

Herrick duo releases *Ripley's Missing Locket*

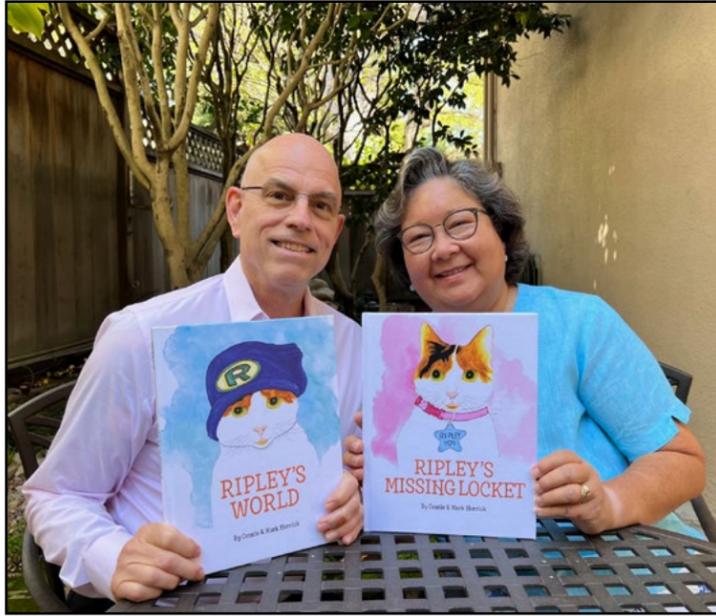
Second children's book in a series

By Allyson Aleksey

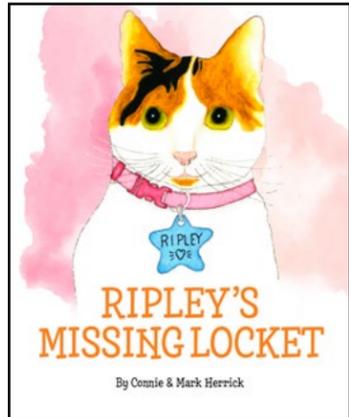
Longtime Piedmont residents Connie and Mark Herrick released *Ripley's Missing Locket*, the second book in an illustrated children's series based on the adventures of their late rescue cat, Ripley.

Connie, the author, and Mark, the illustrator, saw an opportunity to bring Ripley's adventures to life in a published story during the "quarantine" months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now retired from decades of working in the finance and tech industries, the couple said it was a project they had discussed for years, especially during COVID-related shelter-in-place mandates.

When *Ripley's World* was released in October 2021, they



Children's book authors Mark and Connie Herrick of Piedmont.



Ripley's Missing Locket was released in October.

immediately began plans for book number two.

Ripley was the Herrick's calico cat, the runt of a litter of kittens abandoned at a construction site in Oakland. Connie and Mark describe her as "feisty and funny." She "ruled the house for a good 18 years," they said, until her passing in July 2018. The joy she brought the Herricks, their family, and friends was described in numerous anecdotes and funny stories the couple would retell over the years.

And naturally, the setting for the *Ripley* series is Piedmont.

"Our Greenbank home and backyard are the settings for both books and many of the illustrations are inspired by our family photo albums," Mark explained. "Book two expanded to include one of our favorite places, the Oakland Rose Garden."

Creating each book took about nine months, start to finish. The couple researched the self-publishing process in order to publish their first book and enlisted the help of friends who serve as graphic designer and copy editor for the series.

The process has become easier since the October release of *Ripley's Missing Locket*.

"We really enjoyed making the second book, feeling like we found a good rhythm of working together, and seeing that we are getting better at what we do," Connie said. "*Ripley's Missing Locket* is a more engaging story. The watercolor illustrations are more vibrant and their compositions more complex."

"Our creative process is very organic and collaborative and starts with Mark and I brainstorming the story concept and flow, usually as we are out on our daily walks around Piedmont," Connie said. "Then Mark begins composing possible illustration concepts and I write a first draft. As Mark begins painting and I see my words come to life, the story grows and develops."

Proceeds from the series are donated to charities that support animal adoption, wildlife preservation, and children's literacy.

This year's profits from book sales will be donated to the East Bay SPCA and the International Bird Rescue.

"We have a special fondness for the East Bay SPCA because that's where we adopted Ripley. They do such great work social-
See Herrick on page 30



Mark Herrick shown illustrating *Ripley's Missing Locket*, the newest book he and wife Connie have had published.



Piedmont Center for the Arts

Come enjoy some of the many events and activities at the Center this winter.

Now through November 27

Calif. Society of Printmakers exhibit

The California Society of Printmakers, the oldest continually operating association of printmakers in the U.S., returns for its 108th Annual Members' Exhibition, a show that includes more than 80 individual works by members. CSP is a non-profit arts organization with an international membership of print artists and supporters of the art of fine printmaking.

The exhibit is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays through November 27 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Free.

Saturday, November 19, 6:30 p.m.

