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## RCPC Kitchen Tour Count Down

Whether you're looking for ideas and inspiration for your own kitchen, interested in seeing the latest trends in kitchen design, thinking of adding a small cottage to your property, or just curious about Rockridge kitchens, the 13th biennial Rockridge Kitchen Tour has something for you. You won't want to miss the nine beautiful kitchens on the Tour, and the full-house tour of a delightful secondary unit showcasing how small can be very, very beautiful.

Several kitchens on the Tour were designed by the homeowners, the rest by local architects and designers who are experts in sensitive remodels of Craftsman and other older-style houses. One designer planned the kitchen using online tools for the design.



As on past Tours, renovation budgets encompassed a wide range. One universal trend was to invest in durable surfaces, appliances, and fixtures to create kitchens intended to last for a long time. Many homeowners found ways to economize on some parts of the kitchen so they could splurge elsewhere while staying on budget. Some did much of the work themselves, helped by family and friends. Others reused nearly-new appliances that were still in good working order.

A new trend in Craftsman remodels is to rethink all of the house's interior space: moving walls, opening up dark central corridors, and expanding the kitchen to be the heart of the home. On the Tour, guests will

▶ **Kitchen Tour Countdown, page 11**

## 2019 Rockridge Kitchen Tour At-a-Glance

**When:** Sunday, September 22 from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Registration at College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue.

**Highlights:** A compact yet extremely livable accessory dwelling unit offers one of the shortest full-house tours in Kitchen Tour history. Also: the latest trends in colors and surfaces and creative uses of space.

**Tickets:** Advance tickets online at [rockridgekitchentour.org](http://rockridgekitchentour.org): \$45 plus service charge. Day of tour tickets are \$50 plus service charge.

## Report: June 2019 RCPC/NCPC Joint Town Hall

by *Stuart Flashman*

On Thursday, June 20, the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) and the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) held their annual joint town hall meeting. It was an opportunity for the two organizations to join together on a topic of mutual interest. This year, that topic was disaster preparedness.

To begin the joint meeting, the NCPC had invited Lieutenant Daniel Royal, our area supervisor, to discuss crime and criminality. Following a short presentation by the area's two community resources officers discussing the most recent crime statistics, Lt. Royal answered questions from the audience about the significance of the figures and some tips on how to avoid crimes, as well as what the police are doing to address "crime waves," which often are the product of a small group of repeat offenders. OPD recently

arrested a group that had been committing offenses throughout the Bay Area.

After that presentation, David Gomez, Neighborhood Law Corps representative for the area, introduced himself and explained the function of the Neighborhood Law Corps within the City Attorney's office. New to his position, he said he'd be attending NCPC meetings to help residents address local legal problems, such as illegal trash dumping.



**Out is Tuesday, August 6, 2019, 7pm-9pm.**

Neighborhood block party, barbecue, ice cream social or event that brings neighbors together.

City of Oakland staff, Oakland Police Department, Oakland Fire Department and elected officials will visit as many registered parties as possible. Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, NNO is America's night out and a time for neighbors to get together to build neighborhood spirit and unity. Research shows that when neighbors know each other, neighborhoods are safer. Register by July 26, 2019 to receive give-aways for the kids, and a special gift for the host. We have a new City of Oakland portal called OakApps that requires everyone to login with an account before filling out the form. Visit OakApps for details.

▶ **NCPC-RCPC, page 13**

## Kitchen Tour Filling Docent Slots; a Few Still Open

Planning for the 2019 Rockridge Kitchen Tour, scheduled for Sunday, September 22, is in full swing. The Kitchen Tour committee has selected the nine kitchens to be featured on this year's Tour, and now turns to the vital task of recruiting another great group of Tour docents. Whether you've been a docent in the past, or are new to the Rockridge Kitchen Tour, volunteering as docent is a fun and rewarding experience. But don't take it from us – read on for comments by docents who volunteered for previous Tours. For example, "I do know that I will be happy to encourage friends to sign up to be a docent at the 2017 Kitchen Tour."

A week or two before the Tour, all docents attend a 2 1/2- to 3-hour pre-Tour training session including visits to several of the houses. The behind-the-scenes look at the kitchens ahead of the Tour and the opportunity to hear about the kitchens directly from the owner/architect/contractor are among the best parts of being a docent. "I have been a house tour docent about five times in the past ... and I was never given the opportunity to Tour any of the homes before th[ose] tours – as we were able to do this year [2015] on the Rockridge Kitchen Tour." Pre-Tour training this year is tentatively scheduled for the second weekend of September and another date to be determined, subject to the homeowners' availability. Docents need only attend one session.

On your training day, you will visit three kitchens and hear from the homeowner, architect, and perhaps the contractor about the unique features and adroit problem-solving in design and construction of each. The session will also familiarize you with the house layout so you'll be able to guide the walk-through traffic, educate our Tour guests about the house you will be assigned to, and answer the visitors' questions on the day of Tour. "I just would like to say that my Tour as a Docent ... could not have gone more smoothly. I felt well-prepared to point out features of the home/kitchen, and the guests were, without exception, courteous and respectful."

On Sunday, September 22, the day of the Tour, you will be assigned to one shift and will have the balance of the day to visit the other kitchens that you did not see in the pre-Tour. "I was able to explore three other kitchens that day and came away with a wealth of ideas and inspiration. Thank you for all your work; perhaps I can do this again next year."

If you are interested in being a docent on the 2019 Rockridge Kitchen Tour on September 22, contact the Kitchen Tour Committee, at [kitchentour@rockridge.org](mailto:kitchentour@rockridge.org).

Let's let one of the 2015 docents have the last word: "I thought the Tour was super well organized in every way. It was a pleasure to be involved."

