

THE Rockridge News

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CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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Planning Commission Approves Creekside Project After Changes

by *Stuart Flashman, Chair, RCPC Land Use Committee*

Despite opposition from the Rockridge Community Planning Council and STAND (Standing Together for Accountable Neighborhood Development), the Oakland Planning Commission voted 5-0 to approve

the 102 unit Creekside Mixed-use Project. This project, slated for the former site of the Global Video store at the intersection of Telegraph and Claremont Avenues, has been “in the pipeline” for nearly two years.

▶ Creekside Approval, page 4

Caldecott Project Lawsuit Now in Judge’s Hands for January Decision

by *Stuart Flashman, attorney for the Fourth Bore Coalition*

After two three-and-a-half hour sessions of oral argument, the Fourth Bore Coalition’s lawsuit challenging Caltrans’ Caldecott Improvement Project has been submitted to Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch for a decision. With almost 90 pages of briefing and more than 32,000 pages of administrative documents to read through, that decision could be a while in coming.

The Fourth Bore Coalition (FBC) includes the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) as well as the FROG Park Committee, East Bay Bicycle Coalition, and several other Oakland/Berkeley community groups. FBC sued Caltrans over its decision, made over a year ago, to add a fourth bore, or tunnel, to the Caldecott Tunnel connecting Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The suit is not about whether

▶ Fourth Bore Suit, page 5

Rockridge Montessori School Expansion Plans Gall Neighbors



Rockridge Montessori School expansion plans worry neighbors about added traffic and the character of the neighborhood. PHOTO: DON KINKEAD

by *Colby Lavin, RCPC board member*

Good care for pre-kindergarten-aged children is hard to find. Many places in Oakland, particularly the Rockridge area, have waits of six months to a year. Within this childcare problem lie other problems: where should people open new childcare facilities and what kind of impact on the local neighborhood is acceptable?

Rockridge Montessori School (RMS) believes they have a partial answer to the childcare shortage and is proposing to convert a home at 5616 Broadway to expand their program by 50-60 children.

▶ Montessori Expansion, page 13

REPORT: November RCPC-NCPC Meeting

- City Attorney John Russo
- Planning and Zoning Updates
- NCPC-OPD Crime Review



Oakland City Attorney John Russo fights quality of life crimes. Russo spoke at the November NCPC-RCPC Town Hall Meeting. PHOTO: DON KINKEAD

John Russo: Less Grime and Better Government

by *Don Kinkead*

So, how’s that pesky Job Jar list coming along? Are you freshening up the house paint? Keeping the yard tidy? Sweeping up after trash pick-up day?

According to a Danish study published in *Science Magazine* and reported recently in the SF Chronicle, “trespassing and minor stealing all increased when people saw

▶ RCPC-NCPC Meeting, page 8

RCPC Town Hall Meeting
NO MEETING
December 2008



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.

SAFeway STAKEHOLDER PROCESS SUBVERTS TRUE COMMUNITY INPUT

EDITOR:

I have been concerned from the outset by the Safeway-organized "Stakeholders" committee. I have worked as a business attorney for 40 years, often seeing this co-opting approach used by the big, well-funded organizations like Safeway, or some other interest group, to build a case that they have "worked with and listened to" the affected groups and given "serious consideration to all of the concerns" of those groups. The problem is that they only pretend to listen, then go on with their predetermined program. Meanwhile, when the project is presented through the approval process, they say that they have "worked with" the neighbors, and feel their project has accommodated the major concerns that were worked through with the "representatives," etc.

What happens is that the neighborhood remains unorganized because it assumes the representatives are handling the matter for them, which in good faith they are attempting to do. But in reality, it is just a part of the program for the sponsor, in this case

Safeway, to say they have done everything they could to address neighbors' concerns, even though they eventually don't change anything of substance. This can put us in an extremely bad position later on when we go before the hearings and say the Safeway plan for a monstrosity is not at all what the overwhelming majority of neighbors and other community members want or ever would have agreed to.

I would like to think I am wrong about this, but years of bad experiences tell me that this is a very significant risk to our real goals if the Safeway-organized "Stakeholders" approach supplants a real Neighborhood-organized program. If Safeway does not in the very near future agree in a formal, written statement that they will not pursue a store significantly larger than the existing structure, I would hope the "Stakeholder Representatives" would withdraw from the process on the grounds that Safeway is not proceeding in good faith.

— Gerald V. Niesar

➤ **More on Safeway, page 5.**

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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.

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- 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

➤ **January 3, 2009!**

➤ **January deadline is December 18.**

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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City funding for the Rockridge Branch Library may be reduced in the coming budget year. Neighborhood help is sought to help maintain the branch.



City Library Support Likely to Fade; Friends Group Calls For Donations

Dear Friend of the Rockridge Library:

It will come as no surprise to you that this year our library's allocation from the City of Oakland is expected to be even smaller than last year's. It falls to the Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL), like you and me, to help keep our library current

and looking great.

During 2008, FORL again paid for many in-demand subscriptions, from the daily *New York Times* to the *Value Line* financial report, to *Art in America*, and a dozen others. We also continue to help replenish the hard-used children's collection and to

purchase DVDs and audio books.

In addition, we've had to spend our resources to refinish and repair most of the library's 10-year-old and well-used solid maple tables and chairs; you'll notice that most of them are now graffiti-free and looking like new.

The City can no longer give our beautiful wisteria and surrounding plantings the attention they need, so responsibility for some of this also falls to the Friends.

We very much hope that you will continue to help maintain the quality of our wonderful Rockridge branch library by sending now your once-a-year tax-deductible donation. Please use the coupon below to assure credit for your donation.

With heartfelt thanks,

Carol Bieri Karen Carlson
FORL Co-Chairs

How FORL Helps

A Tale of Two Bookcases

by David Brown, FORL member

Even those of us who are not the most avid readers can find ourselves surrounded by piles of books; books that need to be stored somewhere. Imagine having a whole library of books that not only need to be stored but need to be accessed at the drop of a hat.

