

The Woodlands

Keeping You Informed For 50 Years

April 2017

Q & A With Mayor Rich Carlston

By Jared Asch

The Woodlands Association reached out to Rich Carlston, Walnut Creek's Mayor, to get his thoughts on a range of issues of interest to the residents of the Woodlands. Here's his response to a few of our questions:

"I am honored to serve as Walnut Creek's mayor this year, and delighted to have this opportunity to connect with the Woodlands neighborhood."

Q: Growth in Walnut Creek along with Clayton, Concord, and Pittsburg has increased traffic to the BART and the highway access. What plans does the city have to manage the flow down Ygnacio Valley Road and Treat Blvd?

A: Ygnacio Valley Road and Treat Boulevard are operating at capacity during peak commute times. While we don't have a recent data on how much of the traffic is generated outside the City, the historic data showed the majority of traffic is generated from within the City limits. There has been a sharp increase in traffic volumes countywide after the recession. During the recession, there was a 15 percent drop in traffic, which makes traffic today seems even more congested in comparison. Our traffic engineers deploy a number of solutions to produce the most efficient traffic flow. Using an integrated system of sensors and cameras, we have the ability to monitor traffic 24/7, and can make incremental adjustments as needed to signal timing. We work with the City of Concord to manage traffic flow coming from the east (such as Pittsburg, Antioch, and Clayton) along YVR and Treat



(Continued on Pg. 7)

Upcoming Woodlands Board Elections

Are you interested in serving the community? The positions of Vice President and Treasurer are up for election this year, with terms beginning in August. Among other responsibilities, the Vice President leads monthly board meetings in rotation with the President, responds to resident questions and concerns, and takes on other projects of interest. The Treasurer tracks and coordinates payments with newsletter advertisers, manages the association bank accounts and generates financial reports for review at monthly board meetings.

Both roles are voting board positions that require regular attendance at our monthly board meetings the first Saturday of the month at Denica's from 8-9 a.m. All residents of the Woodlands over the age 18 are eligible for elected or appointed positions on the Woodlands Board. Interested candidates should prepare brief (up to 200 words) statements of interest to the Woodlands Board for consideration no later than May 10th. Statements of interest for eligible candidates will be printed along with ballots in the June newsletter.

All submissions should be sent to the Woodlands Board at woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please email us. We look forward to hearing from you.



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Who to Contact?

The Woodlands Association receives some emails and questions about many issues that are best resolved by contacting the following agencies directly. The following is a reference guide:

Walnut Creek Code Enforcement, 925-256-3508 or 925-943-5863

The Code Enforcement Division of the Community Development Department is responsible for enforcing provisions of the Walnut Creek Municipal Code involving quality of life and neighborhood quality issues. http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/cd/nuisance_abatement_n_code_enforcement.asp

Walnut Creek Police Department, 925-943-5844

<http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/police/default.asp>
 To report a suspicious circumstance, call 925-935-6400

Oversized Vehicle Reporting, Sandy Mulligan: Parking Lead Services Officer, 925-943-5874

Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District (Pests and Insect Issues), 925-771-6196
http://www.contracostamosquito.com/programs_services_index.htm

Contra Costa Water District, 925-688-8000

Water conservation, information, gardening resources, moneysaving tips. <http://www.ccwater.com>

Allied Waste Services of Contra Costa County, 925-603-1144

<http://www.pleasanthillbayshoredisposal.com>

Valley Waste Management (recycling and yard waste service): 925-935-8900

Canal Maintenance, 925-313-2235

The canal is part of the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Maintained by the Public Works Department

Graffiti Reporting: City of Walnut Creek, 925-943-5854

Contra Costa County Animal Control, 925-335-8300

After business hours, contact the Walnut Creek Police through Dispatch Center at 925-935-6400. <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=59>

Street Maintenance: 925-943-5854

Make a Difference: Join the Woodlands Board!

2017 is a great year to get involved with the Woodlands Association neighborhood board and be part of shaping the future of this area of Walnut Creek. We have a variety of elected and unelected roles open and you can tailor your participation to meet your schedule.

Email us at woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com or come by our monthly board meeting on the first Saturday of the month at 8 a.m. at Denica's. Whether you're new to the area, a seasoned resident, or a high school or college student looking to meet new neighbors and give back to our wonderful community, this is your chance.