## Caldecott Funding Era Comes to an End

The City of Oakland has received bids on the final two projects to be funded through the Caldecott Settlement Agreement with Caltrans over the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel:

- **College Avenue, Broadway to Alcatraz Avenue in Rockridge:** Complete repaving of the roadway surface, new bicycle lanes and sharrows, pedestrian crossing improvements at Keith Avenue and removal of slip lane at

Miles Avenue. Construction: Spring 2020.

- **Berkeley border to the end of Caldecott Lane in the North Oakland hills:** continuous bike lanes plus pedestrian and bicycle improvements to the Tunnel Road/SR 13/Hiller Drive intersection. Construction expected in 2020-21. For a map and details about all of the projects funded by the Caldecott program, please visit [www.fourthbore.org](http://www.fourthbore.org). *Victoria Eisen, Consultant*



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Library program details/hours: [Calendar, page 15](#)

The Rockridge News, founded March 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly (except in August) 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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### 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](mailto:editor@rockridge.org);  
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**Articles and letters submitted for publication** may be emailed to the editor or sent to the address above. Submissions are limited to 600 words, must include the author's name, phone number, email address, and city or neighborhood of residence, and are subject to editing for clarity and brevity at the editor's discretion and without notice to the submitter. Views expressed in articles and letters accepted for publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Rockridge News, its editor, or the board of directors of the Rockridge Community Planning Council. To reprint a Rockridge News article, contact the editor.

### Newsletter Advertising/Deadline

**Publication date of the September issue is:**

☛ **September 7, 2019.**

☛ **Submission deadline: August 15, 2019.**

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

### RCPC Land Use Committee

The July Land Use Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, July 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rockridge Branch Library 2nd floor meeting room. The agenda will include updates on the housing study. Please check on <https://rockridge.org> the previous week to confirm meeting's date, time, and place.

#### RCPC Land Use Committee Update – July 2019

The Land Use Committee met on June 26. No quorum was present, and no decisions were made.

##### Update: Rockridge Housing Study

The Rockridge Housing Study, begun last spring, seeks to provide information the community can use to guide decisions about how Rockridge might best help address the City's housing needs. Five alternative scenarios are being considered for analysis to determine the capacity for new housing that could potentially result from each scenario. As noted in last month's report, Darin

Smith, a Rockridge resident and a principal of Economic & Planning Systems, Inc., has volunteered some of his time and the use of modeling software his firm developed to help the Committee analyze each scenario's effects on housing – both amount and affordability – and the impacts that might accompany those changes. The Committee chair and Mr. Smith met and discussed first steps in the analysis. The results were presented to the committee for discussion.

The initial phase of the analysis will involve modeling "test case" development examples to determine what might actually get built under different conditions.

Three examples have been discussed: 1) development/redevelopment of a single standard-sized Lower Rockridge residential lot (4,000 sq.ft., zoning = RM 1); 2) development on four aggregated single-family lots (total size ~ 16,000 sq.ft.) into a single multi-family building; 3) development of a two-acre underutilized commercial property [such as a single-story structure plus surface parking] redeveloped to 5-story residential project. For each example, variations such as allowable density, required affordability, etc will be tested to determine feasibility of construction.

The committee generally approved the current proposed approach, recognizing that the full analysis will require far more data and analysis than is currently available. The committee also recommended consulting

➔ [Housing Study, page 14](#)

## Scenic Streets of Oakland Update: "Help Wanted"

### Needs Your Help!



Thanks to dedicated neighborhood volunteers, our local 'Scenic' streets are getting a bit more scenic but work is still necessary and ongoing—as evidenced in the photos. Please consider volunteering with Scenic Streets of Oakland. In addition to maintaining selected sidewalk plantings along Claremont Avenue, Clifton Street, and Vicente Way, we're involved in improving and maintaining the Claremont/Highway 24 on and off ramps. Currently we have a group that meets Wednesday mornings, but

### Kinda Scenic!



most of the work we do can be done anytime. If you're interested, please contact Lee Patterson at [lee.scenicstreetsoakland@gmail.com](mailto:lee.scenicstreetsoakland@gmail.com). Also, Scenic Streets of Oakland thanks the Rockridge News for its support and presentation of our announcements over the years.

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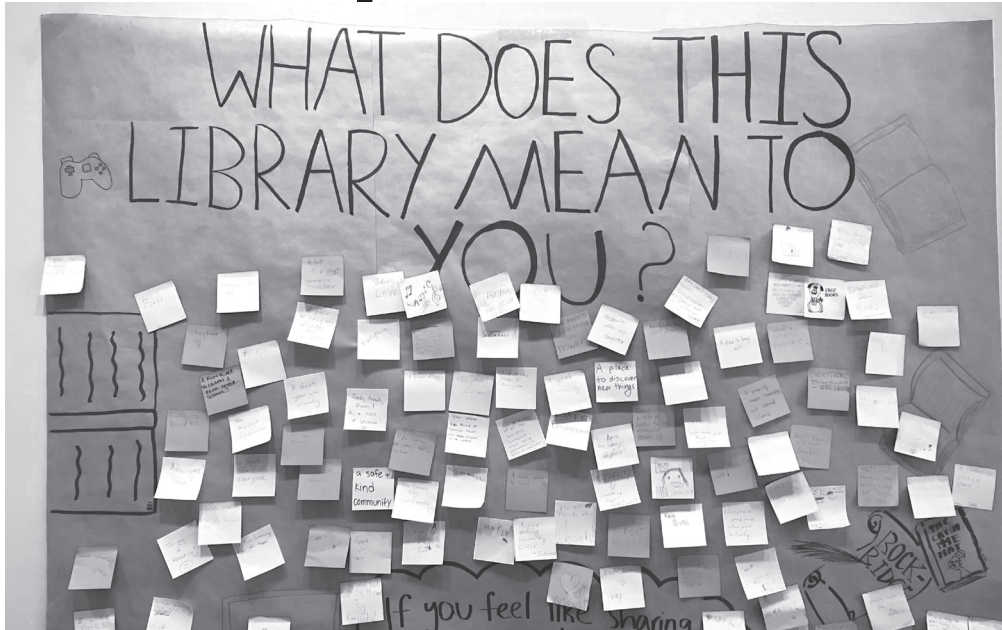
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# Teen Advisory Board Flourishes in the Rockridge Library



Jorja Siemons, Chair of the Rockridge Branch Library Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

by Jorja Siemons

A poster hangs by the front desk in the Rockridge Library titled “What Does This Library Mean to You?” Scattered with public responses written on post-it notes, the poster is the work of the Teen Advisory Board (TAB), the onsite group that represents the teen demographic at the Rockridge branch of the Oakland Public Library.