Storing the collection of books at the Rockridge library has become a pressing burden to the already busy librarians. Gay Ducey and Erica Siskind found that their precious collection of books, used for the branch's popular story time sessions, lived in precarious piles on a book truck. As a stopgap measure, Ms. Siskind provided a pasteboard bookcase she brought from home until something better could be found.

Something better did not arrive in time. Strained and weakened beyond endurance by too many must-have books, the pasteboard bookcase imploded and books scattered onto the floor.

Fortunately, at this point the Friends of the Oakland Rockridge Library (FORL) stepped in and purchased a bookcase to house those story time books. And since branch manager Pat Lichter desperately needed more storage, FORL decided to purchase another

Your Donation Will Help FORL Help the Branch Library

DONATION COUPON

Friends Of the Rockridge Library (FORL)

Please return this coupon with your donation to:
FORL, 5245 College Avenue, #335, Oakland 94618) or drop it off at the library.

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Milton: Campaigned for Freedom of Publication, a Cornerstone of Libraries

For books are not absolutely dead things, but do contain a potency of life in them to be as active as that soul whose progeny they are; nay, they do preserve as in a vial the purest efficacy and extraction of that living intellect that bred them. — John Milton

This month marks the quadricentenary of the poet John Milton, born December 9, 1608, in the house at the sign of the Spread Eagle, Bread Street, London. Milton was remarkable not only as a writer, but

for the manner in which he joined the fray on public issues of the day, including the divorce laws, which he thought should be liberalized, and the advance licensing of publications, which he vigorously opposed.

"Truth and understanding are not such wares as to be monopolized and traded in by tickets and statutes and standards. We must not think to make a staple commodity of all the knowledge in the land, to mark and licence it like our broadcloth and our woolpacks."

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 www.oaklandnet.com.

5867 BIRCH COURT

Proposal: To legalize a 297 s.f. secondary unit constructed above an existing detached garage located in the rear yard of a lot containing a single-family dwelling. (the project converts a legally conforming accessory structure into a nonconforming residential structure)

Contact: Abron Yates, Jr., 510/482-1425

Owner: Eugenia Escobar

Case File Number: DV08-268

Planning Permits Required: Regular Design Review to legalize a secondary unit

Minor Variances to legalize a structure containing habitable space with a rear yard of 3'-3" where 15 feet is required and a right side yard of 1'-8" where 5 feet is required

Zoning: R-35 Special Residential Zone

Environmental Determination: Exempt, Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines

Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property (PDHP)

City Contact: Ann M. Clevenger, Planner III, 510/238-6980 or aclevenger@oaklandnet.com

Rockridge News District Captain Needed

An Opportunity for Community Service



If you have a half hour to spare monthly and would like to dedicate it to a community service, The Rockridge News would love to have you join its family of distributors.

In fact, District Captain Route #07 is available now. Newsletter bundles would be delivered to your doorstep the first weekend of each month. Your job would be to deliver them to nine houses above and right below Broadway in the Broadway Terrace area.

Call Susan Montauk at 547-3855 or e-mail her at smontauk@gmail.com to confirm your availability.

RCPC Land Use Committee

No December Land Use Committee Meeting:

The RCPC Land Use Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m., at the Rockridge Library.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Creekside Approval

from page 1

For the past six months, RCPC, along with the FROG Park Committee, other community organizations, and property owners, has been participating in a stakeholder process organized by the project applicant, Hauser Architects of San Francisco. The process has led to some improvements: The project shrank from 117 to 102 units; one story was removed, reducing the building height from 65 to 55 feet; additional commercial street frontage has been added on Claremont Avenue; the faux creek and walkway have been revised to meet FROG Park concerns; more clearance has been added between the new building and the adjoining Claremont Towers apartment building, allowing those units better access to light and air; and arrangements have been made for evening valet parking to address potential parking shortfalls if, as expected, one or more restaurants occupy the project's commercial space.

RCPC certainly appreciates these changes for the better. Nevertheless, the project represents one more insult to the existing zoning for the area and will add to the already congested local traffic and parking situation. Indeed, in approving the project, the Planning Commission was forced to adopt a "statement of overriding considerations" acknowledging that the project would cause "significant and unavoidable traffic impacts."

While the City is requiring the applicant to prepare a transportation demand management plan intended to reduce traffic impacts, there are no requirements on what that plan must accomplish. RCPC proposed specific benchmarks for reducing the project's traffic and parking impacts, but the Planning

Temescal Changes Elicit Commissioner Comments

Although the Commission was generally supportive of the Creekside project, two commissioners offered surprising assessments of changes to Temescal area developments:

- Commissioner Madeleine Zayas-Mart said she felt that adding congestion was beneficial to the area;
- Commission Chair Michael Colbruno lamented the reduction in the Creekside project's size and height, and regretted that the adjoining CiviQ building height was reduced from its originally-proposed 65 feet during the appeal-approval process.

Commission brushed those aside. Only newly-appointed Commissioner Sandra Gálvez expressed concern about the project's potential parking impacts. No other commissioner supported her concern.

This project approval represents one more setback in trying to enforce livable standards for the Rockridge area. RCPC is hopeful that the planned update to the zoning ordinance will put in place more desirable and predictable regulations that preclude the Planning Commission from disregarding the established standards for Rockridge.

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College Ave Safeway Meeting Ends With Ultimatum From Safeway

by *Stuart Flashman, RCPC chair*

It seemed at the beginning that it could be a promising meeting between Safeway representatives and community stakeholders, one that might resolve the design issues separating the two groups. Instead, the meeting foundered when Safeway representative Todd Paradis delivered Safeway's bottom line: a 50,000 sq. ft. store with parking for 150 cars. The alternative? A minor "patch and paint" remodel of the existing store.

The November stakeholders' meeting for the College Avenue Safeway rebuild project had been much anticipated. At the October meeting, stakeholder representatives had presented a "Proposed Program for Safeway on College." It called for rebuilding the store with far greater respect for the surrounding neighborhood. Safeway had promised to respond to that proposal at the November meeting.

The meeting began with a comparison of the stakeholders' program with public input received at earlier meetings. The program's topics were placed in one of two categories: "areas of alignment," i.e., general agreement; or "open items," topics where facilitators said there was "a wide range of opinions." Although most topics were in

the "alignment" category, the facilitators claimed there was divergence over:

- size of structure (including use of gas station parcel);
- whether a cafe, a florist, and a bakery would be included in the store;
- location of parking (rooftop or surface or underground).