Woodlands Association Board of Directors

- Bill Gilmyers ~ *President*
- Erik Ehlers ~ *Vice President*
- Jan Gall ~ *Treasurer*
- Robert Baldwin ~ *Secretary*
- Members at Large ~ *Jared Asch*
- Lori Bhatia ~ *Newsletter Editor*
- Todd McNeill ~ *Webmaster*

Jennifer Zotti ~ *Newsletter Distribution Manager*
 Interns: Ryan Park & Alissa Johnson

Upcoming Board Meetings

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 1st
Saturday, May 6th

at Denica's,
 2280 Oak Grove Road,
 Walnut Creek
 (in Citrus Marketplace)

Woodlands residents
 are encouraged to
 attend board meetings.

New City Program: Walnut Creek Saves

The City of Walnut Creek is proud to introduce Walnut Creek Saves, a new community program designed to save residents energy and water and lower monthly bills. Walnut Creek Saves is offered as a part of the City's efforts to address climate change and reach sustainability goals.

Walnut Creek Saves is a free program available to all residents, homeowners, or renters, which offers the following benefits: free home consultations where residents learn how to save energy, water, and money, and free access to an online energy saving account called EnergyCenter to encourage continued savings after the consultations.



Furthermore, this program helps build a stronger local economy by creating discretionary income which is spent locally and by offering training and paid internships in energy efficiency to local high school students. The home consultations are geared towards showing the exact changes the resident can make to have a more energy efficient home while receiving free efficiency products to jump-start the savings right away (like LED bulbs and low-flow devices). The program is not a sales call but rather a home visit to help residents save energy and water through habit changes and small upgrades. You can sign up today by visiting www.WalnutCreekSaves.org or by calling 1-800-314-5997.

Coming Next Month: Deeper Dive on NUSD Survey Results

In last month's newsletter we published the summary results of the survey of Woodlands residents regarding the proposed Northgate Unified School District. We'd hoped to take a deeper dive this month, but due to space considerations will delay this until the May issue of the newsletter. Stay tuned.

Community Commentary: Northgate Community Unites for Better Schools

By Northgate CAPS

The Northgate CAPS campaign for a new Northgate Unified School District (NUSD) began in 2013 with research on how Mt. Diablo Unified School District operates and performs compared with other districts facing similar challenges. We, and many of our fellow residents, concluded that MDUSD is too large to serve its stakeholders as well as they deserve. In 2014 we began an outreach campaign to learn what our community wanted from our schools and to propose solutions. In the following two years, we met with parents (current and former), teachers (both current and retired) from all five Northgate-area schools, school administrators, school board members, PFCs/PTAs, elected officials, civic groups, and government authorities. Although on-campus meetings were later prohibited by MDUSD, our other locations were publicized through Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, email, word of mouth, and our website at www.northgatecaps.org. Hundreds of people met with us, and 721 individuals formally endorsed our effort, reflecting unprecedented support from our community for our schools. The petition campaign that we have just concluded attracted far more signatures than the number required, which in itself posed an unusually high hurdle of 25% of all registered voters in the proposed new district.

Our community responded so positively to our proposal, in part, because it is designed to minimize disruption and to retain our teachers and our diverse student population, while freeing them from the MDUSD central administration that has been so challenged in managing our schools. School districts operate with less oversight from voters and the media than ever before. Our experiences as long-time parents, site volunteers, and involved citizens have convinced us that the only way to maintain accountability is on a much smaller scale than MDUSD can offer. With 32,000 students, 3,000 employees, a \$330 million budget, and 56 schools, MDUSD is simply too big for effective governance or oversight.

