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## RCPC Board Vacancy Offers Opportunity

Are you looking to help promote community projects that enhance the quality of life in Rockridge? Are you concerned about traffic, development issues, parks and schools? Rockridge needs people like you.

Serving on the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) board of directors provides you with the perfect volunteer opportunity to work on these issues and more. Boardmembers serve a two-year term.

RCPC, a nonprofit public benefit corporation (501(c)(3)), represents Rockridge to the city of Oakland on such matters as zoning, development and crime. It acts as a community steward on a variety of issues, ranging from land use to traffic and schools. RCPC has also spearheaded neighborhood improvement projects such as the Rockridge Branch Library, the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt (Frog Park) and Hardy Dog Park. The Rockridge News, published by the RCPC, serves as an important vehicle for neighborhood communication. Recent RCPC Town Hall meeting topics have included plans proposed for the Rockridge

▶ **Board Vacancy, page 10**

## BART Parking Lot Set for Re-Landscaping



A failed water line caused an extensive die-off of landscaped plants in the BART lot near Forest. BART will be repairing and replanting. **Story, page 9.**

/RN FILES  
DON KINKEAD

## Rockridge Talking: Wish Lists & Ideas Shared at June Town Hall Meeting

When asked "How many have lived in Rockridge more than 20 years?" the majority of the more than 70 Rockridge residents at the June RCPC Town Hall meeting raised their hands. The meeting was to consider ways Rockridge could be improved.

/DON KINKEAD



by *Zabrae Valentine, chair, RCPC*

Oakland City Planning Director Rachel Flynn drew a huge crowd at the June RCPC Town Hall, where she provided a richly informative overview of Oakland's approach to urban planning, how Rockridge fits into that vision, and what kinds of things we can do to further enhance our neighborhood. RCPC board member Virginia Hamilton then led the 70-plus attendees in an exchange of ideas including expressions of local concerns as well as a wide range of possible solutions.

The ideas offered by community members at the June program added to the wealth

▶ **Rockridge Talking, page 11**

## Oakland Changing: Planning Director Gives Perspective to the Present

by *Don Kinkead, editor*

Once upon a time, before the automobile and the bus became dominant in urban transportation, most American cities had robust streetcar systems that were dependable, comfortable to ride, and took people where

▶ **Oakland Changing, page 11**

### RCPC Town Hall Meeting

Pizza: 7 p.m. | Program: 7:30

**17** Thursday, July 17  
**AGENDA**

#### Are You Feeling Parched?

RCPC takes a look at the whys and wherefores of the drought and remedies available now.

- Join us and a panel of experts that will offer ideas of how to reduce your water consumption and whether the Bay Area should make these changes permanent as we look to the future. Bring your water bill along and share examples of your savings. If you own a single family home, and plan on modifying it, selling it or buying another, learn what new building code requirements will apply to you effective January 2014. Water conservation is no longer just a voluntary idea.



Thursday, July 17 | 7-9 p.m. Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College at Manila

Rockridge businessman and early Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) chair Ray Perman submitted this nostalgic look back at streetcars and commuter rail lines once prevalent in the Bay Area well in advance of Oakland Planning Director Rachel Flynn's lament for the long-gone streetcar (article, page 1) in her remarks at the June Town Hall meeting. Perman describes his research into local rail transit and a trip to the Western Railway Museum in Suisun City where many of the old trains are preserved. — Editor

## '...It Takes (Losing) a Train to Cry'

by Ray Perman

As a Berkeley student in the pre-Transbay BART 1970s, I often rode mass transit between my parents' home in Palo Alto and the Cal campus. The trip was generally timely, but during one evening rush-hour,

minutes, they made it to most other locations in the outer Oakland, Piedmont, and Berkeley areas within 30 to 40 minutes – every day – no matter what the traffic. The Key Route E Line traveled up Claremont Avenue and terminated at the Claremont Hotel; travel time between San Francisco and College Avenue was only 32 minutes.



**A Key System electric rail car on an Oakland street. From the files of the Western Railway Museum at Suisun City near Fairfield.** "Key System Oakland, 1950. Key System transit lines, 187B at Oakland, CA, 28 Oct 1950. Don Ross Collection." Source: Ray Perman.

I found things decidedly different; the platforms of San Francisco's Transbay Terminal were jammed with what seemed like 10,000 waiting passengers, with only about three AC Transit buses in sight.

Suddenly an older looking AC Transit supervisor brushed through the crowd grumbling loudly to no one in particular, "We'd used to have trains out and back in 40 minutes no matter what!" Apparently a serious auto accident had closed the bridge, and a closed bridge meant no transit service.

Following up on this experience, I went to the UC Main Library and checked the old Key System Bridge Service schedules. I found that not only did the trains make it to most points in central Oakland in about 20

minutes, they made it to most other locations in the outer Oakland, Piedmont, and Berkeley areas within 30 to 40 minutes – every day – no matter what the traffic. The Key Route E Line traveled up Claremont Avenue and terminated at the Claremont Hotel; travel time between San Francisco and College Avenue was only 32 minutes. Equally astounding was the level of service provided by Key Route Local Service streetcars. They collected passengers on such streets as Broadway, College Avenue, Telegraph Avenue, Alcatraz Avenue, Piedmont Avenue, Highland Avenue and others, and delivered them to the Bridge Service train routes and other East Bay locations with typical

service frequencies of every 15 minutes. I recall an aging merchant telling me that you could set your watches by them and that most everyone knew the quarter-hour schedules for their stops by heart – in both directions. More remarkably, during rush-hour, the frequency on Telegraph Avenue would be doubled to a streetcar every 7-1/2 minutes and they would hold perfect spacing. Thus, citizens could time their walks to their local stop to arrive just a minute or two before the next streetcar. By comparison, the number of times I have had to wait over 30 minutes for AC Transit 50-Line buses should be considered shameful.

Rockridge was also blessed by being

➔ **Train to Cry, page 12**

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Wed, Thu, Sat: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Fri: 12 – 5:30 p.m.

**CLOSED Sun and Mon, also Tue., Sept 2.**

**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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Barry Kaufman.....Food  
Judith Doner Berne.....Eyes on Rockridge  
Jo Ellis.....Advertising & Community Calendar  
Susan Montauk.....Business Manager  
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To subscribe to **The Rockridge News**, send your check for \$20, payable to *Rockridge News* Subscriptions, to: *Rockridge News* Subscriptions at the address below.