It is commonly thought that libraries are only sanctuaries for little children who flock to story times, and older adults who utilize networking resources. However, the teen presence at the Rockridge Library is not only prominent, but also fierce and passionate.

TAB exemplifies this sentiment as,

amongst other lingering teens in the library’s dedicated “Teenzone,” this group of middle and high school students from the Rockridge area meets monthly to talk, plan, and act. In these pizza and idea loaded meetings, members discuss not only possible events for the group, like outings and summits with other TABs from around Oakland, but also possible events for the community.

Planning Creative Writing Clubs and maintaining the resources for gaming that the branch boasts, Rockridge TAB has straddled the many passions and ideas of its members. The “What Does This Library Mean To You?” poster, hung up in April in

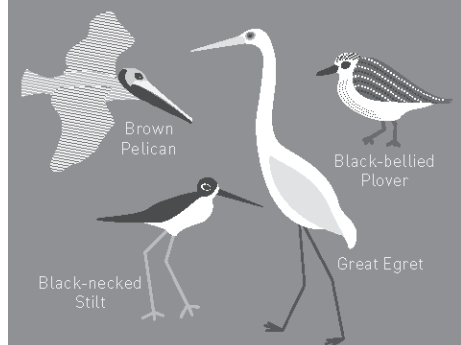
▶ RR Library Teen Advisory Board, page 11



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# FROG Park Swings and More+ Project Construction Underway



**FROG Park Committee members and supporters gather in front of a construction fence on Day One of repairs and improvements recently approved for Hardy and Frog Park playgrounds. Above, from left: Fay Gordon and son Diego; Leonora Sea; Carol Behr and daughter Sara; Adrienne Wong, Designer/Consultant and daughter Sarah; Ronnie Spitzer, and Theresa Nelson. The project completion date is November 2019.**

**Carol Behr, Chair, Frog Park: “Many more committee members & volunteers contributed time and energy to this project but could not arrange to be in this photo.”**

/D. Kinkead



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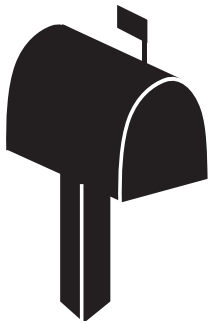
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## Letters to the Editor

The Rockridge News welcomes posted letters and emails to the editor. Your name, address, phone number, email address and city/neighborhood must be included in either for verification. Only your name will appear with your letter.

**Note: Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity at the editor's discretion, and without notice to the writer.** Views expressed in any letter are the writer's own, and may not necessarily be shared by the editor or by RCPC.

### Editor:

#### SB50: Density is Not a Solution in Itself

I've lived in Rockridge since 1970, when my beautiful new bride and I moved into a flat on Manila. In the 1970s, I was proud to be one of a group of neighbors who not only stopped a ham-fisted notion by the city to upzone our community — then recovering from the effects of BART and Highway 24 construction — but who created new zoning regulations to celebrate and preserve its special character. It was the right response for the time, and played a big role in Rockridge's evolution into the wonderful place we have today.

Now, more than forty years later, the world is a different place. In Rockridge today, it's hard to find a house for less than \$1million. The lack of affordable housing has become a social tragedy. Even if we are fortunate enough to have bought into Rockridge long ago, we experience the pain through the struggles of our children and grandchildren.

For this reason, I have no objection in principle to measures to encourage greater density, as long as they are done with sensitivity to scale and quality. For example, many Oakland and Berkeley streets have old two-story fourplexes nestled comfortably among the single-family homes.

However: if we are serious about addressing the housing problem, measures focused only on supply, while they may

be useful, are not enough. In a desirable place like Rockridge, any new housing built may not be any more affordable than the housing we already have. Consider, for example, the complex built a few years ago at the corner of Benvenue and Alcatraz. The six units on a double lot are triple the old single-family density, and I would be delighted if something of this quality were built on my street. And yet, Zillow currently values each of the units at around \$1.8 million.

And it's not as if Oakland isn't building new housing: A drive down Broadway or Telegraph should dispel any such notion. I suggest a larger, and more intractable

obstacle to AFFORDABLE housing is construction cost. The Turner Center at UC Berkeley states "... in 2000, it cost approximately \$265,000 per unit to build a 100-unit affordable housing building for families in the city ... in 2016, a similar sized family building cost closer to \$425,000 per unit, not taking into account [changes in] other development costs ... or land values over this time period." And this number is now 3 years old!

Without subsidy, it is hard to imagine how a simple upzone can generate a supply of affordable housing in this cost environment. No question, this is a complex problem, but we must address it as a society if we hope to make progress, and any measures that focus exclusively on 'supply' are, in my view, incomplete. We can and must do better.

— **Kerry O'Banion**

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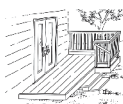
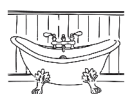
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# “The Painter Guy” in Rockridge

by Theresa Nelson

When a woman saw a man with a small easel outside her neighbor’s house, she was curious, and walked up behind him to see what he was painting. Her neighbor came out and said, “He’s nice, he’s the painter guy.”

Indeed, he is. A few years ago, John Hauser, a Rockridge neighbor for more than 20 years, and his husband, Jeff Small, sold their business Cityleaf, and embarked on new ventures, John into painting, Jeff into teaching math in public schools. John always wanted to paint, was turning 60, and felt this was the time.