Although a few educators in MDUSD seem to interpret our campaign as a sign of personal disapproval, we have focused solely on the central office and governing board, which continue to exhibit many of the poor administrative practices that have been a hallmark of this district. In fact, the supporters of Northgate CAPS have seen in-person how the educators in our Northgate-area schools are

(Continued on Pg. 8)

SCHOOL NEWS

VALLE VERDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

APRIL

- 21st Mini Fling, MUR – 5:00 – 8:30 pm
24th Box Tops Due

FOOTHILL MIDDLE SCHOOL



APRIL

- 14 3rd Quarter Report Cards
17 Flag Football Riverview vs Foothill
19 PFA Meeting ~ Library
25 Site Council Meeting

NORTHGATE HIGH SCHOOL



APRIL

- 1 Varsity Baseball at American High School
- 4 Junior Varsity Baseball at Concord Tournament - Concord High School
8:30am President's Council
7pm NCMB Meeting - NHS
- 5 Junior Varsity Baseball at Concord Tournament
- 8 Alumni Game at Varsity Baseball
- 11 3:30pm Boys Varsity Tennis at Las Lomas High School
5pm Boys Junior Varsity Volleyball at Miramonte High School
5:30pm Boys Junior Varsity Lacrosse at College Park High School
5:30pm College Park High School at Girls Junior Varsity Lacrosse
6pm Boys Varsity Volleyball at Miramonte High School
7pm NIMB Board Meeting
7pm Boys Varsity Lacrosse at College Park High School
7pm College Park High School at Girls Varsity Lacrosse

- 12 PFC Executive Committee Meeting
Grad Night Planning Committee
- 13 (4:00pm) Next Generation Jazz Festival - Monterey
5pm Campolindo High School at Boys Junior Vars
- 14 Next Generation Jazz Festival - Monterey
3:45pm Campolindo High School at Boys Varsity Swimming
3:45pm Campolindo High School at Girls Varsity Swimming
5:30pm Campolindo High School at Boys Junior Varsity Lacrosse
5:30pm Girls Junior Varsity Lacrosse at Campolindo High School
7pm Campolindo High School at Boys Varsity Lacrosse
7pm Girls Varsity Lacrosse at Campolindo Volleyball
6pm Campolindo High School at Boys Varsity Volleyball
7pm Athletic Booster Meeting (Library)
- 18 3:30pm Acalanes High School at Boys Varsity Tennis
4pm Concord High School at Varsity Softball
4pm Junior Varsity Baseball at Campolindo High School
4pm Junior Varsity Softball at Concord High School
4pm Varsity Baseball at Campolindo High School
5pm Berean Christian High School at Boys Junior Varsity Volleyball
5:30pm Acalanes High School at Girls Junior Varsity Lacrosse
6pm Berean Christian High School at Boys Varsity Volleyball
7pm Acalanes High School at Girls Varsity
- 20 3:30pm Las Lomas High School at Boys Varsity Tennis
4pm Acalanes High School at Varsity Baseball
4pm Alhambra High School at Junior Varsity Baseball
4pm Alhambra High School at Junior Varsity Softball
4pm Varsity Softball at Alhambra High School
5pm Boys Junior Varsity Volleyball at College Park High School
6pm Boys Varsity Volleyball at College Park High School
7pm PFC General Meeting
- 21 3:45pm Boys Varsity Swimming at Acalanes High School
3:45pm Girls Varsity Swimming at Acalanes High School
5:30pm Girls Junior Varsity Lacrosse at Carondelet High School
6pm Boys Varsity Volleyball at San Ramon Valley High School
7pm Alhambra High School at Boys Varsity Lacrosse
7pm Girls Varsity Lacrosse at Alhambra High

22 8am Boys Varsity Swimming at College Park Invitational
8am Girls Varsity Swimming at College Park Invitational
11am San Ramon Valley High School at Junior varsity baseball

25 4pm College Park High School at Varsity Softball
4pm Junior Varsity Baseball at College Park High School
4pm Junior Varsity Softball at College Park High School
4pm Varsity Baseball at Alhambra High School
5pm Las Lomas High School at Boys Junior Varsity Volleyball
5:30pm Boys Junior Varsity Lacrosse at Clayton Valley Charter High Sc
5:30pm Clayton Valley Charter High Sc at Girls Junior Varsity Lacrosse
6pm Las Lomas High School at Boys Varsity Volleyball
7pm Boys Varsity Lacrosse at Clayton Valley High School
7pm Clayton Valley Charter High Sc at Girl's Varsity Lacrosse

26 3:45pm Clayton Valley Charter High Sc at Boys Varsity Swimming
3:45pm Clayton Valley Charter High Sc at Girls Varsity Swimming
6pm Miramonte High School at Boys Varsity Volleyball

