

# Utopia in The Hayward Hills



**Quarry:** An new environmentally-friendly community building venture, called Quarry Village, is in the planning stages for Hayward.

Photo/Rebecca Newman

**BY REBECCA NEWMAN**  
Staff Writer

You wake up in the morning, and when you leave for work or school, instead of getting in your car, you walk to the end of your block and catch a free shuttle bus that takes you to campus or the BART station in about 8 minutes.

After work or classes, you catch the shuttle home, and then in the evening you might visit the gym, the grocery store, or a restaurant all within walking distance. You might spend the evening planning the vacation you'll be taking next month with all the money you are saving now that you are not making car payments or buying gasoline, and your energy bill is next to nothing because your home is so well-insulated and has solar panels on the roof.

This all sounds too good to be true, right?

Not according to Sherman Lewis, president of the Hayward Area Planning Association (HAPA.) This idyllic vision of a car-free community could be a

reality if the association's plans for a development called Quarry Village come to fruition.

According to Lewis, Quarry Village is "an effort to take advantage of an unexpected opportunity of a lot of vacant land between Cal State Hayward and the Hayward BART station and to use that land for a sustainable neighborhood. Sustainable for transportation, energy, housing, affordability, and community."

The plot of land in question is located north of Carlos Bee Blvd. and is bordered by Overlook Ave. This land was purchased by Caltrans for use in a freeway project that was subsequently cancelled. It is due to be sold in the next few years, although no one knows for sure when it will be available. Lewis predicts the sale will occur sometime between 2009 and 2011.

While residents will not be forbidden from owning cars, one of the main features that will set Quarry Village apart from conventional housing developments is that it will be designed

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specifically to accommodate a car-free lifestyle.

With on-site amenities and retail businesses and convenient transportation options, such as a proposed electric shuttle bus system, and possible car-share services, planners are hoping that the future residents of Quarry Village will be able to ditch their individual cars. In addition to the emphasis on reduced individual car usage, Quarry Village plans include the use of environmentally friendly building methods and architecture.

With the environmental benefits of living in a car-free, or reduced-car neighborhood, come additional benefits: Walking is safer and more enjoyable within the car-free areas designed for pedestrian use. Children can play outside without dangerous traffic being a concern. The air in the development will be cleaner with fewer cars and it will also be quieter.

Not only will Quarry Village be a cleaner, safer and quieter community in which to live, but it will probably be less expensive too. The community will include housing units ranging from studios to 6 bedroom townhouses, with estimated prices starting at \$250,000, according to the Quarry Village website.

Currently, HAPA is seeking investors willing to commit financial backing for the project. While there are those who are skeptical that buyers in this area is ready to abandon their car-centric lifestyle, there has been no direct opposition to the project and the City of Hayward has been supportive of the idea, according to Lewis.

If you are interesting finding out more about Quarry Village, visit <http://quarryvillage.org/index.html>



**Alliance:** At risk youth and ex-cons help construct buildings while working for their high school GED.

Photo/Elbert Marshall

## Contractor Aids Ex-cons, Kids

**BY ELBERT MARSHALL**  
Staff Writer

Oakland contractor, Bruce Cox, 55, is the president of The Alliance, a non-profit that teaches at-risk kids and ex-felons responsibility through construction work.

Cox's program is located in West Oakland, tucked away behind the BART station and adjacent to the Interstate 880.

The program's objectives are to improve employment opportunities for at-risk youth and ex-felons trying to enter the workforce. The majority enrolled in the program are high school students or those attempting to obtain their GED. The program gives them a chance to learn how to use tools, read blueprints and assist at construction sites.

"I feel that there's a communication gap between the older generation and the younger generation," Cox said. "We all have an obligation to service our community regardless of our position in life."

Cox is a one-man show: he organizes the meetings with The Alliance board and he comes up with the lesson plans for each day. Some students refer to him as Clark Kent because so much is required of him.

"This program teaches you about commitment and setting a goal and seeing it through," said Reggie, one of the students in the program.

Reggie is one of Cox's top students; he has gone on numerous construction jobs and assisted with finishing roofs, leveling foundations and installing solar panels to reduce the amount of electricity that must be purchased from utility firms.

"We aren't just learning how to behave in public, we're also learning a skill that can take us many places," Reggie said.

The program is headed in a new direction and "Going Green" will be the new motto. Eventually the students will learn new skills involved in environmentally sustainable construction: Cox believes in building things that can co-exist with the environment or will be beneficial to society.

"It's important to know what kind of materials are considered harmful to the environment, because they may not affect us; however, they may affect our children," Cox said. "That's why it's important to start now and change our community one step at a time."

## Baseball Greats Inducted

Cooperstown, from page one

came a coach and unfortunately died of a heart attack at the age of 63 in 1978.

Gordon's daughter, Judy, gave the acceptance speech honoring her father for being a humble man who had many skills beyond baseball including golf, hunting and fishing. He was also a comedian, a ventriloquist, a private pilot and served in the Air Force during WWII.

Since Gordon didn't want a funeral, his daughter explained between tears, "we consider Cooperstown his final resting place forever."

Jim Rice, who played his entire career for the Red Sox, is an 8-time All-Star and former MVP from 1978.

In his speech he mentioned all the roles he plays in his life plus the name he is called in

those roles.

"I am a husband called 'Rice'. I am a father called 'dad'," Rice began.

After mentioning the roles of brother, grandpa and friend, he mentioned the role which had brought the crowd together.

"I am Jim Rice," he said, "called a baseball Hall of Famer."

Last but certainly not least was Rickey Henderson, who played for nine teams during his career, most of which were played with the Athletics. He is a 10-time All-Star, was MVP in 1990, is considered baseball's best leadoff hitter and holds many records including the record he's known best for—most stolen bases.

The East Bay native charmed fans with his humor and some expected "Rickey-isms."

Henderson even made a point to tell a story and em-

barrass Reggie Jackson, a Hall of Famer who was sitting on stage at the time.

He spoke of growing up in Oakland and how he, at first, didn't want to play baseball. Once becoming pro and signing with the Athletics though, he was thrilled to be able to play in front of his family and friends in his home town.

While Henderson is known for talking in third person and had never been known as a good speech giver, his self-written speech was perfect in every way.

After the ceremony fans flocked back to the main street in Cooperstown where they were able to visit the Baseball Hall of Fame Museum and check out the three new inductees' plaques and displays.

Both Rice and Henderson also signed autographs for fans in the town the next day.

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