He follows the colorist approach of the Cape Cod School of Art, and has worked with Camille Przewodek on landscapes,

and now Cedric Egeli on portraits. His work is representational, and the colorist approach brings vivid color contrasts, when overpainting creates a vibration of

color. John’s particular take on this is to paint the urban landscape with its juxtaposition of hard and soft, the light and shadows of the neighborhood. Many of his paintings are of houses and businesses in Rockridge, and some are of Lake Merritt. Your house or garden might be in the show.

One day I was walking our dog and came upon John with his easel set up across the street from our home. He was working to capture the shadows of a telephone pole and the large porch columns as the light of the setting sun created a rosy glow on our home. When he showed me the finished painting, it was indeed vibrant and beautiful.

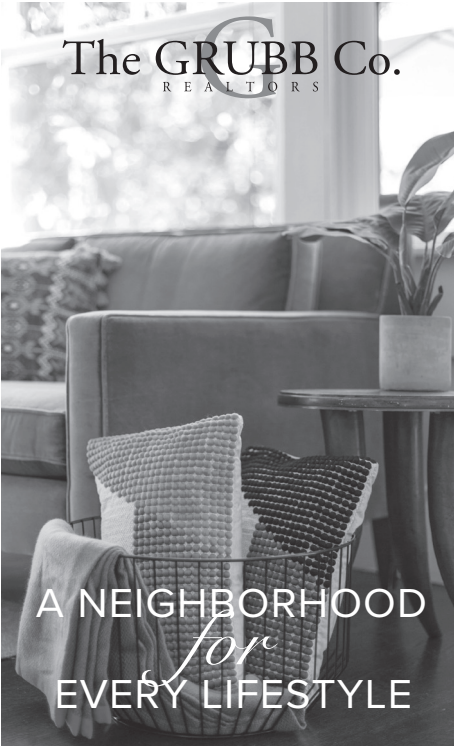
John’s show, “Local Colors,” opens July 5 at the Rockridge Cafe, running through August 7. Enjoy these views of Rockridge and beyond. John also accepts commissions for landscapes.



John’s website address is [www.johnwilliamhauser.com](http://www.johnwilliamhauser.com), and you can follow him on Instagram @johnwilliamhauser



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# Eyes on Rockridge

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY LESLEY EVERS

## College Avenue Designer Relocates... Down the Street

by Judith Doner Berne

Lesley Evers is all about local. The wife and mother of two, who designs her signature women's clothes from her Rockridge living room, moved her retail store late last month – from the corner of College Avenue and Forest to 5711 College, in the former Rockridge Rags storefront.

Yes, right next to Fit, a long-standing women's clothing store, whose owner, Evers said, has been completely welcoming. "I wanted a pocket of retail," said Joyce Gardener, who, with her husband, also owns the building. The new Lesley Evers shop is 300 square feet larger, with more wall space and more dressing rooms. But, she admits, it was hard to leave what had been her first brick and mortar store with its ample display windows and prominent corner location.

Evers emphasizes that her clothing line is not only designed, but manufactured and warehoused in Oakland, just 10 minutes from her house. "Often a dress starts with a textile idea. I design the print on a digital drawing board and then email the file to my fabric printer in Los Angeles. I look for inspiration in nature and flowers and patterns." And she relies on a few basic shapes.

I found Evers as easygoing and warm as her website, which begins: "I started sewing when I was 11 and I love making dresses. Always have." She goes on to

**Lesley Evers counts Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, left, as one of her customers.**

talk about her background, design process and goals, illustrated with photographs of her, her family, people she works with, and of friends wearing her clothing.

"I was born in Oakland," she writes. "Both my parents grew up in Berkeley so I have deep roots in California even though we moved to Charlotte, NC, when I was in second grade. I spent 10 years in Charlotte... but moved along to Philadelphia to go to the University of Pennsylvania where I studied Architecture and Art History, even though I really wanted to go to fashion school. My

mom thought UPenn was a better plan."

But her East Bay roots and passion for fashion won out. In town for her Berkeley grandmother's 90th birthday, she met Curtis Evers at the party. It turned out that "His grandmother and my grandmother had played bridge for 50 years." Their romance didn't please her grandmother, Lesley told me with a smile. "She was worried that (if it didn't work out) it would cause a rift at the bridge club."

Those fears were for naught. They have been married for 22 years and have two sons: Chase, a sophomore at San Francisco State and Will, an Oakland Technical High School senior. "He helps me with the business and he can make and fix anything," Lesley said of her husband. "We have his stone sculptures all over the house. I love them."

But the pièce de résistance is the 1971 Volkswagen bus Chase restored for her "outside and inside." She proudly drives it to pick up her designs from the factory and carts them to the warehouse awaiting online orders or to her Rockridge store. "I'm literally moving all the clothing. It's really physical. My hands have probably touched each and every dress that goes out the door."

It took a little longer for her to go into fashion full-time. It was 2007. "I was 40 and I thought 'if I don't do it now...,'" Lesley



➔ Designer, page 9



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# Designer

from page 8

said. "I started it all just with my credit cards, selling to the wholesale market" – which grew to 100 boutiques across the country and a department store. "My first sale was a cotton wrap dress."

When she decided it would be more satisfying to sell directly to customers, she opened the corner Rockridge store in 2013 and her online website. "I never looked back. I love interacting directly with my customers... I love the feedback and letters that I get."

I found it interesting, on my visits to her shop, that I have seen both young and older women buying her designs. "We have customers from 14 to 94 – and sizes 0 to 20," Lesley confirmed. "I don't design with a certain age in mind. I just work hard to make really pretty clothing. In the end it seems to appeal to lots of different ages and

that makes me so happy."

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf is a high-profile local patron. And, Cheryl Strayed, the author of "Wild," and Public Broadcasting news anchor Alison Stewart are among her online customers. "We sell more online than we do in the store," Lesley said.