27 4pm Acalanes High School at Junior Varsity Baseball
4pm Berean Christian High School at Junior Varsity Softball
4pm College Park High School at Varsity Baseball
4pm Varsity Softball at Berean Christian
5pm Miramonte High School at Boys Junior Varsity Volleyball

28 5:30pm Girls Junior Varsity Lacrosse at Las Lomas High School
5:30pm Las Lomas High School at Boys Junior Varsity Lacrosse
7pm Girls Varsity Lacrosse at Las Lomas High School
7pm Las Lomas High School at Boys Varsity Lacrosse

29 8am Boys Varsity Swimming at JV DVAL Championship
8am Girls Varsity Swimming at JV DVAL Championship
5:30pm Spring for Education--Spring Fling "Under the Big Top" Carnival

Woodlands Association Seeks Newsletter Coordinator

The Woodlands monthly newsletter is made possible by members of this neighborhood donating their time and expertise to publishing and distributing it monthly. At this time we need a Newsletter Coordinator. The Newsletter Coordinator helps to collect and compile articles submitted by neighborhood residents, and also ensures that advertiser content is correct and up to date. Training will be provided.

This is an opportunity to contribute your skills to the continuing publication of The Woodlands newsletter each month, started over 50 years ago by the original Woodlands residents. Plus, working on The Woodlands newsletter is a great way to enhance your resume and support the community, in the same amount of time it takes to see a movie.

To find out more, email us at woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com or come by one of our monthly board meetings on Saturday, April 1st or May 6th, at 8 a.m. at Denica's.



NORTHGATE HIGH SCHOOL PFC
PRESENTS
SPRING FOR ED'S
"UNDER THE BIG
TOP"

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH
5:30PM - 12:00AM
SHADELANDS CIVIC ARTS

CASUAL EVENING OF FUN CARNIVAL GAMES
RAFFLES * SILENT AUCTION * DINNER * DANCING

Due to the funding mechanisms for education in California, the revenue from our annual *Spring for Education* Gala has become a critical part of maintaining high academic standards at Northgate. Proceeds from this fundraiser are used for:

- College & Career Center
- Sports Medicine Program
- Teacher and Staff Development
- Updated Technology
- Salary for Computer Technicians
- Salary for Support Counselors

Single ticket prices starting at \$50 per person/ \$450 for table of 10
*after April 1, price goes to \$65 per person/ \$600 for table of 10

Take a look at our Sponsorships starting at \$300 per couple
*\$300 Crimson Sponsorship level includes 2 tickets to event and 2 drink tickets and more see webstore for all Sponsorship levels and benefits.

Our Goal this year is \$20,000!

Please help us meet this goal by donating items for the auction such as unused gift cards, vacation homes, wine, airline miles, etc. If you have a business, consider donating, advertising or being an event sponsor. If you work at a local business, consider forwarding our donation request to the appropriate person. See links below for forms that include more information.

Please contact DeeDee or Katie for more information

or for tickets and Sponsorship information go to :

<https://nghsorganizations.revtrak.net/pfcprepresents-SpringGala/#/list>

DeeDee Blankley
Spring for Ed Committee Chair
925-586-1140 deede.blankley@gmail.com

Katie Pierceall
Donations Committee Chair
925.997.9265 piercealk@gmail.com

This Month at the Cabana Club

By: Joanne Wathen
marketing@woodlandscabanaclub.org

Opening Day

Don't forget that the Opening Day B-B-Q is Saturday, May 13th from 1:00 pm-7:00 pm. So get the sunscreen and beach towels ready and come on down to the pool for a good time. This is a great chance to show off the club to prospective members and earn that \$100 referral fee, so bring a friend! Hamburgers and hotdogs will be available to purchase. This event is open to non-members.

Lifeguards Needed!

Ever considered a summer job as a lifeguard? The Woodlands Cabana Club is now hiring lifeguards for the 2017 season. Interested? Email lifeguards@woodlandscabanaclub.org to schedule an interview.