### Contacting The Rockridge News

- Are there community issues you'd like to see covered in **The Rockridge News**?
- Do you have questions about newsletter distribution?
- Want to volunteer to be a **Rockridge News** block captain?
- Would you like to write a letter to the Editor?

Contact us at one of the following:

**Editor: editor@rockridge.org**

**www.rockridge.org**

**The Rockridge News**, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611

**RCPC Voice mail: 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/Deadline

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

☛ **September 6, 2014**

☛ **September deadline is August 21, 2014**

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

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## RCPC Land Use Committee

The next Land Use Committee meeting is Wednesday, July 23, 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge branch library. Check with the chair (652-5373 or [stufash@aol.com](mailto:stufash@aol.com)) the week before for an updated agenda.

### Land Use Update

by *Stuart Flashman, RCPC Land Use Committee co-chair*

#### ■ Merrill Gardens at Rockridge: West Side of Broadway North of 51st Street

This project, which proposes market-rate senior housing over ground floor retail, received final Planning Commission approval on June 18. Neighbors of the project had concerns about project access by construction equipment and deliveries as well as removal of street trees. For the most part, these appear to have been addressed during negotiations with the developer and conditions of approval included in the use permit for the project. RCPC assisted by meeting with the neighbors to discuss approaches to addressing their concerns.

#### ■ Rockridge Shopping Center Safeway Rebuild Project: Broadway/Pleasant Valley

All of the buildings included in the first construction phase of this project, including the CVS, have been vacated. Demolition should begin shortly. Pre-construction traffic measurements have been made to compare with after-project traffic to see if the project adds to cut-through traffic on nearby residential streets. Safeway has set aside mitigation funds to address those impacts if they occur.

#### ■ College Avenue Safeway Project: College and Claremont Avenues

Project construction continues. Call the RCPC message phone number (869-4200) if you see something that needs to be brought to Safeway's or the City's attention. Safeway has submitted a Master Sign Program application for project signage. The proposed signs total 335 square feet, almost 90 percent of which will be lit at night.

▶ Land Use Committee, page 10

## NCPC Chair Moves On Frank Castro Leaves Crime Group



FILE/FRANK CASTRO

## Rockridge NCPC Seeks New Chair

The Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) bids farewell to chairman Frank Castro, who is moving on to other pursuits. He has served as NCPC chair for Greater Rockridge (police beats 12Y and 13X) since early 2010.

We will miss Frank, but the organization

▶ NCPC Seeks New Chair, page 13

# City Encourages Annual Block Parties as Anti-Crime Tool

## Frequently Asked Questions: National Night Out

This year every party will receive at least one visit from a team of city officials, police officers, or city employees, so register early.




**1. When Is National Night Out?:** Tuesday, August 5, between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. It is always held the first Tuesday in August.


**2. How Can I Register for National Night Out?:** The online registration form is at <http://gismaps.oaklandnet.com/nno/>. The deadline is 6 p.m.

Monday, July 28. Register early to receive a visit from city staff.

**3. What Is National Night Out?:** National Night Out is the  
▶ National Night Out, page 13

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Two DMV volunteers have cleared a mound of ivy — partially visible at right and in photo below — from a very large eucalyptus tree along the Temescal Greenbelt creek bed.

/MARGARET PINTER



Margaret Pinter piles the ivy pulled from the eucalyptus.

/LEONORA SEA

### Creek to Bay Day, September; Fun at the June Interim Creek Cleanup

Saturday, June 20, marked the summer solstice and the DMV Neighbors Association's annual June Interim Creek Cleanup in the Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt. The group tackled pruning, weeding, ivy eradication, and trash pickup, and removed some non-native

volunteer small trees and shrubs before they could get out of hand. A good time was had by all, and a lot was accomplished. Stroll by and admire the creek between Cavour and Clarke.

In September, DMV Neighbors will once again sponsor Creek to Bay Day along Temes-

cal Creek in the greenbelt. Join in on September 20 from 9 to noon for (yes, again!) weeding, pruning, ivy eradication, and trash pickup – all most important to keeping our creek and park healthy and welcoming.

There may also be an opportunity to plant some natives along the creek as well. Watch for more news.

— Leonora Sea  
DMV Neighbors Association

### City Responds to Community Questions and Comments About Planned Broadway Changes

by Victoria Eisen, city consultant

In the weeks since the May 29 community meeting hosted by the city of Oakland to present planned improvements to Broadway between Broadway Terrace and Ocean View Drive (see June 2014 issue of The Rockridge News for a report of the meeting), staff and their consultants have transcribed and responded to over 70 comments and questions conveyed at and since the meeting.

A summary of this information is available at [www.fourthbore.org](http://www.fourthbore.org).

The current project schedule calls for construction documents to be complete by early next year, which will allow the competitive bidding process for construction to occur in spring 2015. The City Council will be asked to approve the project and award the construction contract next summer, with construction beginning in fall 2015.

For more information, contact the city's Caldecott projects consultant, Victoria Eisen, at [victoria@eisenletunic.com](mailto:victoria@eisenletunic.com) or 510/525-0220. [See project details below.]

#### Project Information Reprinted from Newsletter May 2014 Issue

The project includes the following components:

- Resurfacing the roadway
- Reducing the number of traffic lanes from four to three (one lane in each direction, with a two-way center turn lane, steps

- sometimes referred to as a road diet)
- Adding bicycle lanes on both sides of the street
- Installing a pedestrian-activated signal at Lawton Avenue
- Improved, high-visibility

- crosswalks at all intersections
- No changes to existing on-street parking
- Constructing bulb-outs at Taft Avenue, Kales Avenue and Ada Street.

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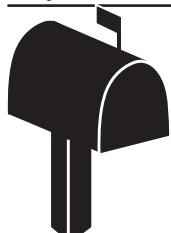
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# Letters to the Editor

The Rockridge News welcomes letters to the editor. Your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and city/neighborhood must be included for verification. Only your name will appear with your letter. Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity at the editor's discretion. Views expressed in any letter are the writer's own, and may not necessarily be shared by the editor, or by RCPC.

## THERE IS NO NEWS IN THE COLLEGE AVENUE RETAIL SITUATION

**EDITOR:**

Regarding concerns about Rockridge retail, what is the news here? When residential rent or mortgage payment plus associated expenses go up, purchasing power goes down, and retail suffers.

Other than a few food stores, there is nothing being sold on the Avenue that folks need like, say, a hardware store.