"I love her clothes and I love to support her," Ashley O'Neill told me, as she browsed Lesley's shop one weekday afternoon, ducking into a dressing room to try on a black and white print dress and a shirt with a pattern of Monet-like flowers.

Salesperson Diana Horner explained that she was a customer before she began working at the Rockridge store. "It's fun to be part of her team," Horner, who lives in San Francisco, said. "She promotes women and she promotes Oakland. It's such a wonderful store, town and community."

When I returned on a Saturday morning, there was a line-up for the dressing rooms, as several women – and two husbands – filled the small shop. "I like the fact that her clothes are all designed and made locally," said Karen Sipprell, who, with her husband, had driven in from Portola Valley. "I love the retro look, her use of color. I like to support female entrepreneurs."

"I'm a fan," said Christine Crowley, a former Piedmont resident, visiting from Florida, who has been a customer from the get-go. "I had to make this stop," she said, as she roamed the store. Crowley sees both evolution and a return to earlier styling in the current collection. "She's changed and I see that she's coming back."

"I go into the store every day, but I'm not a great planner. It's all very fluid," Lesley said. For recreation, she loves to hike in the Hills, often accompanied by



Lesley and Curtis Evers in the back of the 1971 Volkswagen bus he redid for her, "outside and inside."

one or more of her three rescue dogs. Her favorite College Avenue stop is Market Hall where she enjoys the morning buns and High Wire coffee. But, "I do like to eat at home mostly."

To those who call up her website, she writes, in part: "I hope you don't have to put too much thought into your clothing. There are so many better things to do than worry about what you are wearing or what you are going to wear..."

Kind of a refreshing take from someone in the fashion industry.

Your comments on this column and suggestions for future columns are welcome by emailing [judyberne@att.net](mailto:judyberne@att.net).



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# CCA Neighbors Form Development Advocacy Group Meet The UPPER BROADWAY ADVOCATES (UBA)

We are neighbors organizing to respond to the proposed development at 5212 Broadway, the California College of the Arts campus. If you live or work nearby, please join us.

Our mission is to:

- Promote neighborhood evolution that is a model of beauty, sustainability, affordability and density
- Aspire to reflect the diversity of Oakland and the character of Rockridge

- Pursue a substantial increase in affordable housing
- Focus initially on redevelopment of the CCA Campus and surroundings
- Continue the artistic heritage of the site.

Oakland needs more housing, especially affordable housing including mid- to high-rise structures. However, we do not want a 19-story sore thumb that provides only 35 "affordable" art-

ist's studios out of 589 units. If we are vigilant and insistent, we can minimize negative impacts on the neighborhood. If you share these beliefs come to a community meeting at the Rockridge Library at 6:30 pm on July 17. The meeting will be repeated on July 31. If you cannot come to one of the meetings, please send an email to ubaoakland@gmail.com. We will put you on our mailing list and inform you of our next meeting. If you would like to become active now, please so indicate.

### UBA Steering Committee:

Kirk Peterson, Chair; Janis Brewer; Helen Brainerd; Nicole Chapman; Leslie Correll; Nicole Lazzaro; Jennifer McElrath; Nancy Morton; Abby Pollak; and Myrna Walton.

## Sharing Rockridge

by Michael Allaire

We have recently passed through the time of year when so many urban wildlife have had their offspring. You may have noticed more little squirrels, skunks, raccoons and OPOSSUMS! Although opossums are pretty odd, even a little scary looking, it turns out that they are really great animals to have foraging in our yards and around our neighborhoods. They contribute in so many ways: they eat snails, slugs and other pests, (including ticks and fleas – good to know

Sharing Rockridge, page 14



I am an opossum.

If you leave out food I will eat it. I get hungry too. If you want me to leave, cover up the food. I don't have rabies if I am walking in a circle -- I probably have a head injury. If I'm trapped in your trashcan, turn it on its side and leave me for a bit so I can go. I eat snakes, spiders, and rodents.

I might look scary, but I mean you no harm. Please don't hurt me or my babies.

We can coexist.

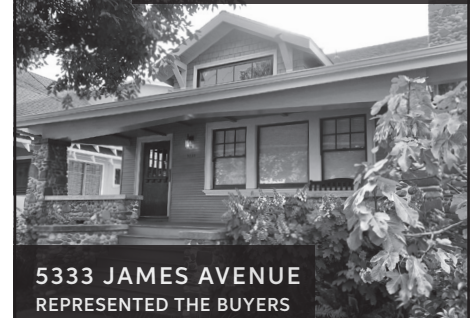
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## RR Library Teen Advisory Board

from page 4

celebration of National Library Week, was a culmination of a discussion regarding the many aspects of the library that benefit the public.

As a group, we discussed that the library to us means not just access to books, but also a meeting place to socialize and acquire valuable resources. The public responses we received on our poster justify this belief, as people used the words “5power,” “sustenance,” and “community” when sharing what this space means to them. The library can have something for anyone and everyone.

In the future, the Rockridge Teen Advisory Board hopes to create more spaces for teens to engage with each other and explore personal passions, furthering young people’s collective ability to become advocates for themselves and their community. After all, TAB relies on the idea that the library is not only provided for the people, but built by those same individuals as well.



## Kitchen Tour Countdown

from page 1

learn strategies for creating seamless flow between the rest of the house, the kitchen, and the outdoors, and how to make the most of a small space without sacrificing amenities.

There will be a lot to see on the 2019 Kitchen Tour, and many architects, contractors, and designers will be on hand at each kitchen to answer your questions. Docents with extensive knowledge of the remodels will also be at each house to answer questions about each owner’s goals and challenges.

Kitchen Tour guests will receive a copy of the comprehensive tour Brochure, describing each kitchen and listing resources for those contemplating a remodel of their own kitchens. The tour brochure is a treasure trove for both design enthusiasts and future renovators.