Elections

The Cabana Club is currently preparing for Board of Director elections. We are looking for dedicated volunteers to fill the following positions: Facilities, Membership, Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President. Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest with a short biography outlining qualifications. The bios will appear on the ballot submitted to the membership for a vote. Please submit letters to Kristen McNulty president@woodlandscabanaclub.org or Joanne Wathen marketing@woodlandscabanaclub.org. Job descriptions follow:

Facilities Manager

Work with chemical companies, gardeners and other vendors to maintain the facility.
Manage pool projects for maintenance and improvements
Solicit bids for projects
Repairs as necessary

Membership

Giving tours of the club to potential members
Invoicing new and returning members at the beginning of each season

Participating in Swim team sign ups
Processing membership payments
Working with the board to determine community membership needs

Treasurer

Filing taxes
Budgets both short and long term
Payroll
Insurance
Maintaining not for profit status

Secretary

Schedule and attend board meeting
Record minutes and distribute to board
Manage club party calendar
Coordinate and schedule all club party requests and questions
Collect party payments + deposits
Communicate party schedule to WCC lifeguards and obtain guard feedback following parties

Vice President

Assisting president with assorted duties
Hiring and training lifeguards and overseeing scheduling
Assisting with non-member facility rentals, parties, and events

All Board members are expected to participate in the following general duties:

Attending monthly board meetings
Working with Swim Team to coordinate usage and events
Promoting and marketing the club to prospective and current members
Organizing and participating in WCC events at the Club
Opening day
4th of July

The Woodlands Cabana Club has a Membership for Everyone.

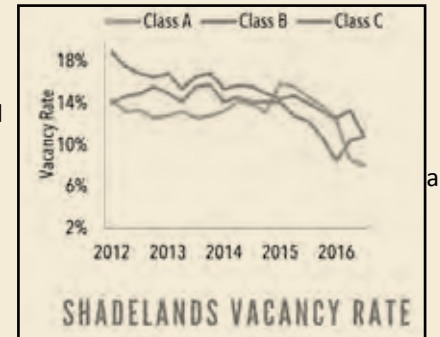
Did you know that the Cabana Club isn't just for swim team? It's true! The Cabana Club proudly offers memberships to meet the needs of all Woodlands' residents. Memberships start as low as \$275.00 per season so contact membership at: membership@woodlandscabanaclub.org to sign up today.

Q&A: Mayor Carlston (Continued from Pg. 1)

Boulevard. But we are not stopping there. Our traffic engineers are working on a proposal for “adaptive technology,” another Smart City technique, in which self-monitoring traffic signals will be sharing information and making adjustments to signal timing based on real-time data. While there is not a magic solution that will eliminate congestion during peak hours, we are committed to working on solutions to improve traffic flow during non-peak hours.

Q: The increased traffic at the intersection of Ygnacio Valley and Oak Grove (Orchards & Whole Foods) has impacted our neighborhood’s safe routes to Foothill and Northgate. How can the city work with our community to ensure our kids are safe commuting to and from school?

A: As part of The Orchards project, the city required that the developer provide new sidewalk on Shadelands Drive between Oak Grove and Via Monte. Kids walking to and from Foothill and Northgate from the Woodlands can use this route and then cross Ygnacio Valley Road at the Via Monte intersection.



Q: What things can we do to make these commutes more bike friendly and mass transit friendly for our suburban commuters?

A: The City is currently updating its bicycle master plan, with the goal of making all of Walnut Creek more bike-friendly. While the existing Bike Plan includes a vision to safely accommodate bicycles along Ygnacio Valley Road, we believe the updated plan will help define this vision. We have high expectations for the updated plan to improve bicycle routes within Walnut Creek, as well as improved connections to major bike trails leading to other communities. In partnership with Contra Costa County, the City has developed two major corridor studies for bicycle and pedestrian access. The Olympic Boulevard Corridor Study connecting Iron Horse Trail to the Lafayette Moraga Trail has been reviewed by the Transportation Commission. Based on this study recommendation, the City applied for a \$4.4 million grant to improve the bicycle connection between Paulsen Lane and California Boulevard. The second study is on Treat Boulevard between Main and Geary intersection and the Pleasant Hill BART Station. This study presented several alternatives to encourage pedestrian and bicycle convenient access to mass transit. The draft “Smart-City” plan includes an element to use technology to prioritize bus movements at signalized intersections. The best way of making commutes “mass transit friendly” is to encourage housing in close proximity to existing mass transit. That is why the City’s General Plan plans for housing to be built in the downtown, near BART, rather than in the more suburban neighborhoods of Walnut Creek. North Downtown Specific Plan is underway. The plan has a strong and promising transportation element. We have great expectations for the plan to present safe and feasible multi-modal alternatives for people living, working, or traveling through the North Downtown.