— **Bryan Grunwald**

## ALLOW LANDLORDS TO RENT TO SUSTAINABLE TENANTS

**EDITOR:**

Your article on page 10 of the May 2014 Rockridge News about the restriction to retail only has come back to bite the community of Rockridge and the RCPC. All communities need a diverse arrangement of customer goods and services to make a community viable.

In my opinion, the RCPC should push to scrap the retail only restriction and allow the landlords of these very attractive spaces to be filled with tenants that are sustainable, which would help our business community be more diverse, which in turn will create tenants that can be very successful in serving our neighborhood.

— **Larry Olund**

## COLLEGE AVENUE PAVEMENT UNDER THE BART OVERPASS IS HARD ON CYCLISTS AND DRIVERS

**EDITOR:**

I've just started riding a bicycle again along College from my home on Kales.

The College Avenue pavement under the BART tracks is killing my bicycle, and it's bad enough in a car, too.

Why does it stay so rough and unruly for so long? Whose jurisdiction is it? Will the pothole blitz fix it?

If the 51 bus is at the curb on the west side, I have to go around it and am almost bumped off my bike, or I must go around on the sidewalk to survive. If I get hurt, whom should I sue?

— **M. C. Haug**

**EDITOR'S REPLY:**

According to Kristine Shaff, public information officer for the City's Public Works Agency, the area of College Avenue you refer to is a resurfacing problem, not a pothole problem, and it will not have been fixed during the pothole blitz. But, says Shaff, the real problem is a lack of resources (read money). According to the agency's Oakland Streets Fact Sheet, online at <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakcal/groups/pwa/documents/report/oak029773.pdf>, "Oakland would need to spend \$28M per year just to maintain the existing pavement condition

[already on an 85-year repaving schedule]. Unfortunately, the City's budget for street renovation is just a fraction of that:

Fiscal Year	Resurfacing Notes
2012-2013	\$4.3M. Entire amount is County/State/Federal funds

"The backlog of streets needing work is \$435M and growing."

Shaff said Oakland residents will have a chance to vote on street repair funding in elections set for later this year.

## ROCKRIDGE LACKS SENIOR-FRIENDLY HOUSING

**EDITOR:**

After house hunting all over the Bay Area, my husband and I downsized from our large home in the suburbs and moved back to Oakland in 2002. Because my husband is legally blind and can't drive, we kept coming back to Rockridge with its walkability and great public transit.

Now we are at a crossroads again; our lovely LITTLE home has lots of stairs—which are getting harder for us to navigate as we get older. He is 71 and I'm 67.

For a dozen years, we have hoped that Rockridge would create some three-story buildings on College Avenue with retail on the ground floor and condos or apartments (with elevators) on the upper two floors.

RCPC has been deaf to the needs of many of its residents even when possible sites became available. I joined RCPC in 2003 and volunteered to be on the Land Use committee, but resigned when it became apparent that board members were determined to ignore the growing needs of the residents who live here.

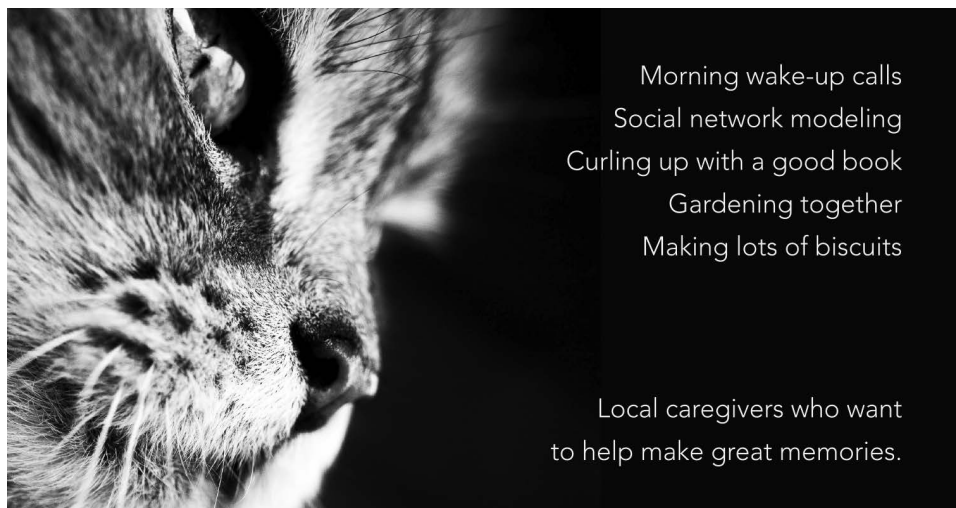
Now, the lack of senior-friendly housing options is forcing many long-time residents who live in homes with flights of stairs to move out of this area. We have become a community of high-priced destination restaurants and overpriced tiny, old houses. And so, we are losing the character and charm that we once had—even 10 years ago.

The sites of currently empty storefronts would make excellent locations for that type of housing.

— **Eileen and Kenny Levin**

**EDITOR'S REPLY:**

**Mr. and Ms. Levin:** You may find answers in the proposed market-rate senior development project noted in the Land Use Committee report on Merrill Gardens, page 3, and the article on North Oakland Village, page 13.



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# Eyes on Rockridge

## New Rockridge Resident Cooks Up Local Food Tour

by Judith Doner Berne

When you stop and think about it, it makes perfect sense – a Rockridge Heritage and Walking Food Tour.

But it took a newcomer to make it happen.

Lauren Herpich and her husband Chris, who met on Match.com, moved here from Chicago a year and a half ago – a few months after they were married (a destination wedding in Napa). As they got on the plane to return to Chicago, they asked themselves, why?

Soon they were headed west, but unlike many young people, they didn't start out living in San Francisco and then head for the East Bay.

No, the two targeted Rockridge from the get-go, following up on an Oakland Hills friend's recommendation and their own Internet research. Like the rest of us, "We liked that we can walk everywhere, the weather and the great vibe," Herpich says.

It was mid-January and they felt fortunate to find a rental they loved in a building that straddles the Rockridge-Berkeley border. "We are the last address in Rockridge," she says. Their mailing address and garbage pick-up are actually Berkeley, since that's where the building's entryway is. But their DMV registration, voting and cable are Oakland where their apartment sits. "We feel like Rockridge picked us," she says.

On a Thursday afternoon in early June, I joined a group of about a dozen people on Herpich's second-ever tour. Most were friends and friends of friends who had come from Pleasanton and Pittsburg, Walnut Creek and San Francisco; one was visiting from Nebraska.