The audience questioned what "a wide range of opinions" meant.

With that introduction, Safeway architect David Blair presented streetscape sketches for the new store, showing two plazas, one at the corner of Claremont and College, the other on College facing 63rd Street. The sketches showed a row of small shops along College and hinted at a second story above the shops. Also included were sidewalk "bulb-outs" along College Avenue, displacing current on-street parking and reducing College Avenue to two travel lanes and one [west side] parking lane.

There was considerable discussion and dissension over whether these designs respected College Avenue and the neighborhood. The discussion then focused on Safeway's refusal to declare what size store it was actually planning. Safeway representa-

tive Todd Paradis finally stated in frustration that Safeway would drop the small shops and focus on the store itself. He then gave Safeway's bottom line: a 50,000 sq. ft. store with a minimum of 150 parking spaces (more if the parking was also intended to serve College Avenue merchants). He said this would mean essentially full-lot coverage with rooftop parking.

Paradis said that if this was not acceptable to the community, Safeway would limit improvements to a minor refurbishment of the existing store — a clean-up, repair, and repaint job — and perhaps a repaved parking lot, for a total cost of under \$1.5 million. He said nothing in between would make financial sense for Safeway. He also said that under the refurbishment plan, the gas station site would probably be converted to additional parking.

The next stakeholder meeting was set for December 9, when the architects would present their ideas, designed, presumably, to fit one or the other of Safeway's alternative scenarios. However, Safeway has now cancelled that meeting. No new date has been set.

Check for updated information at RCPC's Web site at <http://www.rockridge.org> or Safeway's Web site at <http://safewayon-college.com>.



Fourth Bore Suit

from page 1

a fourth bore should be built. Rather, the Coalition asked reconsideration of how it would be built, how it should be operated, and what mitigation measures should have been included with the project.

In the two hearings, the Coalition was

represented by local attorneys Stuart Flashman and Antonio Rossmann. The hearings covered a wide range of issues from noise, lighting, traffic, bicycling and pedestrian safety impacts to whether Caltrans should have looked at having carpool/bus lanes as part of the project.

Judge Roesch listened attentively throughout and asked probing questions of both sides. The Judge seemed particularly

skeptical of why Caltrans chose to limit the area it looked at for project impacts and to exclude consideration of impacts on Claremont Middle School and Chabot Elementary School — both located very close to Highway 24 and the traffic coming and going through the tunnel.

Under state law, the judge must issue his decision within 60 days. The case was submitted for decision on November 5.

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Let There Be Music OYC for Me

Last month I told you of the grave danger we are in of losing our public arts programs in Oakland. We dodged the bullet this time, and we are lucky to still have so many wonderful programs with us. But that experience should make us all aware that nothing is to be taken for granted.

Last Saturday, I stopped by the First Congregational Church at 2501 Harrison Street, Oakland, to pick up my granddaughter from an Oakland Youth Chorus (OYC) rehearsal. I found myself enthralled by the sounds emanating from the open door to the sanctuary. Thirty children's voices were repeatedly belting out a tune with astounding musical bravado. "I got a pocket full of sunshine, I got a love and I know it's all mine, ooh..." It was a phrase, just a phrase, a little piece of music, that was being tossed nonchalantly out the door, but I found myself trying to catch all those phrases like they were manna from heaven. For a moment the world seemed a little brighter, a little more hopeful. Such is the divine power of song.

The 34th OYC Annual Winter Choral Concert entitled "Let the Music Ring" takes place December 13 at 7 p.m. at First Congregational. I hope many of you will come to hear this remarkable group of young singers. I don't know a much better forum than this to test the healing power of song.

OYC is a citywide public arts program that Oakland can be proud of. The choir is made up of school children from all over Oakland and from all grade levels, neighborhoods and backgrounds. Here everyone counts. There is no



requirement to read music, at least not in the beginning.

Children are taught by professional music educators to sing naturally through the direct experience of language, music, and movement. This approach, developed by composer Carl Orff to put music into the reach of everyman, has brought joy to singers and audiences alike for 75 years.

Besides learning music of many cultures and traditions, the children experience music among professional performers, musicians, and ethnic dancers and singers. What a marvelous use of public funding! Chabot School participates in this program. Learn more at www.oaklandyouthchorus.org or call 510/287-9700.

Singing in the New Year, 2009

Singing is a tonic for body and soul for all ages. There is certainly something out there for everyone; it's just a matter

of doing a little research. Also, if auditions are not your cup of tea, you are in luck; most community singing organizations have done away with them. Instead, they invite you simply to come join them in the joy of making music together with others. Here are a few recommendations:

The Berkeley Playhouse is a great new resource for those who love Music Theater, song and dance. Visit www.berkeleyplayhouse.org for a virtual musical smorgasbord. Performances take place both at Ashby Stage and Julia Morgan Theater.

The Berkeley Community Chorus wants you to join them beginning January 5 to sing Dvorak's "Stabat Mater" this spring. Call 510/433-9599 or go to <http://bccco.org>.

The Distaff Singers, that delightful group of about 40 women who love to sing songs in tight harmony from traditional ballads to jazz and pop, invite you to join them beginning late January for Tuesday night rehearsals at St. Theresa's church on Clarewood. Visit <http://distaffsingers.org> for information.



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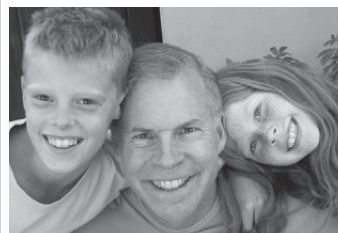
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Revels: A Different Kind of Community Holiday Celebration

Submitted by Theresa Nelson

The critically-acclaimed Christmas Revels (www.calrevels.org) has been named among the "Top 10 Theater Events of the Year," a musical theatre holiday tradition where the audience can join in the celebration. The Christmas Revels observes the longest night of the year – the winter solstice – with a blend of ancient folk rituals, songs and dances from a diverse cultural canvas, to produce a celebratory theatrical production. One doesn't just "go to" the Revels; one participates in a wholly unique experience that is a fundamental part of the Bay Area holiday calendar.