Q: What steps is Walnut Creek taking to be a leader in the Smart City movement? How will we continue to evolve in this area?

A: Walnut Creek is pursuing a wide range of “Smart City” tools to better serve our community. A recent example was the installation of 35 solar-powered trash compactors in the downtown. These “Bigbelly” compactors each have two units, one for waste and one for recyclables. Solar panels on top provide the power to compact trash, which means the units can hold up to five times more than traditional trash containers. When the units reach capacity, a wireless signal is sent to staff to let them know it’s time to come empty the container. This reduces the number of times trucks need to be sent to empty the containers, which translates to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and staff time. Another example of “Smart City” technology is a program still being developed to put sensors throughout the City that will provide real-time traffic and parking data. The City received a grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to pay for this program. The data will be used in a number of ways, from letting drivers know where parking spaces are available via mobile apps to providing information on traffic flow that will help us create solutions to traffic congestion. We have also rolled out the Acela system in our Community and Economic Department to digitally manage the permitting process. This is being fine-tuned, but will soon let people apply for permits online, and to follow the process of their application without having to make additional trips to City Hall, saving time and travel. We are pursuing a grant for “dark fiber,” a dedicated fiber owned by the City that would allow us to expand our traffic management technology along Ygnacio Valley Road. Good news – we would be able to put this fiber in pre-existing conduit, so no digging up of streets required! We are also working on a plan for free downtown wi-fi, in partnership with Walnut Creek Downtown.

Q: What is the right approach to increasing the viability of the Shadelands?

A: The Shadelands is moving in the right direction, thanks to a number of factors. Property owners are essentially taxing themselves to pay for improvements such as the free shuttle to Pleasant Hill BART (which serves Woodlands residents as well), improved signage and increased security. The City rewrote zoning regulations to allow more flexibility in the businesses that locate in the Shadelands. These efforts are paying off – vacancies are at an all time low, as seen in the chart, below, and a unique mix of tenants, from the Contra Costa School for Performing Arts to the Shadelands SportsMall, are calling Shadelands home.

Community Commentary *(Continued from Pg. 3)*

doing an excellent job within the context of MDUSD. But we also see that many of their successes come despite, rather than because of, the district that manages our schools.

We recognize that MDUSD has made improvements over the past few years. However, we cannot ignore the not-so-distant troubles that plagued MDUSD, even as school districts around us were spared: the loss of teacher health benefits; high teacher turnover; elimination of district funding

for high school sports and other extracurricular programs; the unprecedented teacher-led conversion of Clayton Valley HS to a charter; and declining school rankings compared to similar schools state-wide. Significant funding increases from the state and a new superintendent have certainly made a positive difference, but we see no organizational or structural changes that would keep MDUSD from reverting to its old ways if state funding declines again in another economic downturn, or if the leadership were to change again. (Nationally, large-district superintendents stay in their jobs, on average, for only about 3.2 years.) Our school board, with ultimate authority, remains an unpredictable wild-card that the Northgate community, with less than 15% of district voters, can scarcely influence.

Some supporters of the status quo have questioned the financial viability of a community-based Northgate school district with 4,200-4,600 students (which is larger than about 70% of all districts in California). Residents should understand that NUSD cannot move ahead without proving financial viability. It is one of the major criteria that the County will examine. Fortunately, California's current funding formula awards school districts identical base per student funding, regardless of district size. While it is true that the state offers extra supplemental per-student funds for students in poverty, English learners, and students in foster care, those extra funds must be targeted to those students. Northgate schools have fewer of those students, percentage-wise, than MDUSD as a whole, but to the extent our schools have qualifying students, those funds will be equally available to NUSD. What districts like MDUSD are not permitted to do is use those supplemental funds for across-the-board purposes. For insight into what can happen to a district that tries to play games with supplemental funding intended for disadvantaged students, see this link: <https://edsources.org/2016/complaint-says-district-must-revise-lcap-in-passing-big-pay-raise/562315> Note that a similar legal complaint has been filed against MDUSD as we described here: <https://northgatecaps.org/2016/10/06/mdusd-accused-of-misusing-lcff-supplemental-funds/>