We met at the corner of Ashby and Tunnel Road (she is hoping to attract visitors staying at the Claremont Hotel), where she handed out morning buns from La Farine French Bakery (begun in 1977) and bottled water to help sustain us on the sunny, hilly, three-hour, three-mile route. "Let me give you some food. It's a food tour," she began.

Starting on the Berkeley side of Tunnel Road, we learned about and sampled spe-

cialty on-tap olive oils from the owner of Amphora Nueva, who said her family has been associated with olive oils for a century.

Then we headed for the heart of Rockridge, getting information about and tasting cheese at Market Hall (started in 1987), stuffed pizza at Zachary's Chicago Pizza (1983) and Dreyer's signature Rocky Road ice cream, reportedly created by William Dreyer in 1928 at Dreyer's original ice cream parlor.

Along the way, Herpich gave an animated history of Rockridge, its neighborhoods and iconic buildings and homes. Highlights were the Claremont Hotel, examples of Julia Morgan's architecture, and St. Albert's Priory at the end of Birch Court. On College Avenue, below BART's overcrossing, she pointed out the resident-made multi-tile mural memorializing the 1991 Oakland Hills Firestorm and its impact, including the tile signed by President Bill Clinton.

"I didn't really know what to expect," Sara Nolan, volunteer coordinator for Alameda Health System Foundation, told me. "I really liked the stop at the cheese shop" where head cheesemonger Juliana Uruburu gave us a glimpse into the world of cheese. "Knowing there was a woman architect" who rose to prominence so long ago impressed Sophia Tsiouris, a dental hygienist from Concord. And Sarah Mays, a Pittsburg resident, was excited to experience the area where her parents lived when

they were newly married.

As a result of their feedback and that from other tours, Lauren has already altered the route to make it more direct while adding Ver Brugge Meat-Fish Poultry market (begun in 1947 and celebrating 35 years at its current location) to the list of stops.

Now is the time to tell you that the 33-year-old Herpich is no novice at leading



**Zachary's Chicago Pizza is the one sit-down stop on Lauren Herpich's (near right in photo) Rockridge food tour, which also covers some of the community's history.**

/JUDITH DONER BERNE

food tours, although certainly new at designing one of her own. The New Jersey native led tours for Chicago Food Planet while earning her master's degree in integrated marketing communications at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. "I truly loved doing it."

Used to juggling several enterprises, Herpich was looking to add on to the digital marketing and communications consulting she does for small- and mid-sized businesses and her website "Why Not Girl!" named by Forbes Magazine in 2013 as a Top 100 Website for Women.

► Food Tour, page 7



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# Progress Report: Frog Park Swings Funding

by Carol Behr, Chair, FROG, and Annie Suttle, Fundraising

Since we first announced plans to move ahead with new swings and play features at Frog Park last December, we have raised approximately \$22,000. We are well on our way to the \$50,000 goal.

Volunteers will be out in the park several weekends this summer to answer questions, take donations and show you revised layouts where the new structures (toddler and regular swings, ADA swing, pole spinners, see-saw, merry-go-round climber) will be located.

### Equipment Layout Changes

FROG has been working with the City and MIG (our design group), to revise the swings and play equipment layout in order to address tree mitigation and ADA requests. We are also tackling permit requirements and any cost impacts.

The Tree Department requires we leave some of the grass next to the path by the



Please give to more fun at Frog Park: [www.frogpark.org/swings](http://www.frogpark.org/swings)

tire-swing, to protect the redwood trees. Therefore, the equipment planned for that space must be moved.

Additionally we are working to include an ADA accessible swing and changing the surfacing design, all resulting in layout revisions which would require us to use more grassy area next to the existing regular swings along the freeway towards the restroom.

**We are seeking volunteers and our fund-drive continues:** [www.frogpark.org/swings](http://www.frogpark.org/swings).

Do you have an opinion, questions or want to volunteer to help us implement this project, and more? Contact [info@frogpark.org](mailto:info@frogpark.org).

Stop by the park and learn more, or make a donation online today at [www.frogpark.org/swings](http://www.frogpark.org/swings). Together we can meet this goal and get more fun out of Frog Park.

## Food Tour

from page 6

When she saw that Berkeley and Uptown Oakland had food tours – but Rockridge did not – and buoyed by learning that Rocky Road ice cream was concocted here, she thought: “Why not me? I’ve always been a ‘Jill of all trades.’” In her mind, she fits right into what writer Nathan Heller described in the October 14, 2013 issue of the *New Yorker* magazine as “the three business card life” that marks the San Francisco area.

Putting the tour together required hours of research, digging into library archives and talking with long-time Rockridge residents. “But the biggest part was getting the businesses on board,” she says. “A lot of the restaurants just didn’t get it. We ultimately came up with the right time and the right process.”

Tours operate at 2 p.m. Thursday and 11 a.m. Sunday and cost \$60 for adults, \$50 for seniors and \$30 for children 12 and under. Private tours can be booked at a higher per-person rate. A dollar from every ticket purchased goes to the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

Look for Herpich to add a sit-down restaurant experience to her offerings, come fall. She is considering a monthly progressive style dinner that would span a trio of Rockridge restaurants.

For the record, husband Chris, who has just one job handling sales for a digital advertising company, “is the cook in our house,” Herpich says. But they are quite familiar with most of College Avenue’s restaurants. “This is our neighborhood. We live here. We love to eat.”

Your comments and suggestions for columns about your neighbors and neighborhood are welcome by emailing [judyberne@att.net](mailto:judyberne@att.net). More information on the food tour is at [www.rockridgefoodtour.com](http://www.rockridgefoodtour.com) or by calling 510/604-6546.

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# A Year in Senegal Reveals a Path to Personhood and Decision

Following her graduation from Oakland Tech, Rockridge resident Kaitlyn Johnke lived in Senegal under the auspices of Global Citizen Year (GCY). In a “bridge year” program, participants live and work with local residents of cities in Africa and Latin America on projects in education, technology, health

and the environment. Rockridge News columnist Judith Doner Berne wrote in October 2013 of Kaitlyn’s impending odyssey with GCY. Below, Kaitlyn writes of her experience and education in Senegal. She will also present a program at the Rockridge Branch Library Saturday, August 9 at 2 p.m.

by *Kaitlyn Johnke*

A year ago, I was a recent high school graduate from Oakland Technical High School getting ready for a big adventure—I would live in Senegal for eight-and-a-half months with a program called Global Citizen Year (GCY).