After viewing the marvelous kitchens on the tour, you’re likely to be pretty hungry. Why not make a full day of it in Rockridge, and also enjoy the vibrant commercial district on College Avenue, with its casual and fine dining and signature shopping.

Advance tickets go on sale on July 1, online at [kitchens@rockridge.org](mailto:kitchens@rockridge.org) or at Nathan + Co., 5636 College Avenue: \$45 plus service charge. Day of Kitchen Tour tickets are \$50 plus service charge, on sale at the registration booth at College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College.

## OPD System Upgrade Affects Some Data

by Karen Ivy, Secretary, NCPC

I notified the group on May 10 that no complete crime report for April 2019 was available due to the unexpected consequences of a system upgrade at the city of Oakland. The data feed we lost has been partially restored, with many fewer incidents than were formerly reported and less data on each incident (a date but no time stamp, for example). I don’t know whether the increase in incidents in the May report is due to more crime or simply better data recovery.

I decided to report based on what I have, with the warning that if you reported an incident, it may or may not be in the list. Please do continue to report incidents. The city is still working on the data retrieval problem. Here are links to the available crime statistics for beats 12Y and 13X for the months of April and May 2019. The files are now available on <http://rockridgencpc.com>, under Resources > Crime Stats and Maps > Rockridge Crime Trends 2019-2020. Here’s a direct link to the page: <http://tinyurl.com/y5mc2suu>

Here are direct links to the individual files:

Crime Stats April 2019 <http://tinyurl.com/y6gnsa33>

Crime Stats May 2019 <http://tinyurl.com/y3yfmjxt>

For those concerned about auto burglaries, be assured that OPD knows about the problem and has made it a priority. You may not see them at work, but they are working on it.


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### Competition Drives Price in June

Closing date	BR	BA	Address	Original price	List price	DOM	Selling price
6/5/2019	2	1	5274 Manila Ave	\$1,095,000	\$1,095,000	14	\$1,580,000
6/6/2019	2	2	5351 Belgrave Pl	\$899,000	\$899,000	12	\$1,250,000
6/7/2019	5	3	5333 James Avenue	\$2,525,250	\$2,525,250	0	\$2,525,250
6/10/2019	3	3	5705 Ayala Ave	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000	11	\$1,500,000
6/12/2019	3	1	375 62nd St	\$1,249,000	\$1,249,000	15	\$1,815,000
6/13/2019	3	2	5715 Oak Grove Ave	\$1,495,000	\$1,495,000	12	\$1,740,000
6/14/2019	3	2	5316 Miles Ave	\$895,000	\$895,000	9	\$1,300,000
6/18/2019	3	2	477 59th St	\$949,000	\$949,000	14	\$1,100,000

Homes sold in June closed 25% over the asking price on average.

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# Get the Lead Out ! Part 2

**H**ealthy Homes Department is co-recipient of a national award for asthma intervention work.

The Community Development Agency's Alameda County Healthy Homes Department (ACHHD) is proud to receive the National Association of Counties 2019 Achievement Award for its work with the Health Care Services Agency's Public Health Department in reducing asthma emergency room visits and hospitalizations.

Through in-home environmental assessments, education and home remediation, the Healthy Homes Department and Public Health Department's Asthma Start Program are effectively addressing uncontrolled pediatric asthma in Alameda County.

In addition, Healthy Homes and Public Health are working with partners from the University of California Berkeley, Impact 4 Health, and Turner Consulting to further research and evaluate the effectiveness of their work in addressing acute pediatric asthma.

This collaboration began in 2015 under the name of "Pay for Success Initiative". Pay

*Are you a Rockridge resident in an older home? If you are planning on painting and other repairs, Healthy Homes can help you work safely on a potentially dangerous project.*

for Success (PFS) is performance-based contracting within the social sector, where the government pays only if results are achieved. The model shifts funding for social services toward prevention and early interventions,



The PFS Initiative includes providing families with asthmatic children a psychosocial assessment, environmental assessments for known asthma triggers, in-home asthma education, and home remediation to improve indoor air quality. Working with researchers from UC Berkeley and with an actuarial, the program has demonstrated great success in reducing ED visits and hospitalizations by 51.6 percent and 80 percent, respectively. Participants' asthma is under much greater control. The program evaluation team is finalizing estimates of the substantial cost savings to the hospital systems and health care plans and planning for scale-up and replication.

ACHHD Pay for Success team members in photo at left, left to right:

- Soni Johnson – Healthy Homes Specialist
- Julie Kurko – Health Program Manager
- Larry Brooks – Director of ACHHD
- Mable Smith – Healthy Homes Specialist
- Gabriel Alvarez – Admin. Support
- April Williamson – Finance Manager

which saves money and improves outcomes for community members. It saves taxpayers money because the government only pays for results. It also brings new private funding to scale preventative social services that have proven results while aligning stakeholders' interests and incentives around shared goals. Ultimately, targeted intervention services result in improved public health with significant projected health savings.



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# NCPC — RCPC

from page 1

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a presentation by Lars Eric Holm of Eden Information and Referral Services, which provides emergency preparedness training, as well as serving as a general information and referrals resource for Alameda County (dial 211 on your phone to reach them). Mr. Holm pointed out that while 911 is where you'd report a crime or other emergency situation. For fire or medical emergency, call Oakland Fire Dept. at 444-1616. If you want to know where to go if you have to evacuate your home, call 211. 211 can be a good source of information in a disaster – or during normal times.

Mr. Holms next led the group in an exercise in “thinking outside the box.” He pointed out that while normally we use “convergent thinking” (knowledge of known details; e.g., what are the pointy parts of a fork? (tines; how many on a normal fork? 4.)

In a disaster, it's more useful to use “divergent thinking” – finding new ways to solve a problem when the normal answers won't work. He also called it “MacGyvering,” after the TV series hero who often had to find unusual ways to solve a problem. The exercise was thinking of how you might use a ziplock plastic bag. Answers ranged from storing water to plugging a leak to keeping something dry to rescuing your pet goldfish during a disaster. He pointed out that in a disaster, optimism is better than pessimism. Pessimism leads to

despair, while optimism can lead to looking for a solution.