In The Monthly, Rita Felciano observed that "while the Christmas Revels program changes every year, certain ingredients are fixed. A griot figure tells stories of old.

Children have their moment on stage. A communal singing and dancing of "The Lord of the Dance" ends the first act; the "Sussex Mummers" carol closes the pageant. Thematically, the shows often revolve around traveling – pilgrims, adventurers, royal courts. For the 23rd annual Christmas Revels, audiences are transported to medieval Europe with a brand-new staging of The King and the Fool.

In the setting of an ancient castle, the King is entertained by his court, his troubadour, and his court jester (played by renowned comic actor Geoff Hoyle, who has performed with Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Cirque du Soleil).

Directed by David Parr, this brand new production includes choral music, hearty sing-alongs, lovely costumes, and courtly dancing. The wonderful Revels children's chorus will be a key ingredient this year, along with mumming, the Abbots Bromley dance, and performances by accomplished guest artists.

Over the course of 10 performances in December, Revelers of all ages will join together to welcome the return of the

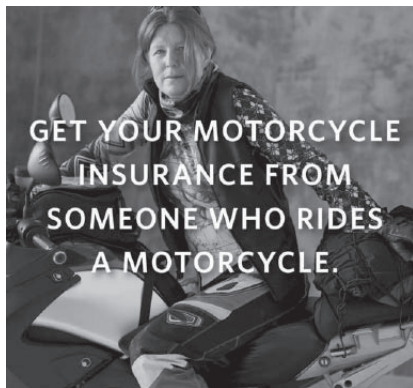


Comic Geoff Hoyle plays the jester in this year's Christmas Revels celebration of the winter solstice.
— CAL REVELS

light from the darkness of winter, with centuries-old winter traditions.

Performance/Ticket Information

- Dates: December 12-14 and 19-21, 2008
- Times: Fridays at 7:30pm, Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.
- Place: Scottish Rite Theater (1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland) Wheelchair seating available.
- Tickets: \$15 – \$50 general
- Special prices! On opening night, Dec. 12, and on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 5pm, all side dress circle and center balcony seats are \$19
- For all shows - side balconies are \$19 adults/\$15 senior, youth
- Box Office: 510/452-8800 and calrevels.org



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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(510) 450 9050

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Rockridge Approaches the 2008 Finish Line Strong

Close Date	BR	Bth	Address	Orig Price	LP	SP
11/18/2008	2	1	5242 Miles Avenue	\$479,000	\$479,000	\$484,000
11/20/2008	3	2	4857 Harbord Drive	\$825,000	\$825,000	\$825,000
11/14/2008	4	2	6190 Contra Costa Road	\$1,295,000	\$1,295,000	\$1,275,000
11/13/2008	3	2	5909 Acacia Avenue	\$1,295,000	\$1,295,000	\$1,285,000

Rockridge (94618) has a 1.75 month supply of inventory
Grand Lake/Crocker Highlands (94610) has a 2.90 month supply of inventory
Montclair/Piedmont Ave (94611) has a 3.56 month supply of inventory

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RCPC-NCPC Meeting

from page 1

evidence of others ignoring the rules of good behavior.”

The Danes’ findings seem to confirm the “broken windows” theory often cited as a precursor to urban crime and violence. Fix the problems when they are small, say theory advocates, and bigger problems will be prevented.

Oakland City Attorney John Russo supports the broken windows approach to crime prevention and has created a team of legal professionals to pursue those who would degrade the City’s environment.

Speaking at the November joint RCPC-NCPC meeting, Russo said, “New York pressed on quality of life crimes; it worked. We can do it in Oakland, too.”

Russo christened his team the Neighborhood Law Corps. With him at the meeting were team members David Hall, who covers North and West Oakland, and Reve Bautista, a special prosecutor. Along with two other team members, they work with the Alameda County District Attorney’s office to charge and prosecute quality of life crimes. Russo hopes one day to establish a community court system to deal with the infractions his prosecution team unearths.

Meanwhile, he urged his audience to be aware of events that seem trivial but are the types of situations his office encounters. Citing door-to-door magazine subscrip-

tion hawkers as an example, he said such contacts might mask a reconnaissance for more nefarious deeds.

Another activity of Russo’s office is ROAR, or Real Oakland Administrative Reform. Working with City Auditor Courtney Ruby, Russo said ROAR’s goal is to improve the accountability, transparency and effectiveness of Oakland government. He listed five programs he believes will achieve that goal: ethics training for administrators; whistleblower legislation; better records management; anti-nepotism rules and improved personnel department procedures.

His office is also working to help homeowners facing foreclosure, and imposing stricter operating conditions on problem liquor outlets.

Asked at the end of his presentation about proposed City legislation to extend liability to homeowners for injuries caused by faulty sidewalks adjacent to their property, Russo said, “My job is to protect the corporation

of which you [citizens] are the stockholders. I am corporate counsel for this corporation, the City of Oakland.” He supports the legislation and feels homeowners’ insurance will protect them from potential claims.

NCPC Reports

OPD Lt. F. Hamilton and Police Services Officer (PSO) Paul Gerrans (12Y) said crime in Rockridge police beats 12Y and 13X was mixed: robberies, vehicle thefts are down; burglaries and assaults are about the same. Police advised neighbors to be watchful of free-lance recyclers; the practice is illegal and subject to citation. Police advised an immediate call if a free-lance recycler enters a private yard. Find more information at the NCPC Web site: <http://www.rockridgencpc.com>.

RCPC Issues

Other RCPC agenda items at this joint meeting involved several planning and zoning issues. They are more fully reported on pages 1, 4 and 5. Visit <http://www.rockridge.org> for more information.

NCPC Says: “Don’t be a Target for Crime”

With all the colorful holiday lights, joyful music and feelings of good will, it’s easy to forget that we may become a victim of a crime. There are several things you can do to avoid being an easy target:

- 1) Indoor and outdoor lights and a radio should be operated by an automatic timer so your home looks and sounds occupied when you are away.
- 2) Home displays of holiday gifts should be out of the line of sight of windows and doors.
- 3) Do not leave packages or other valuable items in plain view on the seat of your car.