The design of GCY is similar to that of the Peace Corps; the bulk of it is a full immersion home-stay with community involvement activities. Knowing I would have to pay for my future education, I would not have been able to take a bridge year (often also called a “gap” year) had I not gotten a much-appreciated financial aid package from the program.

Unlike my peers, my challenge of choice wasn’t college, at least not immediately. Though I had no idea of the obstacles and long days ahead, I had a gut instinct (and previous experiences traveling with the Oakland Zoo to Borneo and Guatemala on their teen conservation trips) that I would learn more about the world and myself by doing this. And doing it now was important: I was burnt out on school, cramming for finals and AP exams, and completing college and scholarship applications. On top of this I was filling my weekends with community service, running on the Oakland Tech track team, and doing odd babysitting jobs for

neighbors. This is what we are led to believe is a “headed for success” high school lifestyle. I hardly had time to breathe.

I found a new way of life in Senegal – much slower, punctuated with meal times, social tea drinking, and visiting neighbors.

It was not an immediate transition. The largest struggles came in the beginning: having no language; no understanding of social norms; no idea of where I was at or what was around me; no friends and no family.

It was from learning all of these things slowly over time – as I sat down and pointed at things with my host cousin Yaya and learned the family’s Pulaar names – or as I washed my clothes by the river with my neighbor named Mama, or learned to cook beside my host mother Neena Dialamba, that I grew the most. I learned where local resources were, took on some responsibility in my host family, and came to understand, for the most part, a new language. I had friends to make jokes with, a family to



**Kaitlyn Johnke with members of her host family in Senegal.**  
/KAITLYN JOHNKE

worriedly wonder where I was or if I were sick, neighbors that insisted I stay to eat, and a community that yelled out my Senegalese name, Mariama Diallo, and not toubab or toubako, Senegalese for foreigner, when I passed by. I found a new home.

Now that I am back at my other home here in Rockridge, I make sure to call my Senegalese family at least a few times a month, because I am still part of their family. I was able to develop myself as a person in Senegal while previously I had only been a student.

▶ **My Year in Senegal, page 10**

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# BART Moves on Fix for Pre-Drought Damage to Parking Lot Planting

by Don Kinkead

Reports of concern at the severe neglect and die-off of plants in BART's west parking lot area led The Rockridge News to contact District 1 BART boardmember Rebecca Saltzman for information about plans to save the plants. BART had fully landscaped the area following earthquake retrofit work at the station. Following is the content of a staff report made to her:

"This area was landscaped at the request of the community as part of the earthquake retrofit project at the station a few years ago. BART agreed to install the enhanced landscaping and the city of Oakland agreed to take over the maintenance of this area

after an 18-month establishment period.

"Unfortunately, shortly after installation the water meter was turned off because of multiple leaks in the BART main water line that supplied the landscaped area's irrigation. As a result the plants did not survive the establishment period.

"Plan: BART will install a new 1" water meter that connects to the EBMUD water line on Forest Street and replace the landscaping. At present staff is working with the landscape architect to develop the palette for the replacement planting. All plants will be drought tolerant and low maintenance. Staff is working to coordinate the re-establishment period with the city of

Oakland and to request a new water meter with EBMUD.

"Schedule: Estimated Completion September 2014: Staff is currently working on the redesign of the planting and irrigation, expected to be completed within two weeks [of mid-June]. Staff is coordinating with the city to determine establishment period and maintenance transfer.

"Staff needs to engage EBMUD to install a new water meter. (This process can take up to three months and is dependent upon EBMUD.)"

Director Saltzman was quick to respond to requests for information and to forward regular progress reports.

# Report: College Avenue Safeway Construction; More Cement Pours

by Elisabeth Jewel, AJE Partners

Construction at the College Avenue Safeway building site is moving along on schedule, with lots of activity all around the site. In the next few weeks you'll see lots of cement trucks come through as the loading dock on Claremont gets underway, and the slab store floor gets poured. Cement trucks will be pouring the footings for the loading dock building at the top of the site off Claremont at the same time as numerous trucks will be accessing the front of the store from Claremont Avenue to pour the interior floor. Cement will also be poured for the elevator at this time.



Safeway construction site above 63rd Street and College Avenue. /ELISABETH JEWEL

Crews will also start building out the interior of the store. The "back of house" areas – offices and employee rooms – will get underway in the next couple of weeks.

Parking restrictions will be in place on some days on College Avenue to allow for joint trenching of utilities in the street. New electrical is going in for streetlights.

More information and photos at: <http://www.safewayoncollege.com/>

Aroner, Jewel and Ellis Partners (AJE) provides consultation on government and community affairs for public and non-profit agencies, associations and private sector clients: <http://ajepartners.com/>

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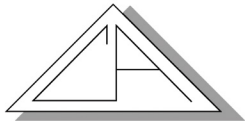
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# My Year in Senegal

from page 8

I also discovered my interest in Anthropology, which I will be studying at Cal Poly

# Land Use Committee

from page 3

This doesn't include the large Rockridge sign that was eliminated in negotiations over the project's increased height. The three community groups that settled with Safeway over the project approval submitted a comment letter objecting to the large amount of signage, which is four times as much as for the recently renovated Shattuck Avenue store and includes ten times as much lighted signage. Oakland planner Peterson Vollman (238-6167) has indicated he intends to approve the application. Once approved, there are ten days to appeal to the Planning Commission. Let us know your thoughts.

■ **Civiq/Creekside Project Replacement: East Side of Telegraph Avenue Between 51st St. and Claremont Ave.**

These two large projects on the border

San Luis Obispo this fall. I will attend college with a wealth of real world experience, resilience, and curiosity.

Come to the Rockridge Branch Library meeting room at 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 9, to hear more from Global Citizen Year Fellows from the Bay Area.

From the GCY Web Site: Global Citizen Year

recruits and trains high potential high school graduates and supports them through a transformative "bridge year" before college. Through training and immersion in communities across Africa, Latin America (and eventually Asia and the Middle East) they contribute to local efforts in education, technology, health and the environment, developing the global competence, entrepreneurial savvy and self-awareness they need to be transformative leaders in college, careers and life. <http://globalcitizenyear.org/about/about-us/>

between the Rockridge and Temescal neighborhoods were both approved by the City, but never built. Now, a local development group, The Nautilus Group, with offices in Berkeley, has bought both entitled projects and is planning a redesigned single project to cover both sites. The two projects together had been entitled for a little over 200 residential apartment units. RCPC will be discussing the proposed project with the developer and plans to invite the developer to a Town Hall meeting for the Rockridge public once the plans become more solidified. Nautilus plans to submit a pre-application to the City next month.