In preparing for a disaster, start with “Why?” Obviously, the why is to protect yourself, your family, and your community. Next is “How,” the nuts and bolts of preparedness – putting together an accessible set of supplies that might be needed; getting training, such as Oakland's CORE program (normally run by Oakland Fire Department, but temporarily suspended due to a shortage of training personnel); or courses run by Eden I & R. The “What” is being prepared for expected – or unexpected – disasters, such as a major earthquake, a wildfire, loss of power or water service, etc.

How to prepare depends on individual situations. These include: infants, children, elderly, the disabled, pets, employees, and tenants. Each situation may require special elements for preparedness. Think about possible scenarios, what might be needed, and how you'd get what you need. Collect useful items in a preparedness kit. Also, have a “Go Kit” – what you'd want available if you needed to leave suddenly.

Mr Holms ended by emphasizing that preparedness requires a good attitude as well as preparing and practicing. Eden I & R is available to conduct more specific training. Call their office at 510/727-9516 or leholm@edenir.org.

A video of most of the Town Hall has been posted on the Rockridge Community Planning Council's YouTube Channel, and a copy of Mr. Holm's presentation slides will be posted (along with this report) on rockridge.org.



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Your 36-word message is \$22. (Phone number counts as one word.) **Make check payable to RCPC** and write **Rockridge News Classified Ad** on the memo line. Mail to: **RN Classifieds**, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. **The classified ad September issue deadline is August 15. The September issue will be out September 7.** For information: Email Susan Montauk via [smontauk@gmail.com](mailto:smontauk@gmail.com)

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## Sharing Rockridge

from page 10

since we are in the peak of flea/tick season), without the need for chemical/deadly poisons in our yards. I haven't had to remove snails from my yard as long as there is an opossum around. They actually help keep the rat population under control as they will forage through rat nests and consume the baby rats before they mature and spread out. They have an almost zero incidence of rabies (they actually seem resistant to it), and they are the least likely of wild animals to be aggressive or to attack or bite. In short, they are a very complimentary and beneficial animal to have around.

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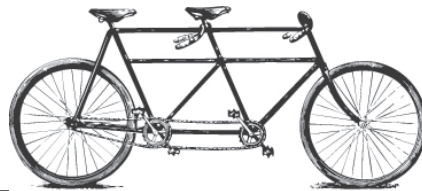
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This is important to know because it is common for people to want to control or kill them, partly because they look so scary or seem dirty. I am hoping that this article will inform people about the benefits of having opossums around, and that as a neighborhood, we can support and encourage – or at least tolerate – opossums.

One big thing we can all do is to stop using any kind of pest poisons. The kind of poisons often put out for rats kill all manner of other animals, wild and domesticated, such as our dogs and cats.

The various fauna that live with us in our neighborhood have a valued and critical place in our urban ecosystem.

Encouraging and Supporting Our Fauna  
Neighbors for a  
Diverse and Healthy Neighborhood.

## Housing Study

from page 3

with the City (both planning department and office of the mayor) about how the proposed study fits with City objectives and whether funds might be available to help complete a larger analysis that would be informed by our community-led approach.

If readers have thoughts on additional items for inclusion in the scenarios or their analysis, please send to [landuse@rockridge.org](mailto:landuse@rockridge.org) or the RCPC mailbox: 4123 Broadway PMB 311, Oakland CA 94611.

## College Avenue Safeway Community Enhancement Funds

As reported in last month's Rockridge News, the settlement reached by community groups — including RCPC — with Safeway resulted in \$400,000 to be made available for “community enhancements” within five years of the store's opening. The five year deadline is approaching in January, so the choice is, “use it, or lose it.”

Community members have suggested several projects of generally four categories: **1) Measures to discourage cut-through traffic on residential streets near the Safeway.** Possible streets include Colby St. north & south of Alcatraz Avenue, Hillegass Avenue north & south of Alcatraz, and the easternmost block of Alcatraz. Measures could include speed bumps, signage, or roundabouts with yield signs. **2) Improvements to existing traffic signals.** The two signals mentioned are at Claremont/College and Claremont/Mystic/Auburn (Safeway loading dock). **3) Pedestrian crossing enhancements** (e.g., flashing light for pedestrians) along Alcatraz Avenue at either Colby or Hillegass. **4) Purchase of the “point” of the currently-vacant parcel at College/Claremont for a public “mini-park.”**

To suggest additional options, email now to [landuse@rockridge.org](mailto:landuse@rockridge.org), or write to to RCPC Land Use Committee, 4123 Broadway PMB 311, Oakland CA 94611.

The three groups will be meeting in the next month or two to reach a decision on the use of the funds.

Email Rockridge News Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210 (after noon), or mail to: Rockridge News Community Calendar, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. 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

**\*\*End-of-Summer Reading Party at the Oakland Museum:** Sunday, Aug. 4, 11-3. **Free for all ages.** Stories, games, books; Kamishibai Stories at 11:30 a.m.; Circus of Smiles at 12:30 p.m.; Drag Queen and Drag King. Bookstravaganza at 2:p.m.

#### FOR CHILDREN

- **Family Story Time:** Stories/songs/rhymes (for all ages); Saturdays, 10:30am.

- **Toddler Story Time:** Songs, active rhymes and stories (for 9 months to 2 years), Thursdays, 10:30am, upstairs.

- **Pre-School Story Time:** Read-alouds, songs, and rhymes (ages 2 to 5); Thursdays, 10:30am.

**All story times followed by Play Time; parents and caregivers invited.**

**SPECIAL SUMMER EVENTS: all ages welcome.**

**\*\*Summer Reading Program** on now: **pick up free A's Tickets**, Reading Log and calendar of events; or sign up online at [oaklandLibrary.org/summer](http://oaklandLibrary.org/summer). Finish by August 3rd to get prizes for reading and enter the raffle.