4) Be wary of aggressive solicitors or panhandlers at your front door and NEVER invite them into your home.

5) Say NO to anyone representing “charitable” organizations who wants cash at your door. Donate directly by mail to recognized charitable organizations.

New Year’s Resolution: Program the OPD Emergency cell phone number into your phone: 510/777-3211. (911 calls from cell phones are routed through the Highway Patrol’s Vallejo dispatch office, delaying a response to the emergency.)

Enrollment Time: Finding the Appropriate School for Your Student

EBISA Can Help with Private School Search

by Jana Branisa

As January application deadlines for schools draw near, parents may wonder, “Where will I send my child to school next year?”

For most families, the first option is their neighborhood school. If your neighborhood school isn’t the right match, the East Bay Independent Schools Association (EBISA) can help you find a school that suits your family’s and your child’s needs.

EBISA is a non-profit alliance of over 40 independent K-8 schools located throughout Alameda and Contra Costa

♦ EBISA, page 12

OUSD Opens Schools for Visits

To give parents a better sense of the schools they are considering, the Oakland School District is hosting open houses and school tours (local schedule at right). Families can learn more about the district’s educational options, and speak directly with staff to help determine where they’d like their children to attend school. The tours and open houses set the stage for Open Enrollment, which lasts from December 10, 2008 to January 15, 2009.

<p>Chabot Elementary 6686 Chabot Road, 94618 *call to register for school tours Phone: 879-1060 December 10, 16: 8:15-9 am January 7, 9: 8:15-9 am</p>	<p>Claremont Middle School 5750 College Avenue, 94618 Phone: 879-2010 Every Friday, 10-11am</p>
<p>Emerson Elementary 4803 Lawton Avenue, 94609 Phone: 879-1150 December 10, 10-11 am</p>	<p>Oakland Technical High 4351 Broadway, 94611 Phone: 879-3050 December 16, 9-11am</p>
<p>Hillcrest (K-8) 30 Marguerite Drive, 94618 Phone: 879-1270 December 16, 8:30-9:30am January 6, 20: 8:30-9:30am Kind. Open House: 7 pm 12/10</p>	<p>Far West (9-12) 5263 Broadway Terrace, 94618 Phone: 879-1580 December 15: 10-11, 5-6:30</p>
<p>Peralta Elementary 460 63rd Street, 94609 *Call to register. School tours are limited to 8 at a time. Phone: 879-1450 December 9, 19: 8:45-9:30 am January 6, 8:45-9:30 am</p>	<p>Oakland International High (9-10) 4521 Webster Street, 94609 Phone: 879-2142 December 16, 10-11 am, 5-6:30 pm</p>

Starting a Home-Based Business

by Joan Martin

Ever hear the term “Solopreneur”? It describes the entrepreneur who flies solo or works alone. (It is a sexier version of the “Sole Proprietor,” a term that can conjure an image of a merchant with an apron and spectacles standing behind a counter ready to sell something.) Often, solopreneurs work from home. This is the first in a series of articles that will address starting and maintaining a home-based business.

Perhaps you already know one of these home-based solopreneurs and like the idea. Maybe you’re dissatisfied with your corporate job and want to work on that dream of yours. Perhaps they’ve already “helped” you with that decision. Where should you begin?

Investigating zoning and business license requirements for a home business is a critical first step. Oakland permits home businesses with some restrictions. Having a city business license is a requirement, as well. Visit the following Oakland City Web addresses as an informational starting point:

• Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 17.112 Home Occupation Regulations: <http://municipalcodes.lexisnexis.com/codes/oakland/>

• Business Tax FAQs: http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/fwawebiste/revenue/revenue_faqbiztax.htm

• Business Application Form: <http://www.oaklandnet.com/government/fwa website/revenue/pdf/Newbusapp.pdf>

A business plan is equally important. Even if it’s an outline of the most obvious income and expense categories, write them down. This way, you can see if your dream work ought to stay a dream or if it is worth pursuing. Be as detailed and honest as you can about income potential. If you want to consult as an Interior Designer, for example, find out from those already in the business just what volume of work they can handle and what they charge. But, beware: In the first one to three years, more of your time will be spent networking rather than earning.

On the expense side of the business plan, list everything you can think of, including business cards and other collateral material such as office supplies, gas, coffee shop expenses for business meetings,

networking fees for Chamber of Commerce events or for other groups pertinent to your industry or interest. At <http://www.irs.gov>, you can find a long list of business expenses in Publication 535, “Business Expenses.” (Search: Publication 535.)

Calculating office rent or utilities for your home-based business is also clearly defined by the IRS and its deductibility rules. Just because you use the dining room table to spread out your work papers does not mean you can deduct that room on your taxes as “office rent.” IRS Publication 587, “Business Use of Your Home,” spells out what can and cannot be deducted. Review this topic with a CPA before making any decisions.

Remember insurance. Now that you may have more people in and out of your home, have your insurance agent review your home policy for liability limits including slip and fall scenarios. You might also consider an Errors and Omissions (E&O) policy if your business plan opens you up to that arena.

Set up your plan to get the most out of the good idea that you have. For a nominal fee you can consult for an hour with a seasoned business consultant, a CPA, an attorney and an insurance agent. It will cost you a little at the front end and help you enormously in the long run.

Once you’ve tallied the income and expenses for two to three years, take another hard look at the plan. Be sure to have enough cushion to fund your life for a couple of years in case the income doesn’t flow in as you’d hoped.

If you decide it’s possible, go for it! Being your own boss is wonderful.

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THE NEIGHBORHOOD MERCHANT

BY THERESA NELSON

Shop Rockridge: Celebrate and Support Your Community

The twinkling lights have gone up at Market Hall and the holiday decorations have appeared along College Avenue. Rockridge residents have the opportunity to find unique gifts and services, support local owner-operated businesses, and put sales tax dollars back to work in Oakland.