■ **The Future of College Avenue**

Last month's Town Hall presentation by Oakland Planning Director Rachel Flynn has opened up discussion of what the future holds for College Avenue as a retail and commercial center. While she noted that Oakland considers College Avenue one of its success stories, local retailers at the meeting revealed a lot of concern about its continued success and even viability in this age of Internet purchases. The Land Use

Committee will hold discussions over the coming months about threats and opportunities the changing environment presents for College Avenue. It will also consider what, if any, changes in Rockridge zoning are needed to keep Rockridge a thriving business and residential area. Please join the discussion by attending land use committee meetings over the coming months..


# Board Vacancy

from page 1

Shopping Center, Rockridge schools, and a presentation on local planning issues by Oakland's director of planning.

Prospective candidates must be at least 18 years of age and must reside within RCPC boundaries as shown at [www.rockridge.org](http://www.rockridge.org).

Contact Zabrae Valentine, RCPC chair, via [chair@rockridge.org](mailto:chair@rockridge.org) for further information.



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# Oakland Changing

from page 1

they wanted to go. Often founded by development and business interests, the early streetcar routes spawned new housing and commercial districts. Operating at speeds that did not overly threaten pedestrians or disrupt the sociability of folks on the sidewalks, streetcars were more a part of the environment than an imposition.

“Then,” said Rachel Flynn, director of Oakland’s planning and building department, “the car screwed us up. A great invention in many ways but it wreaked havoc on our cities.”

Speaking to an audience of more than 70 people at June’s RCPC Town Hall, Flynn went on to review the founding of Oakland and its initial grid design, typical of cities of the time. She spoke glowingly of the network of parks spread across the then-new city, each about a quarter of a mile of comfortable walking distance apart.

“Pedestrians had about as much right to the streets as the streetcars did,” she explained. Cars changed that. In time, pedestrians were relegated to the sides of streets and able to cross only at designated points. Still later, she continued, cities across the country replaced their streetcars with fleets of buses. “There went the people from the urban centers,” and there began a decline in urban retail business.

Now wanting to bring people – shoppers – back to urban areas, planners are turning to the past, Flynn said. The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line slated to operate

on International Boulevard will be “getting back what we pulled up with the streetcars.” Oakland’s planners, she reported, are also considering more free shuttle buses like the Free B now operating in Downtown Oakland and Chinatown. Bicycles are making a comeback, and Oakland has dedicated miles of streets where cyclists and motorists share roadway space. “We are getting back to shared streets where pedestrians are now at least equal partners” with other users. Pedestrians and cyclists know when they are wanted, by the types of spaces a city provides, she explained.

“Transportation is critical to planning,” she pointed out, so her department is focusing on Transit Oriented Development (TOD) that would concentrate more housing near BART stations, a neglected opportunity to date, she thinks. Currently, there are five such projects: Estuary, Broadway-Valdez, West Oakland, Coliseum City and Lake Merritt-Chinatown. [Details: <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PBN/OurOrganization/PlanningZoning/index.htm>]. With generous housing components, Flynn expects them to attract retail business. “Retail follows roof tops,” she declared, and said that many parts of Oakland, including Rockridge, could handle higher housing densities. “We don’t want to displace,” she emphasized; “we want things to grow.”

And grow they will, apparently. “A lot of people say nothing is happening in Oakland, but we have 1,000 units under construction representing \$35M in investments; \$3M in commercial development; 7,500 units in the pipeline along with 4M square feet of office and retail.” At the completion of all this, she said, smiling, “We’ll plant 1,000 oak trees.”

# Rockridge Talking

from page 1

of material produced by participants in the February 22 Town Hall, “Reducing Crime through Community Design,” facilitated by RCPC board members Hamilton and Gabe Kleinman. That discussion addressed community concerns related to public safety, and elicited a number of solutions substantially similar to those heard on June 19.

RCPC will post the substance of these meetings at [rockridge.org](http://rockridge.org). Meanwhile, here is a sampling of what residents say they would like to see and experience:

**Make Rockridge more pedestrian and bike friendly:** level sidewalks; more visible crosswalks; better lighting; more trees; more places to sit; better garbage collection; more public art; fewer potholes; more bike lanes; a College Ave Shuttle from 51st to Alcatraz.

**More actively promote and support local businesses:** more local business advertising opportunities in The Rockridge News; crowd-source small business loans for neighborhood priorities and local businesses; improved use of digital tools for local promotion and public communication; more shared parking on weekends; public notice kiosks.

**Do more to discourage crime:** cameras at major gateways (reduce “get away” access to Hwy 24); reduce orphaned space around freeways; encourage residents to know

▶ Rockridge Talking, page 15

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## Train to Cry

from page 2

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The nicest features of the train service were the lounge cars with large, rear-facing balconies and continuous lemonade service.

As I now ride BART's transbay service, enduring the monotony of flickering lights and the dangerously high interior noise levels, I often wonder how exquisite it must have been to ride a train across the Bay Bridge on a glorious sunny morning, enjoying one of the best views in the world.

Is a return to streetcar service in Oakland a possibility? A Stanford student thinks so, and has submitted his plan to the City. See it at <http://oaklandnorth.net/2010/07/15/a-streetcar-for-oakland-a-student-shares-his-plan/>

### Support Oakland Feather River Camp

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## State Legislators Respond to Outcry Over Smart Phone Thefts: Call for Manufacturer 'Kill' Switch

by *Zabrae Valentine, RCPC chair*

Not long ago, there was much talk in Oakland and other California cities about how best to reduce spiking rates of smart phone theft.

Public officials and law enforcement agencies settled on the possibility of requiring phone manufacturers to install a "kill switch" in smart phones to allow rightful owners to make them instantly inoperable if stolen.

A bill to do just that is making its way through the State Legislature. SB 962 passed out of the Senate in May, has cleared two policy committees in the Assembly (the most recent being the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee on June 23 with a 9-2 vote), and is expected to be voted on by the full Assembly in mid- to late August.

The bill was introduced by State Senator Mark Leno and co-authored by East Bay representatives Assemblymember Nancy

Skinner and Senators Loni Hancock and Mark DeSaulnier, among others. It is supported by a number of statewide law enforcement groups, the City of Oakland, the Oakland City Council, the Alameda County District Attorney, Oakland Police Chief Sean Whent and others. (See <http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml> for more information.)