- **Chess Club:** learn the basics; Instruction and chess sets provided. Best for ages 8 to 14. Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30pm in July (will resume in September; call for dates).

- **Paws to Read:** Sandy's dog Scout loves to listen when kids practice reading aloud. You pick the book. All ages welcome. Every Thurs, 3:30-4:30pm in July and August.

- **Build, Make, Play, Crafts & Projects:** Every Thursday, 3:30-4:30pm. July to August 1. (Crafts list posted in the library, includes activities for ages 5 to 12.)

- **David Grashton:** Sing along music for ages 0 to 6. Thurs, July 11, 10:30am.

#### TUESDAY EVENINGS at 6:30pm:

- **Bubble Lady: July 9.** Experience every imaginable bubble.

- **Magic Nathaniel: July 16.** Learn a little magic & a few card tricks during the show.

- **Traveling Lantern: July 23.** Experience live theater & get in on the act.

- **Kamishibai: July 30.** Paper-theater stories on a bike.

#### FOR TEENS

**\*\*\*Sign up for 2019 Summer Reading (for ages 12-19):** Get a free TeenZone notebook. Collect stamps to get a free TeenZone backpack, raffle tickets, and more. Or register online at [oaklandlibrary.org/services/cards-and-visiting/summer-opl/teen-summer-passport](http://oaklandlibrary.org/services/cards-and-visiting/summer-opl/teen-summer-passport).

**\*\*\*Teen Volunteers wanted ages 11-16:** to help with the Summer Reading Program and other routine library tasks. Email Erica at [esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org), or stop by the Children's Reference Desk to sign up for an orientation.

- **Rock Painting:** July 17, 3:30pm: Paint rocks and turn them into magnets.

- **Henna:** July 19th, 3:30pm: Learn about the ancient art of henna. Henna tattoos are temporary.

- **Welcome Week August 12-16:** Special activities and prizes; photo booth; raffle and more.

#### FOR ADULTS

**\*\*\*Adult Summer Reading Program:** on now. Read or complete activities to win prizes. Play online or at the library.

- **eBook Help:** Download eBooks. Work one-on-one with a librarian to use our digital resources. Book appt. online or call 510-597-5017. Fridays, 2-3:30pm.

- **Adult Craft Series, String Art:** Create beautiful wall art with just wood, nails, and string. All materials & instruction provided. Sign-up in advance at the library or call 510-597-5017. Sat, July 27, 2-4pm.

- **Second Saturday Book Club:** 2nd Sat each month, 3-4pm. Phone for details and book selection: 597-5017.

- **Writers Support/Critique Group:** Bring 15 copies of up to 5 pgs. of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (OK to come empty-handed). 3rd Sat. each month, 1pm; wheelchair-accessible. Info: 420-8775 or [Writefox@aol.com](mailto:Writefox@aol.com).

#### UPSTAIRS ART GALLERY:

July: **Aparna Ewing: Quilts**

#### LIBRARY HOURS:

**Mon, Thurs & Sat: 10am to 5:30pm.**

**Tues, Wed: 12:30 to 8pm.**

**Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.**

**Closed: Sun: Also Mondays Sept 2 and Sept 9.**

### Be a Volunteer Story Reader in Oakland Preschools

Want to foster a life-long love of reading in Oakland's children? Volunteers with Oakland Public Library's Books for Wider Horizons program do weekly storytimes in Oakland preschools. Plan now: Training for volunteers will take place at Rockridge Library in September. For more information, go to [www.oaklandlibrary.org/bwh](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/bwh).

### East Bay Booksellers Book/Poetry Readings. FREE and open to the public.

- Wed, 7/10, 7pm. **Ruchika Tomar:** A Prayer for Travelers. In conversaton with Chia-Chia Lin.

- Sun, 7/14, 3pm. **Poetry Flash. With Robin Behn and Julie Bruck.**

- Mon, 7/15, 7pm. **Local author Jasmine Guillory:** *The Wedding Party*.

East Bay Booksellers, 5433 College Ave. More info abt. the authors, books and other events: 653-9965 or [info@ebbooksellers.com](mailto:info@ebbooksellers.com).

### North Oakland Senior Center

5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way

Mon. – Fri., 9am to 4:30pm. **Programs include:** Arts/crafts; health counseling; dancing and exercise; trips, tours and theater outings; Alzheimer's support groups, computer classes/more.

- **New Free Exercise & Balance Class:** sponsored by SPECTRUM Community Services. Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays from 10:45 to 11:45am. **Register now.**

- **Free Blood Pressure Screening:** provided by Holy Name University Nursing Students. July 11 and 18, 10am to 12pm.

- **Drug Collection Bin now available in the Center. Put your old medications** in a plastic baggie to dispose safely. Do not flush or pour down the drain. Sponsored by EBMUD.

- **Ice cream Social:** free for NOSC members (Join now for \$12/year). August 7, 1 – 3pm. **Seniors age 55+ join for \$12 annual dues.** Provides discounts, other benefits, and a subscription to "The North Oakland Senior Times" with full schedule of classes/events, lunch menus, and volunteer opportunities. More info at 597-5085.

### Temescal Farmers' Market

**Open Sundays, 9am to 1pm (all year).** Sample the goods; meet the growers. Live music. **Bring reusable bags.** 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Telegraph) at DMV parking lot.



Fall selling season is just around the corner!  
It could be a good time to take advantage of the market and list your home. It's not too early to make plans!



**Ask Claudia.**

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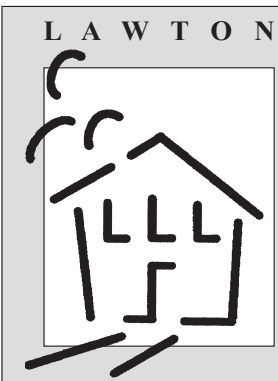
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