Healing Muses Benefit Concert

The professional musicians of Healing Muses will perform a concert, *A Gift of Music: Joyous Tunes Familiar & New From Dublin to Dubrovnik*, with Irish jigs, and world folk music. The music will be performed by Shira Kammen, Patrice Haan, and Margaret Davis on harp, Marla Fibish on mandolin, and Kristoph Klover and Tony Marcus on guitar. Healing Muses provides live, therapeutic harp music to support patient care & recovery in hospitals, hospices, cancer wards, & children's palliative care centers throughout the Bay Area. All proceeds from the concert support their musical programs as above. A wine reception and silent auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the concert at 7:30 p.m. For tickets see: www.TicketStripe.com/HealingMuses.

Sunday, November 20, 4:00 p.m.

Vitamin Em Music Concert

A musical collective made up of Grammy-nominated and award-winning musicians from Berkeley Symphony and the Bay Area, Vitamin Em celebrates jazz, funk, R&B, soul and fiddle music with enthusiasm. Founded in 2016 by violist Emily Onderdonk, Vitamin Em presents a broad and exciting range of styles of music to audiences in the Bay Area and beyond. Performers include Matt Szemela, Evan Price, Michael Graham, Paul Hanson and Emily Onderdonk, with compositions by Onderdonk, Price, Hanson and McGill. A wine reception will follow the concert. For tickets, go to www.simpletix.com/e/117752.

Piedmont Community Hall

Sunday, December 4, 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Blast – Berkeley Symphony & Friends

Celebrating its 10th year of the Chamber Music series of concerts in Piedmont, Berkeley Symphony & Friends will perform a special holiday concert, *Holiday Blast*. A brass quintet will perform the music of J.S. Bach, Handel, Morley Calvert and Duke Ellington, and others. The quintet will consist of two trumpets, a French horn, tenor trombone, and a tuba.

Note that this concert will be at the Piedmont Community Hall, 701 Highland Avenue, not the Center for the Arts. For advance tickets, see: <http://bit.ly/3UMABtG>.

Support the programming of Piedmont Center for the Arts by donating generously to the Tip Jar at these events.

All public events at Piedmont Center for the Arts require photo ID and valid proof of full vaccination including booster shot for entry, as well as proper masking while inside.

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Planning Commission to consider revising ADU regulations

By Selen Ozturk

At a regular meeting on Monday, November 14, the Piedmont Planning Commission considered revisions of Chapter 17 of the City Code regarding regulations of accessory dwelling units (ADUs), parking spaces, and the number of bedrooms in a residence.

The proposed revisions would include changes to building heights and setbacks (open areas between the edges of the building and the edges of the lot). The revisions would allow an ADU to be sold separately from the primary residence if the buyer meets certain criteria.

The revisions also would allow for the removal of owner occupancy deed restrictions on ADUs approved before 2020 if the owner accepts a new 15-year deed restriction. That would mandated that if the ADU is rented out, it must be rented to a tenant who meets “very low income” affordability thresholds set by the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Normally, an owner occupancy deed restriction prohibits the use of a property for residential purposes by anyone other than the homeowners.

The proposed ADU ordinance would also create a legal process for adding two additional bed-

rooms to an existing dwelling unit in cases where the addition would not require any change to the building’s exterior. It would allow the city to approve such a project without a public hearing if it meets certain requirements.

City staff provided the Planning Commission with an update on the Draft Housing Element, which was authorized for submission to the California Department of Housing and Community Development on Tuesday, November 15. Revisions made to this Element include an increased reliance on ADUs to meet state-mandated housing production targets.

Housing Elements

Continued from page 1

ment projects. Piedmont’s Housing Element is currently in its 6th Cycle. The revision deadline is January 31, 2023.

City staff recommended a total of 16 revisions to the Element, which were derived from Planning Commission recommendations in May 2022 and from Council-directed revisions

during meetings on June 20 and August 1, 2022.

Environmental review for Piedmont’s Draft Housing Element is underway. Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – which requires state and local governmental agencies to publicize and reduce environmental impacts of pro-

posed projects – the city is performing an Initial Study of the environmental impact, if any, of the Housing Element’s adoption. When determined, this study will be presented to the City Council and made public.

Members of the public are invited to attend City Council meetings in person at City Hall, 120 Vista Avenue, or by Zoom on the link: piedmont-ca.gov.zoom.us/j/87463539159.

Boys’ Water Polo

Continued from page 12

started with a man-advantage after drawing a penalty at the end of the third quarter. 20 seconds in, Burke had a shot attempt stopped by MA’s goalie. But at the 6:05 mark, Linnane landed a shot from feet in front of the goal with a defender draped around him, using an athletic swinging shot with his back turned to goal—4-3.

At the 4:53 mark, Marin Academy called a timeout and the lackadaisically sent a pass to mid-pool. Linnane jumped on the pass for a steal and then instinctively hurled

a longshot over the goalie’s head to tie it at 4-4 with 4:50 to play. However, their joy was short-lived after Dickinson scored for Marin Academy 30 seconds later to regain the lead. But with 3:53 to play, Linnane responded again, this time with a lob shot into the net from a few meters out.