Stroll along College Avenue, Claremont and Broadway, find one-of-a-kind gift ideas at a wide variety of prices, and then enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner at one of the area's many restaurants. Local shoppers will save on gas, avoid the crowds and parking lots in malls, and support libraries, parks, public safety and senior and family services in Oakland via local sales taxes. Rockridge merchants and services have something for everyone on your gift list, and for you and your home as well.

■ **WOMEN'S CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES**, with every imaginable style, size and price range, truly there's something for everyone on your list:

Agatha Rainford Boutique
Alta Bates Showcase
Atomic Garden
August
Bambino Thrift Shop
Bellies and Babies
Body Options
Chic
Cotton Basics
Crossroads Trading Company
Crush on College
FIT
Habit
i-elle
Inamorata
Iniam
In Full Swing
Itsy Bitsy
Pretty Penny
Recapture Vintage Bridal
Rockridge Rags
San Francisco Dancewear

Says Who?
See Jane Run Sports
Sefina Studio
Serrahna
Tootsies Rockridge
Vie Vie Boutique
Viva Diva Boutique
The Wedding Party
Who's Your Betty Boutique

■ **Children's Toys, Games, Clothing and Accessories**, for the tiniest babies to pre-teens:

Bella Vita "Upstairs"
Bellies and Babies
Child's Play
Cotton & Company (closing)
Milk
Rockridge Kids

■ **Arts, Framing, Jewelry & Collectibles**, items from all over the world and for the artist in you:

Blick Art Materials
Bosko's Framing Gallery
Christensen Heller Gallery
Favor
The Great Frame-Up
High Strung
Itsy Bitsy
Pavé Fine Jewelry
Thelma Harris Art Gallery

■ **Books, Cards, Gifts & Flowers**, for any taste or interest:

Atomic Garden
Bella Vita
Bloomies
Chimes Pharmacy
Diesel A Bookstore
Heartfelt &
Itsy Bitsy
The Meadows
Rockridge Home
Pendragon Fine Books
Spring Fever Flowers
Sun Flower

■ **Menswear**, styles for teens and men:

Alta Bates Showcase
August
Bambino Thrift Shop
Chic
Crossroads Trading Company
Dapper
Rockridge Rags

■ **Shoes for Men, Women and Children**, everyday wear and special shoes for the holidays:

Cotton & Company (closing)
Rightway Shoe Repair
Shuz of Rockridge (formerly Birkenstock)
Tootsies Rockridge
Transports

■ **Home Décor, Furniture, Table Accessories, Antiques, Fabrics, and Linens**, to decorate your home, find the perfect gift, a new dining room table or rug, home office, and more:

Atomic Garden
Bella Vita
Berkeley Kids Room
Bird's Eye
Brass and Glass
Christensen Heller Gallery
Claremont Rug Company
Fenton MacLaren
Vintage Furnishing
Form Vintage Modern
Galvins Workspace Furniture
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
Hazara Gallery
Homesteader
Levant Oriental Rug Company
Maison d'Etre
Murasaki Fine Futon Shop
Rockridge Furniture Company
Rockridge Home
Talisman Antiques
Thelma Harris Art Gallery
Warm Things

■ **Food**, glorious food gifts, gourmet ingredients, indulgences, and fine wines:

Bittersweet a Chocolate Café
Cole Coffee
Eddie's Liquors
Enzo's Meat & Poultry
Great Harvest Bread Company
Hapuku Fish Shop
Hudson Bay Caffè
Katrina Rozelle Pastries & Desserts
La Farine Bakery
Lulu Rae Confections
Market Hall Bakery
Market Hall Produce
The Pasta Shop
Paul Marcus Wines
Peaberry's Coffee and Tea

Safeway
Trader Joe's
Ver Brugge Foods
Vino!
Yasai Market

■ **Sports, Luggage, Bikes and Motorbikes**, for the active ones in your life:

Hank and Frank Bicycles
Namaste
Pilates Plus
Powerform Personal Training
Rockridge Luggage
Rockridge Two Wheels
See Jane Run Sports
Transports

■ **Music** for your moods:

Flashback Guitars
The Groove Yard
Pretty Penny/Saturn Records

■ **Pets**, for those who are part of the family:

Redhound
Mr. John's Dog Grooming

■ **Flowers**, for the perfect touch at home or a party:

Bloomies
Spring Fever Flowers
Sun Flower
The Meadows

■ **Bodycare, Hair, Nails and Beauty**, to look your best and give to others:

Alexander Pope Salon
Arellano
Bellissimo Salon
Bisou Nail Lounge
BodyTime
The Brow Lounge
Chez Aesthete
Chimes Pharmacy
Claremont Hair Salon
Cool Tops
Cuttin' Up on College
Elegant Nail
Galaxy Nails
Genray Hair Salon
Hello, Gorgeous
J Salon
Lucero
Marilyn Jaeger Skincare Studio
Massage Therapy Center
Milagro Salon
Moda
The Nail Spa
Oriental Nails
Pharmaca
Ponzo
Rockridge Barber
SaHaira
Seven Salon
Snips
Supercuts
Vero
White Rose Skin Care

Merchant

from page 10

Cafés, Restaurants, More:

Asian Cuisine:

Becky's Chinese, Flavors of India, Great Wall Chinese, Khana Peena, Mitama Japanese, Nan Yang, Noodle Theory, Pearl of Siam, Rikyu Japanese, Sabuy Sabuy Thai, Soi Four Bangkok Eatery, Tachibana Sushi Bar & Grill, Takara Japanese

Café and Casual Dining:

A Cuppa Tea, Barney's on College, Bittersweet Chocolate

Café, Café Lyon, Christopher's Burgers, Claremont Diner, Cole Coffee, College Point Café, Crepevine, Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream, Green Bean, Hudson Bay Caffé, Oliveto Café, Rockridge Café, Somerset Restaurant, Spasso Coffeehouse

Italian and Mediterranean:

Extreme Pizza, Filippo's Pastaria, I Squared, Pasta Pomodoro, Pizza Rustica, Zachary's Chicago Pizza

Mexican:

Cactus Tacqueria, College Avenue Burrito, Las Palmas Tacqueria

Pubs and Bars:

Barclay's Restaurant and Pub, Ben 'n Nick's Bar & Grill, Conga Lounge, George and Walt's, McNally's, Water Lounge

Fine Dining and Small Plates:

À Côté, Citron Restaurant, Garibaldi's on College, Marica Seafood Restaurant, Oliveto Restaurant, Wood Tavern

Web sites for many College Avenue stores, restaurants and services may be found through the Rockridge District Association's Web directory: <http://www.rockridgedistrict.com/>

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FORL Help

from page 3

bookcase for her office. This is just the sort of gift that FORL loves to give.