If SB 962 passes the Assembly in August, its next and final stop is the Governor's desk.

If you support this measure, call, email, or write Assemblymember Skinner if you are in Rockridge as well as the author, Senator Leno, to let them know.

They will keep a record of these contacts and reference how many people they have heard from when promoting the bill with colleagues, which absolutely influences votes when those numbers are high. On a measure like this, don't doubt for a moment that your voice matters.

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6/13/14	2	1	5242 Miles Ave	\$525,000	\$525,000	8	\$642,000
6/13/14	3	1	5231 Coronado Ave	\$725,000	\$725,000	16	\$850,000
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# National Village Movement Honors Oakland

Only three years after opening its doors, North Oakland Village (NOV) has won national recognition for its warm, personal support of seniors continuing to live independently in their own homes – instead of moving to retirement centers.

Dr. Patte Bishop of Rockridge, retired pediatric surgeon and NOV board member, was named Volunteer of the Year at the annual meeting of the national Village to Village Network, representing 120 Village organizations from Boston to San Diego.

“Patte is the ‘quintessential neighbor’ that everyone has in her dreams,” said NOV board president Sandra Coleman.



**Dr. Patte Bishop, NOV Volunteer of the Year.**

“She’s there for every kind of request from our members.”

The Oakland nonprofit, like other Villages around the country, puts on a range of cultural, educational and social events. Its team of grassroots volunteers pro-

vides rides to appointments and shopping; medical companions for doctor visits; in-home assessments and help; phone check-ins; referrals to pre-screened professionals from plumbers to home health care experts; social visits; and the like.

Village services cover northern and central Oakland and the city of Piedmont, roughly from the Berkeley border, east to Montclair/Hills and south to Redwood Road.

For more information, call 510/547-8500. Or visit: [www.northoaklandvillage.org](http://www.northoaklandvillage.org).

For local direct contact: Frank Giunta, 510/652-0505, or email [francobollo16@yahoo.com](mailto:francobollo16@yahoo.com). Photo courtesy of North Oakland Village,

## NCPC Seeks New Chair

from page 3

now needs a new chairman. None of the three existing officers can take on the chair position, although until another volunteer is found, the chair’s duties will be shared.

The NCPC chairman performs the following duties:

- Chairs the public meeting held the second Thursday of each month at

the Rockridge Branch Library

- Acts as primary contact point with OPD Area 2 command staff
- Attends the bimonthly Area 2 leadership meetings.

To volunteer for this position, email the current staff at [chair@rockridgencpc.com](mailto:chair@rockridgencpc.com). See Community Calendar on page 15 for information about attending NCPC meetings.

Additional information and detail is available at the City’s web site at <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CityAdministration/d/NSD/DOWD005152>

## National Night Out

from page 3

sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. Residents are encouraged to join with their neighbors in an outdoor event to build neighborhood spirit and unity, the first defense against crime.

**4. Block Party Guide:** Visit <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakcal/groups/cityadministrator/documents/webcontent/oak040819.pdf> for the Block Party Guide.

**5. Who Can Host a National Night Out Party?:** The City of Oakland welcomes any neighborhood or community group in National Night Out, and encourages this event to bring people together and to have fun.

**6. Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group on Your Block:** A flyer that tells how to start a Neighborhood Watch is available at [www2.oaklandnet.com/neighborhoodwatch](http://www2.oaklandnet.com/neighborhoodwatch)

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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, 4123 Broadway, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94611. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the month.

Compiled by Jo Ellis

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

Discuss crime and public safety with representatives of OPD. 2nd Thurs. each month, 7 to 8:30pm.

Rockridge Library, upstairs meeting room, 5366 College Ave. Confirm mtg. at [www.rockridgencpc.com](http://www.rockridgencpc.com) or [chair@rockridgencpc.com](mailto:chair@rockridgencpc.com).

## Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

### FOR CHILDREN

- **Family Story Time:** Stories/songs/rhymes (to age 5); Saturdays, 10:30am.
- **Pre-School Story Time:** (ages 2 to 5); Thursdays, 10:30am.
- **Toddler Story Time:** (up to age 2); Thursdays, 10:30am, upstairs.

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

### SPECIAL EVENTS:

**NOTE: Volunteers Needed:** If you are **11 to 16 years old**, and have some free time this summer, consider volunteering to help with the **Summer Reading Program** (it's fun and it looks good on your college applications). Contact Erica at 597-5017, or [esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:esiskind@oaklandlibrary.org). **Summer Reading continues:** Get all your reading done by Aug 9 to be included in the last Grand-Prize Raffle (make sure to come pick up your prizes). **Crafts every Thurs:** through Aug. 14; 3:30 to 5pm (best for ages 4 to 12).

- 7/8 Tues, 7pm: **Bodac;** high energy, West African drumming.
- 7/15 Tues, 7pm: **Germar the Magician.**
- 7/22 Tues, 7pm: **Movie Night:** Vote for your favorite animal movie when you stop by the library. We'll show one of the popular choices.
- 7/29 Tues, 7pm: **Circus of Smiles;** acrobatic performance.

### FOR TEENS

- **Teen Summer Passport Program:** Win prizes by exploring local hot spots or write book, movie, music reviews. Program runs thr. Aug. 9. Info from Teen Librarian **Vicky Chen**, 597-5017.
- **Henna Program: The Coburn Family** will draw you a henna tattoo; traditional or your own design. Sat., 7/5, 2-3:30pm.
- **Teen Advisory Board** (ages 14-18): Advise the library how to better serve teens. Get community service credit for school. **Snacks provided.** 1 to 2pm, 1st Sat. each month.
- **Rockridge Ninjas:** watch Anime, 5 - 6:30 pm; 2nd Tues. each month.
- **Teen 'Scape:** Join other teens every Friday during the summer, 2 - 4 pm. Play video & board games, make crafts, enjoy light snacks. **The program moves back to Wednesdays (1:30 to 3:30 pm) in September.**

### FOR ADULTS

- **Writers Support/Critique Group:** All writers welcome. Bring 15 copies of up to 5
- pgs. (double-spaced, MS margins) of any prose for on-site reading/discussion (also welcome to come empty-handed). Third Saturday each month; 1 to 5pm. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch. Info: 420-8775 or [Writefox@aol.com](mailto:Writefox@aol.com).
- **Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice and referrals.** First Tues. each month, 5 to 7pm. (Advance

sign-up starts 4:45pm at adult reference desk). Volunteer lawyer leaves before 7pm if no more people present. **Note: No lawyer in Sept.**

**ART EXHIBITS** (subject to change; call to confirm)

### GALLERY:

July- **Vivian Wiitala:** watercolor figures.