From there, the two sides had back-and-forth possessions, which included a big save from Kashani at the 2:01 mark. With 1:08 to play, Quincy Scherman had a shot attempt stopped by Trost-Gold-

hammer. With 39 seconds left, Marin Academy had an attempt sail wide but before Piedmont could get the ball out of their own half, they committed a costly turnover. With 17 seconds left in the match, Dickinson scored the game-winner with a rocket to the top of the net. Piedmont tried a last gasp down the pool, but the Wildcat’s defense thwarted an attempt by Burke in the final seconds.

Final stats: Linnane had five goals and two steals. Saffouri had one assist. Burke, Jahn, and Stein had individual steals. Kashani finished with eight saves and one steal.

Herrick

Continued from page 19

izing the animals and preparing them for successful adoption. The International Bird Rescue is a phenomenal organization, recently rescuing 140 Oakland baby herons,” Mark said.

The couple has also donated hard copies of *Ripley’s World* to Piedmont elementary schools, Piedmont Police Department’s Little Free Library, and Oakland public libraries. *Ripley’s Missing Locket* hardcover books will be

donated to the East Bay Children’s Book Project.

Connie and Mark are pleased to see positive reviews from parents and children, and are planning to create two more books about the continued adventures, tentatively titled *Ripley’s Road Trip* and *Ripley’s Pet Visit*.

“When we saw reviews like ‘beautifully illustrated,’ ‘enjoyable, feel-good book,’ and ‘a pleasure to read out loud,’ we

were thrilled and honestly, a bit relieved,” Mark said with a smile. “Then photos of children enjoying *Ripley’s World* started coming in. Every photo made our hearts sing. All we ever wanted was to bring joy to readers. To be able to see that in the photos was so wonderful and gratifying.”

Ripley’s Missing Locket and *Ripley’s World* are available on the Herrick’s website at <https://www.ripleyandfriendz.com/> and on bookshelves now. The two future books are slated for release in 2024 and 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bids shall be uploaded electronically to the BPXpress City of Piedmont planroom via the “Submit Bid Docs” tab on the Project page until the hour of **2:00 p.m., on the 2nd day of December 2022** (no bids will be accepted after 2:00 p.m.) for the construction of the following project:

STREET TREE PRUNING PROJECT – FISCAL YEAR 2022-23

Complete bid packages, including project plans, technical specifications, bid forms and contract documents may be secured from BPXpress Reprographics by logging on to: www.blueprintexpress.com/piedmont or by calling 510-559-8299 or by email: Richmond@bpxprinting.com There is a non-refundable fee of \$55 per set for a printed package, plus shipping and handling. As the project is being bid through BPXpress Printing, any changes via addenda will be available on the BPXpress website for this project.

Bids shall be **uploaded electronically** to the BPXpress City of Piedmont planroom via the “Submit Bid Docs” tab on the Project page before **2:00 p.m., Friday, December 2nd, 2022**. Bids will be publicly opened via an online Zoom meeting at 2:30 p.m. on December 2nd, 2022. The Zoom meeting login information can be found in the bid documents.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code the Director of Industrial Relations for the State of California has ascertained the current general prevailing rate of wages for employer purposes, in Alameda County, State of California. Not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for work of a similar character in Alameda County and not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for holiday work fixed as provided in the California Labor Code shall be paid to all workers engaged in performing the project.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1771.1 of the California Labor Code, A contractor or subcontractor shall not be qualified to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal, subject to the requirements of Section 4104 of the Public Contract Code, or engage in the performance of any contract for public work, as defined in Chapter 1 of Part 7 of Division 2 of the California Labor Code, unless currently registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to Civil Code Section 1725.5. **Please note: It is not a violation of Section 1771.1 for an unregistered contractor to submit a bid that is authorized by Section 7029.1 of the Business and Professions Code or by Section 10164 or 20103.5 of the Public Contract Code, provided the contractor is registered to perform public work pursuant to Section 1725.5 at the time the contract is awarded.** Any bids submitted without proof that Bidder and any listed subcontractor(s) are currently registered and qualified to perform public work, pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5, shall not be accepted by the City.

In accordance with California Civil Code Section 1771.4, the project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. In accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 3300, a valid class C-61 / D-49 California contractor’s license is required to bid on the project.

The City of Piedmont reserves the right to postpone the date and time for the opening of proposals at any time prior to the date and time announced in the advertisement in accordance with applicable law.

The City of Piedmont reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any defects or irregularity in bidding in accordance with applicable law. In accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 20103.8, if the City elects to award a contract for performance of the project, the contract will be awarded in accordance with California Public Contract Code Section 20162 and other applicable law to the responsible bidder submitting a responsive bid with the lowest total bid price for the base bid without consideration of the bid price for any additive or deductive items. All bids will remain valid for 90 days after the bid opening. Except as permitted by law and subject to all applicable remedies, including forfeiture of bidder’s security, bidders may not withdraw their bid during the 90-day period after the bid opening.

By order of the City Council of the City of Piedmont, Alameda County, California

Daniel Gonzales
Public Works Director
City of Piedmont
120 Vista Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611

November 3, 2022

SUDOKU SOLUTION								
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CROSSWORD SOLUTION																		
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