The Friends favor buying locally whenever possible. FORL board member Kristine Carraway found a good deal for two solidly built wooden bookcases, tall enough and wide enough to hold plenty of books, at Fenton MacLaren on College Avenue. Another FORL board member transported them to the library, and the deed was done.

Thanks to FORL, two well-used collections of books are now housed in sturdy, earthquake-safe, bolted-to-the-wall wooden bookcases. No more book trucks, no more pasteboard stopgaps, just three pleased librarians.

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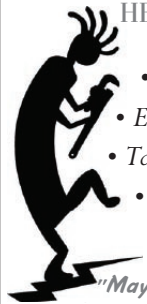
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Milton

from page 3

(*Areopagitica*). During the English civil wars of the 1640s, after a furious reaction by the established church to several of his tracts on divorce, Milton wrote the sonnet at right:

— Submitted by a
FORL member

Sonnet XII, By John Milton

I did but prompt the age to quit their clogs
By the known rules of ancient liberty,
When straight a barbarous noise environs me
Of owls and cuckoos, asses, apes and dogs:
As when those hinds that were transform'd to frogs
Rail'd at Latona's twin-born progeny
Which after held the sun and moon in fee.
But this is got by casting pearl to hogs,
That bawl for freedom in their senseless mood,
And still revolt when truth would set them free.
Licence they mean when they cry liberty;
For who loves that, must first be wise and good.
But from that mark how far they rove we see,
For all this waste of wealth and loss of blood.

EBISA

from page 8

counties. For over 20 years, it has provided free assistance to families that choose to explore an independent education.

EBISA sponsors school fairs each

fall, and open houses and tours. Financial aid is available at all EBISA schools. Several schools conduct financial aid workshops.

More about the EBISA schools is available at their Web site: www.ebisaca.org.

Educator Jana Branisa is a publicist for EBISA.

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Montessori Neighbors Write RCPC

Four neighbors of the Montessori School wrote to the RCPC Chair to express their concerns about the proposed expansion. No one wrote in support. Excerpted letters follow:

❖ I am concerned about the negative impact the continued expansion of this particular school is having on our small neighborhood. The two streets that surround this school are only one lane wide and in a couple of cases only one block long.

— **Hallie B. Hart**

❖ My wife and I live on upper Kales Avenue, around the corner from the Rockridge Montessori School's Manila Avenue sites. Since the school's arrival in the neighborhood over a decade ago, it has continued to expand (on at least one occasion in direct contradiction to the owners' assurances that they planned to live on site and that their operation would only constitute a small family daycare.)

1) We feel that the scale of the RMS presence in the neighborhood pushes the boundaries of appropriateness.

2) Increased traffic and school-related park-

ing is an ongoing concern... the majority of the school population arrives by car.

— **Tony Morse**

❖ I have lived on the Kales/Manila/ Broadway block for 26 years. I treasure this residential single family dwelling neighborhood with its mix of young and old residents. This is a neighborhood community, not a commercial zone.

Within a 3 block radius we have at least 3 other preschools in converted houses. This neighborhood is overly served with preschools. With such expansion comes increased traffic in a neighborhood with narrow residential streets. Fifty per cent of the [school's] population is from outside the 94618 Zip code.

— **Anne Williams**

❖ As a resident of Kales Ave, I object to the proposed expansion of the school. The school is continually seeking to build and develop (despite their promises not to) and it will continually erode the feel of the neighborhood and chase out neighboring residents. There has to be a limit on the growth.

— **Name Withheld**

Montessori Expansion

from page 1

Currently, RMS operates in an adjacent building at 5610 Broadway, and in a former church building across the street on Manila. Enrollment is 97, with a permit to go to 132. With the new expansion, total enrollment could reach 192.

RMS and their architect Charles Kahn shared details of the expansion at the November RCPC Town Hall meeting. The 5616 Broadway building would be converted by adding a second story and creating a common entrance with the 5610 Broadway building. The unsightly garage would be removed and two small rooms, not as big as the garage, would be added in its place. Parking for the new employees would be across Manila at the church. A curb on Broadway might be converted to a short term loading zone.

Neighbors Concerned

A group of nearby neighbors is strongly opposed to the expansion. RMS has met with these neighbors twice in an attempt to come to an agreement. As a result of these talks, RMS will not physically join the two buildings with an enclosed space and will locate all entrances on Broadway. It is RMS's assertion that these changes will preserve the residential look of the buildings and result in less traffic on the narrower residential streets.

The neighbors continue to feel that a childcare facility with 192 children is too large for a small residential area, the new traffic flow is unsafe, and Rockridge as an area should be preserving residential homes, not converting them into businesses.


RMS also plans to continue having student families sign a transportation agreement with guidelines that are intended to reduce the impact of traffic on neighbors. Two violations of the agreement would result in a family being asked to leave RMS. Neighbors and school administrators both agree that enforcement would be difficult.

When RCPC met with RMS, their application schedule had not been defined, but they believed the project would probably be presented to the Planning Department in February.

If you have any comments or questions about this project, e-mail chair@rockridge.org.

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Enjoy the experience of traditional paella being cooked on-site or delivered fresh. Organic and seasonal! Tapas, paella and desserts! Ideal for indoor/outdoor gatherings. 15% holiday discount until 12/31/08. www.vengapaella.com or 415/377-6392.

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.

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 today!

Need Change in Your Home?

We offer affordable one-day redecorating services that help you rethink your space and reuse what you have in a new way. It's the ultimate in green interior design! www.woodhouseinteriors.com Kim, 510/435-0712.