The financial viability of any school district depends on the competence of the administrators and the quality of oversight from the community. In the last recession, MDUSD students and teachers suffered through more disruptive cuts than those in any surrounding district. Even in the current school year, after several years of increasing state funding, MDUSD's own budget already projects a \$10 million deficit for 2016-17, after last year's \$19 million surplus – a \$29 million negative swing in one year. Compare that to San Ramon Valley USD, MDUSD's similar-sized

neighbor to the south, which projects an \$8.3 million surplus this year. That's still a \$2 million surplus even after considering their parcel tax revenue, in the same year that MDUSD will run a \$10 million deficit. Moreover, SRVUSD operates with considerably less of the state's extra supplemental per-student funding for disadvantaged students that we've been told would keep MDUSD in good financial health.

Finally, we are concerned by suggestions from opponents of NUSD that students in special education will receive inferior support if special services are transferred from MDUSD to the Contra Costa Office of Education, which serves special education students in nearby districts like Acalanes, Walnut Creek, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, and throughout the County (excepting only the three largest districts).

The services that students in special education require are legally mandated, and must be appropriate for a student's needs. We are unaware of any widespread dissatisfaction with special services among the districts listed above. In fact, in one of the last school district reorganization cases that the County reviewed, their own consultant cited no impact from moving special education students from a big-district SELPA (as MDUSD has) to a smaller district (in that case from WCCUSD to John Swett USD).

We do know of one comparison, however, that is quite telling: the 2014-15 Contra Costa County Office of Education Financial Report notes that MDUSD incurred by far the highest special education costs of any district in the county, as a percent of total expenditures -- 29.2% for MDUSD, versus the County average of 22% for all school districts and 23% for unified school districts. That budget discrepancy could be justified if MDUSD achieved better results with the higher rate of spending. But they don't. Look at the results for MDUSD in the last statewide Smarter Balanced Assessment results for 2015-16:

Percent of Special Need Students Meeting or Exceeding Standard Across grade levels in MDUSD, a lower percentage of students with economic and language disadvantages, as well as students with disabilities, were able to meet or exceed state standards, compared with students in the County or the State. Proficiency among English Learners was less than a third of the state average. This is not a new phenomenon, but the continuation of a years-long pattern of under-performance at MDUSD.

We believe that it is time to question the status quo when our schools are managed by a district that performs below average in so many areas, with so many students. Northgate residents have long valued and supported our local schools. We believe that our students and teachers can accomplish more outside MDUSD, and we hope that we will be allowed to make that choice at the ballot box.

Editor's Note: The Woodlands Association has not taken a position on the move to create a new Northgate school district and the ideas and opinions expressed in this article do not represent the opinions of the Board.

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NEW Advertising Deadline

Please submit all ads and payments for the next issue by

April 10, 2016

Advertising Rates & Sizes

Please note: the actual sizes below allow for binding/bleed space.
Size = height x width in inches

Full Page – 10 x 7.5 - \$99/month

1/2 Page – 5 x 7.5 - \$55/month

1/4 Page – 5 x 3.5 - \$33/month

1/4 Page on back cover - \$55/month

1/8 Page – 2.5 x 3.5 - \$22/month

Classified Ads maximum 30 words:

\$5 Woodlands Residents, \$15 Non-Residents

Prepay for 12 months, get one month Free!

Prepay for 6 months, get 1/2 month Free!

Submission Guidelines

- Please submit your ad in the actual size/dimensions listed.
- Please email a digital file of your ad to woodlandsasn@yahoo.com. We accept PDF and Microsoft Word documents ONLY.
- Payment is due when you submit your ad. Please pay via www.woodlandsasn.org/advertise/ or make checks payable to "Woodlands Association" and mail to: PO Box 31085, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.



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- ❖ All Level & Abilities Are Welcome
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For more information, contact Maria Uy at (925) 938-5300 or muy@spartatkd.com



Happy Spring! Did you know I can offer many great suggestions and recommendations to help your home sparkle and shine this spring? It's part of the ongoing service I provide to my valued clients.