Aug- **Darril Tighe:** abstract watercolor.

Sept- TBA

### Lobby Display Case:

July- **Kim Anderson:** jewelry display Americana.

Aug- TBA Sept- TBA

### LIBRARY HOURS

Tues, 12:30 to 8pm.

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

Fri, 12 to 5:30pm.

**Closed:** Sun., and Mon; also Tues, Sept 2 (Labor Day).

## Diesel Book/Poetry Readings/Events

- All FREE and open to the public.
- Thurs., 7/10, 7pm. **Edan Lepucki:** *California.*
- Thurs., 7/24, 7pm. Talk by **C.S. Soong** (political journalist and KPFA host of *Against the Grain*) entitled *Who's in Charge Here? Reflections on Work, Alienation, and Human Agency.*
- Sun., 7/27, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with poets of **The Marin Poetry Center Summer Traveling Show: Adrienne Amundsen, Rose Black, Nellie Hill, Lynne Knight and Connie Post.**
- Sun., 8/3, 3pm. **Poetry Flash** with **Julie B. Levine and Alison Luteran.**
- Sun., 8/10, 3pm. **James Penner:** *Timothy Leary: The Harvard Years: Early Writings on LSD and Psilocybin with Richard Alpert, Huston Smith, Ralph Metzner, and Others.*

**NOTE:** A new monthly music series is planned with **Avram Siegel** (banjo) and **Mike Witcher** (dobro and guitar). Call for more information.

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

## Celebrate National Recreation and Parks Month at Lake Merritt Boating Center

"**Splash Into Summer Open House,**" Sat., July 26, 1 to 3pm. **Free boat rentals.** Water safety games for youth. The Blue Boating Center, Lakeside Park, 568 Bellevue Ave. More info: 510/238-2196; [www.sailoakland.com](http://www.sailoakland.com); or Sarah Herbelin at [sherbelin@oaklandnet.com](mailto:sherbelin@oaklandnet.com).

## Giant Yard Sale At Bananas

**Benefit for Parent Voices Oakland** (affordable quality child care for all families). Baby equipment, toys, books and more. **Donations still being accepted and volunteers still needed.** Sat., July 19, 9am to 2pm (early birds at 8am for \$10 fee). BANANAS parking lot, 5232 Claremont Ave. More info: Clarissa, 338-3049 ext 301 or [info@parentvoicesoakland.org](mailto:info@parentvoicesoakland.org).

## Jazz at the Chimes

Featuring **Nuvo Chamber Trio: Michael Smolens** (instrumentals and vocals), cellist **Sam Bass**, and percussionist **Brian Rice.** Jazz, blues and classical styles; world music and free improvisation; and original Brazilian and Turkish compositions. Sunday, 7/20, 2pm, followed by artists' reception and refreshments. Tickets at the door (cash only) beginning 12:30; doors open 1:30pm: \$15 general; \$10 seniors (60+) and students. More info

and music clips at [www.secondsightmusic.com/NUVO.html](http://www.secondsightmusic.com/NUVO.html). The concert series features Bay Area jazz musicians in a landmarked Julia Morgan venue: Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. Wheelchair accessible. **Free parking.** Info: [www.jazzatthechimes.com](http://www.jazzatthechimes.com), [chimesjazz@gmail.com](mailto:chimesjazz@gmail.com) or 654-0123.

## Woodminster Summer Musicals

Come early to enjoy a picnic, a walk in the hillside park, and beautiful bay views. As the sun sets, be seated in the amphitheater for an evening of music and magic under the stars.

- **Les Misérables:** July 11-20
- **Catch Me If You Can:** Aug. 8-17
- **Flower Drum Song:** Sept. 5-14

"**Half Price Opening Nights**" Any Oakland resident can get half price tickets on July 11, August 8, and September 5 by using the code MyCity. Details at [www.woodminster.com/Webpages/Ticketbuying/oaklandfriends.html](http://www.woodminster.com/Webpages/Ticketbuying/oaklandfriends.html) "**Kids Come Free**" program: a child 16 or younger can attend any performance for free with an adult paying full price. Details for other promos, showtimes and ticket info: Kathy Kahn, 418-8523 [woodminsterpr@gmail.com](mailto:woodminsterpr@gmail.com), or Harriet Schlader, 531-9597, [harriet@woodminster.com](mailto:harriet@woodminster.com).

## Square Dance In North Oakland

Music by **The Squirrely String Band.** Calling by **Jordan Ruyle or Ervie Ladin** (with occasional guest performers). **1st and 3rd Fridays each month,** 8 - 10pm. All levels welcome; all dances taught on the spot. \$5-10 sliding scale donation. The Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. Info: <http://squirrelystringband.com/>.

## Temescal Farmers' Market

**Open Sundays, 9am to 1pm (all year).** Locally grown fruits and vegetables; fresh ranch eggs; home-made bakery items; fresh cut flowers; unique prepared foods, fresh locally caught fish, handcrafts and more. **Live music. Bring your own reusable bags.** 5300 Claremont Ave. (off Telegraph) at DMV parking lot. More about Certified Farmers' Markets at [urbanvillageonline.com](http://urbanvillageonline.com).

# Rockridge Talking

from page 11

immediate neighbors (soup nights, block parties, Neighborhood Watch, volunteer locally); emergency call boxes; and better use of street barriers/traffic circles.

**Miscellaneous:** • Develop a social media strategy that might include a Rockridge blog; smart phone app; City-issued email addresses; free wi-fi with community notices and broadcasts. • Collaborate with local churches and schools. • Improve management of homelessness. • Create a CA State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (AB 1999, Atkins). • Create a Neighborhood Improvement District. **On College Avenue:** a hacker space; a start-up hub; community space for kids after school; community garden; bowling alley; more live music. **Longer-term:** fewer parking lots on College; more intensive use of the BART parking lot; and underground utility lines.

Email [info@rockridge.org](mailto:info@rockridge.org) with your thoughts.



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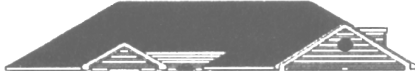
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\*NOTE: Because of Rockridge Newsletter lead time, all prices are not available at print deadline.



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