Home Repairs

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



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Rockridge Holiday Trunk Show

Local designer gifts! Fantastic array of unique infant and children's clothing. Handmade Loretta handbags and more! Cookies and hot cider served. 1 to 5pm, Sunday, December 14. 6108 Hillegass Avenue (College/Claremont).

Home Improvements Done Right

• Slate porches & stairs • kitchens & bathrooms • decks, fences & cedar shingles • room additions • retrofits, structural works & dry rot repair. Good rates. Licensed, bonded & insured. Ned, 510/301-5448.

Manicure & Pedicure

20% off first visit. We use Zoya polish which does not contain formaldehyde or toluene or DBT. Call Halina Wednesday-Saturday at Elizabeth H. Salon, 5431 College Avenue at Kales. 510/652-5431.

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 makeup, reflexology and more! 30% off w/ad. www.penelopecalef.com 510/594-1552.

Wanted: House or Apt. for 6-12 Months

East Coast couple seeks modest Rockridge/Elmwood house or apartment so we can be near our new grandson. Dates flexible starting mid-2009. Currently happily renting on Woolsey. We love it here! Call Karen: 202/256-6304.



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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

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

FOR CHILDREN:

Toddler Story Time: Saturdays, 10:30am.

Pre-School Story Time: 1st and 3rd Wed. 10:30am

Pajama Story Time: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays. 7pm.

Holiday Puppet Show: Fratello Marionettes perform *The Frog Prince*, 12/16, 7pm. All ages.

Cozy Story Time: hear stories and make snowflakes with a librarian in pajamas by the light of a Hanukah menorah. 12/23, 7pm.

FOR TEENS:

Rockridge Ninjas (Anime Club): Teens 13 and up. Tuesday, (12/9), 5 to 6:30pm.

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. 12/20, 1 to 5pm. Info: 420-8775 or Writefox@aol.com.

Knitting Classes for Seniors (50+): All levels welcome. Every Tuesday, 12:30-2:30pm.

Peace Corps Information Session: No upper age limit to join. 12/22, 6pm to 7:30pm. Info: Nick Bosustow, 452-8444.

Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice. First Tuesday each month from 6-8pm. Advance sign-up starts 5pm.

ART EXHIBITS

Gallery: Oakland Art Assoc. miniature oil paintings.

Lobby Display Case: John Baldwin, mixed media finger puppets.

See box, p.2 for library hours. Due to budget cuts there may be additional closed days in December.

St. Albert Priory Christmas Concert

The **Schola Cantorum of St. Albert Priory** and the **Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble (WAVE)** "Shepherds Arise!" Gregorian chants from the 9th century, Monteverdi, Menotti and others, and traditional carols. Saturday, 12/20, 8pm. St. Albert Priory Chapel, 6172 Chabot Road. Tickets at the door: \$15 General/\$10 Students/Seniors. Info: Fr. Chris Renz, 510/596-1800.

Gaelic Christmas Choral Concert

Mary McLaughlin's Cor Aingli (Angel Choir) and the **Winterberry Carolers**, join to present ancient Irish and modern Christmas songs. Saturday, 12/13, 3pm to 5pm. Tickets: \$15 - \$8 (under 16 and over 65). www.brownpapertickets.com or call 800/838-3006 or 482-9479. Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. Info: 228-3218.

Big Fat Year-End Kiss Off Comedy Show XVI

Will Durst, joined by many great comics, presents a hilarious night of stand-up, improv and sketches based on major news stories of 2008. May not be suitable for kids. Sunday, 12/28, 7pm. Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave. \$20 - \$15 (students and srs.); www.brownpapertickets.com or call 800/838-3006. More info: 845-8542.

Pacific Boychoir Academy Auditions

Boys 5 to 18: audition for the Grammy award-winning choir's after-school program on 12/17 from 4:15 to 6pm. No musical experience required; choir directors will gauge musical ability and willingness to learn. 410 Alcatraz Ave. To register for auditions: 652-4722. Info www.pacificboychoiracademy.org.

Office Manager/Bookkeeper For Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC)

We are seeking a highly qualified candidate to fill a part-time Office Manager/Bookkeeper position. Responsible for but not limited to the following duties:

Bookkeeping

- Enter data into QuickBooks software for RCPC and sponsored groups (3).
- Enter all A/P for RCPC.
- Pay bills and print checks weekly.
- Receive payments in QuickBooks and make infrequent deposits.
- Enter all fixed assets and loans.
- Reconcile cash accounts monthly.
- Reconcile financial statements monthly.
- Enter depreciation and prepaid expenses thru monthly memorized journal entries.
- Gather sponsored groups' financial information monthly.
- Prepare monthly Board Meeting financial statements (P&L, B/S, Budget vs. Actual, Variance report).
- Interface with CPA annually and as needed. Month and year end close in a timely manner.
- Prepare annual Budget for Board review.
- File timely sales & use tax forms.
- Report to Treasurer with all financial information as needed.
- Keep accurate records of all financial back-up to financial statements.

Administrative

- Answer phones and field calls.
- Organize and maintain company records.
- Retrieve mail from neighborhood mail office box.
- Rout and open mail.
- General office duties including: filing, ordering supplies.
- Retain merchandise for sale and fulfill merchandise orders.
- Interface with Treasurer, President, vendors, customers.

Skills and Abilities

- Knowledge of QuickBooks and accounting a must.
- Intermediate knowledge of MS Word and Excel.
- Organized/detailed/self motivator.
- Must be willing to work alone.

Compensation commensurate with experience. Please submit resume with cover letter to: RCPCbookkeeper@Gmail.com.

**Principals only.
Recruiters, please do not contact us.**

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Visit www.cca.edu/extended to browse our course offerings.

To purchase a gift certificate or to register for classes, call **510.594.3710.**



Jan Fougner

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Toys for Tots

Once again the Coldwell Banker office is collecting toys for needy children this holiday season. This is a particularly difficult year for many residents of Oakland. If you have new unwrapped toys to donate, give me a call and I will be glad to pick them up for the Toys for Tots Drive.
Best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to you and yours!

Terry Kulka 510/339-4789

terrykulka@att.net

<http://www.terrykulka.com>



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