If you're thinking of a change of address, there's no better time than now to prepare your home for sale. My skills and experience will help you get top dollar for your home, so call me today!



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With low inventory and high buyer demand, This should be an exciting Spring selling season in the Woodlands! Call today so I can help you capitalize on this opportunity

Thinking about a move? Make sure to include Steve Hansen in your interviewing process. All my Woodlands sellers are sure glad they did!

Bringing The Woodlands values up one seller at a time. I will expose your home in its most flattering light, so it will not be overlooked or undervalued.

Call today for a FREE, no obligation consultation and an ACCURATE opinion of value, Including advice on pre-sale preparation and staging for maximum appeal.

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Steve@SteveHansenHomes.com

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The Marketing Professional



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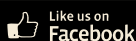
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April 2017

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Contact woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com
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 - Repair of Leaking Pipes
 - New Installations
- Repair Replacement of Washer, Faucets, Commodes, Wax Rings – Water Heaters

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- Spot Painting After Repairs
- Wall & Ceiling Texturing

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CARPENTRY & DRYWALL

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- Repair Stucco – Drywall
 - Brickwork
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Welcome

As the top selling agent in the Woodlands I have qualified buyers looking to join our neighborhood. If you are thinking of selling, my record shows I will get your home sold for the most money in the shortest time. Whether your home is turn key or needs TLC I have the experience and resources to get the job done. Call me today for a **FREE MARKET ANALYSIS**

RECENT ACTIVITY IN THE WOODLANDS

Address	Bed	Bath	SQ . FT.	Price	Close Date	Days on MLS
3614 Mahogany CT	4	2.5	1990	\$ 989,000.00	ACTIVE	8
3643 Perada DR	3	2.5	2422	\$ 1,198,998.00	ACTIVE	5
659 Rock Oak RD	4	2.5	2404	\$ 1,023,300.00	01/24/2017	55
173 Rock Oak RD	4	2	1866	\$ 920,000.00	01/10/2017	7
329 Conifer CT	4	2.5	1781	\$ 912,500.00	1/6/2017	9
654 Candleberry RD	4	2	1866	\$ 995,000.00	12/28/2016	8
161 Rock Oak CT	3	2	1927	\$ 999,000.00	11/21/2016	7

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925.336.MARC (6272)

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Please feel free to call us for advice on what improvements and designer ideas will net you the most equity & how to prepare your home for sale.

THE NEXT EVENT WE ARE ORGANIZING IS:

Friday - April 7, 2017

*Charity Golf Tournament & Dinner - Benefitting Northgate High School Baseball
Please call or email us for more information*



**Renee & Scott
Wagner
Real Estate Team**

925.250.5440

Website: ReneeAndScott.com

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Welcome

As the top selling agent in the Woodlands I have qualified buyers looking to join our neighborhood. If you are thinking of selling, my record shows I will get your home sold for the most money in the shortest time. Whether your home is turn key or needs TLC I have the experience and resources to get the job done. Call me today for a **FREE MARKET ANALYSIS**

RECENT SALES IN THE WOODLANDS

Address	Bed	Bath	SQ. FT.	Sold Price	Close Date	Days on MLS
635 Rock Oak RD	3	2	1690	\$ 950,000.00	10/7/2016	6
322 Rock Oak RD	3	2	1713	\$ 935,000.00	10/20/2016	3
161 Rock Oak RD	3	2	1927	\$ 999,000.00	11/21/2016	7
608 Persimmons RD	4	2.5	2000	\$ 980,000.00	11/28/2016	11
654 Candleberry RD	4	2	1866	\$ 995,000.00	12/28/2016	8
329 Conifer CT	4	2.5	1781	\$ 912,500.00	1/6/2017	9
173 Rock Oak RD	4	2	1866	\$ 920,000.00	1/10/2017	7
659 Rock Oak RD	4	2.5	2404	\$ 1,023,300.00	1/24/2017	55

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Website: ReneeAndScott.com

Email: yourhomeprofessional@gmail.com



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The Woodlands

P.O. Box 31085

Walnut Creek, CA 94598

To:

www.WoodlandsAssn.org