

throughout the years it has hosted some of the most memorable—and totally forgettable—shows Reno has seen.

“The Ryland house was especially interesting too because it started off as a weird vegan straight-edge house,” Clark Demeritt, former music director of the Holland Project and the Clark of Clark Lane Maul, reflected on the changes Fort Ryland has seen. “Well, it started off as an everything punk house, then kind of turned out to be a mean punk house, and then it turned into the Eyeball. ... It was crazy, you could write on the walls there. It just became this weird hangout for everybody. I would go there after school almost every day, sometimes I did homework there, which was weird. It’s where I found community, in a broader sense, of, like, having a show house and letting people stay over, and it just expanded my world. Just to be anywhere on the west coast, I had a friend or a place to stay or a place to play at.”

## DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU MEAN BY ‘AFFORDABLE’

In effort to provide respite to the housing crisis in Reno, in October, the Reno City Council adopted a resolution enacting the “1,000 Homes in 120 Days” initiative, designed to entice developers to Reno’s urban core of downtown, midtown and surrounding areas. There had been attempts to renovate the neighborhood in the past, but with the block known as ‘Little Portland’ a stone’s throw from Fort Ryland, the incentives to develop have never been so successful before.

“They’ve been trying to develop on that parking lot on Ryland Street for years,” Bajwa said. Even before there was a housing shortage, the landlords were searching to bring more buzz to the area.

According to the deal, City Council has agreed to offer both a sewage connection fee deferral and building permit fee deferral for the 1088 units that have already agreed to the standard agreement, with the other 950 units awaiting project-specific agreements. This deal defers upward of 11 million dollars of fees which are to be paid incrementally over a five-year span once construction is complete.

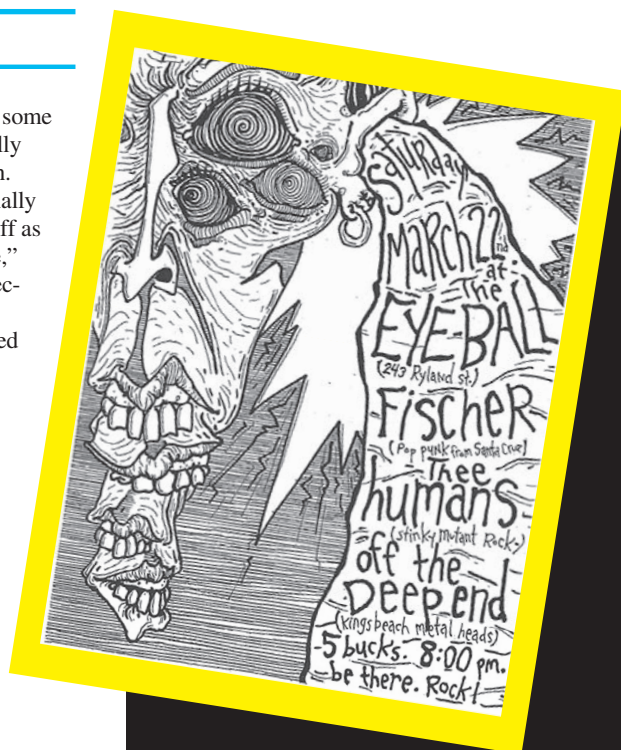
Nine of the 10 houses on Ryland and Pine streets, between Sinclair and River Rock streets, will be demolished to make room for 49 townhouse units. The nine

doomed houses, including Fort Ryland, Clark Lane Maul and my own house, are all currently occupied. None of the new units are expected to be subsidized, meaning they will not rent or sell for under market price.

When punk homes were sold and the doors were closed in the past, there were two options: don’t have a show or make something else happen. The combination of hands-off landlords, cheap rent and the DIY spirit was how these basement shows existed throughout the years, and still to this day. Schopen praises places like the Holland Project for being an outlet, especially as more underground venues become less common, but he is adamant that changing times have always produced even more fruitful efforts to keep Reno’s music scene alive throughout the years.

“It was definitely an era, but it was one era of many,” Schopen said. “It was a really exciting time. I knew it wasn’t going to last forever, but I knew once it went away, something else would come around.”

It’s hard to see anything beloved change in front of your eyes, and for me personally, I’m not excited about having to find a rental that is going to be well above the current \$1,075 per month. Clark Lane Maul, Fort Ryland and my house will all become relics of the past, and as the cost of living in Reno continues to increase, irrespective of how much people are earning, it might be worth asking, are the punks still here? □



An old flier from a punk show at the Eyeball, which later became known as Fort Ryland. CREATED BY AND COURTESY OF JAWSH HAGEMAN

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