Bach.** Show runs through Mar.28. Gallery hrs: Wed-Sat., 11am to 6pm; Sun. noon to 5pm. 5829 College Ave. Info: 655-5952, [baird@christensenheller.com](mailto:baird@christensenheller.com) or [www.christensenheller.com](http://www.christensenheller.com).

## Calif. College Of The Arts (CCA)

5212 Broadway (near College Avenue). **Events are free and open to the public.**

- **A Paper + Cloth Dream Exhibition:** print works on paper and cloth by students at CCA and its sister school, Osaka Univ. of Arts in Japan. Feb. 8-19. Hrs: Mon. - Fri. 8:30am to noon and 1 - 4:30pm (closed

Wed. morning). Reception: Thurs. 2/18, 5:30 - 7:30pm. Oliver Art Center. Info: [nobanion@cca.edu](mailto:nobanion@cca.edu).

- **Lecture by Donna Billick,** sculptor of fantastical and whimsical forms (e.g. the cow fountain and dancing pigs in Davis, CA), Feb 9, 6pm. At Treadwell Ceramics Art Center. Presented as part of CCA's Ceramics Lecture Series. Info: 594-3617.
- **Reading by poet Joseph Lease:** Feb. 16, 7:30pm in Nahl Hall. Presented as part of CCA's Hearsay Reading Series. Info: 597-3708 or [humblepie@cca.edu](mailto:humblepie@cca.edu).
- **Reading by Cooley Windsor** from his latest fiction collection, *Visit me in California.* Mar 9, 7:30pm on Nahl Hall. Presented as part of CCA's Hearsay Reading Series. Info: 597-3708 or [humblepie@cca.edu](mailto:humblepie@cca.edu).

## Wanted: Rockridge Artists and Art Enthusiasts

- **The deadline to register for Pro Arts East Bay Open Studios is Saturday, Feb 20.** The event dates are Sat. and Sun. 6/5 and 6/6 and 6/12 and 6/13. Get more information and register online now at [www.proartsgallery.org](http://www.proartsgallery.org).
- **Volunteer Opportunities at Pro Arts:** Be part of an extraordinary team. Pro Arts provides critical access to contemporary art in Oakland and the East Bay through its independent curated exhibitions, artist services, open studios and juried programs. We are currently looking for Curatorial interns, Publicity interns, Publicity/Communications Manager, East Bay Open Studios Committee Members, and Strategic Planning Partners. Email Vicky Chen, Gallery Administrative Coordinator for details, [info@proartsgallery.org](mailto:info@proartsgallery.org) or check online: [www.proartsgallery.org/proarts/intern.php](http://www.proartsgallery.org/proarts/intern.php).

## Donate Your Party Dresses to the Princess Project

Clean out your closets of new and nearly-new fashionable dresses, formal gowns, party dresses and cocktail dresses (all lengths, sizes, fabrics and colors) and make a young girl's dream come true. The Princess Project provides free prom dresses and accessories to high school girls who could not otherwise afford to go to the prom. The 2010 collection drive is between February 8-19. In Rockridge, dresses will be collected (clean and on hangers) at Tootsies, 5525 College Ave. To find other drop-off sites and to learn more about the Princess Project, visit [www.princessproject.org](http://www.princessproject.org).

## North Oakland Senior Center

**Program Highlights:** Computer classes; health insurance counseling and advocacy program; exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Groups and more.

Hrs: Mon. - Fri., 8:45am to 4:45pm. 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Subscribe to "The North Oakland Senior Times," for a full schedule of classes/events and monthly lunch menu (\$2.25 to \$4.). Info about events, membership, and opportunities to become a volunteer: 597-5085.

## American Red Cross

- **Mobile Blood Drives: During Feb., there will be 4 weekly drawings for "Movies for a Year." Each winner will receive 12 pairs of movie tickets.** (not available at high school or college blood drives). Call 800/GIVE-LIFE (800/448-3543) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to find a location near you.

- **Volunteer Orientations:** 2/9, 2/17 and 2/23. Tour the Oakland Blood Center. Learn to assist blood donors, deliver blood, help with special projects. 6230 Claremont Avenue (across from College Ave. Safeway). To get training schedules and to sign up call Anne at 594-5165 or [BlackstoneA@usa.redcross.org](mailto:BlackstoneA@usa.redcross.org).

**elizabeth**  
The art of hair design

5431 College Ave Oakland Ca 94618  
510.652.5431  
www.elizabethh.net

Eco-friendly salon  
Experienced Stylists  
Organic & Sustainable products



With over 300 homes sold –  
Experience Counts

**Is there a move in your future?**

Talk to me about featuring your home  
For Sale in this ad space as well as other  
creative marketing ideas

**Terry Kulka 510/339-4789**

terrykulka@att.net

http://www.terrykulka.com



**aboutface&body**

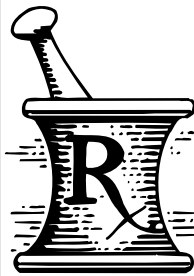
dayspa oaklandberkeley  
serving you since 1981

Specialists in  
Brazilian waxing

3190 college avenue  
at alcatraz  
berkeley, ca 94705

p 510.428.2600  
www.aboutfaceandbody.net

sun-tues 10:30-5:30  
wed-sat 10:30-8:00



Mon – Fri 9:30 – 6:00  
Sat 9:30 – 5:00

**CHIMES  
PHARMACY**

Serving Rockridge Since 1909  
3210 College Avenue  
Near Alcatraz  
652-1990

**ASHBY LUMBER**  
HARDWARE & BUILDING SUPPLIES

**Sustainable Living  
Starts at Home**



**Sustainable Building  
Starts at Ashby Lumber**

**Looking for a Contractor?**

Visit our Contractor Directory  
at ashbylumber.com

824 Ashby Avenue · Berkeley  
Ph: 510.843.4832 Fax: 510.843.3840

**OMNI**  
PAINTING & WATERPROOFING Inc.

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

INTERIOR-EXTERIOR LEAD  
CERTIFIED PAINTERS

Professional preparation. Many local  
references. All work Guaranteed.

(510) 654-3339

Wonderful, ongoing,  
weekday classes for  
babies or toddlers

**KINDERGYM**  
A Movement Program for ALL Families

Drop-ins or sign ups  
for ALL families: songs,  
slides, tunnels, parachute play,  
bubbles, a fab ball pit, rocking  
horses & more!

For 9 months up to 3 years with an adult  
Dawn Margolin | 510.547.7726

Temple Beth Abraham  
327 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland  
(near the Grand Lake Theatre)

www.tbaoakland.org/kindergym

**KEVIN BROWN**

**Broker**

654-8707 or 593-4780

**PROVIDING**

Professional,  
Full Service  
Real Estate Brokerage  
To Rockridge Clients  
For Over 29 Years.

**SPECIALIZING IN**

- ❖ Residential Sales
- ❖ Income Property
- ❖ Commercial
- ❖ Property Management



**Better Homes  
Realty**

5353 College Avenue  
Oakland

**Flush with  
Confidence**



License #754966

**BETTER LIVING**  
through Modern Plumbing  
**(510) 465-3000**

www.pipespy.com



**ELITE** | trade alliance

www.elitetradealliance.com

Mention Elite Trade Alliance (code ETA-RN)  
for your preferred 10% off rate and  
priority scheduling!

Painting & Electrical  
Wooden Doors & Windows  
Plumbing & Hydronics  
Custom Wood Products