

The Woodlands

Keeping You Informed For 50 Years

August 2017

Great Fourth of July in the Woodlands

By Erik Ehlers

The 2017 edition of the Woodlands 4th of July parade and celebration was a rousing success. Despite the mercury rising and almost breaking into the 90s, the annual march from Valle Verde to the Cabana Club saw hundreds of smiling kids following yet another spectacular float, courtesy of the Rattaro family and their friends, and a phalanx of classic cars, all festooned in red, white and blue.



Another great 4th of July float

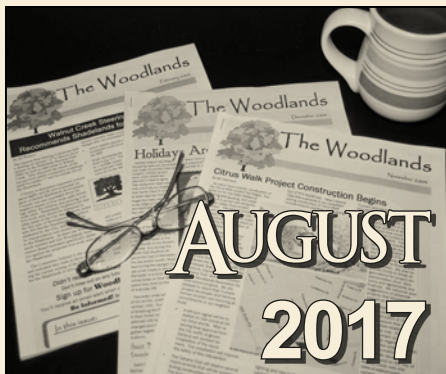
Once the gaggle of bicycling and walking kids allowed their parents to catch up to them at the Cabana Club, everyone enjoyed some tasty food under the usual mini mountain ranges of easy ups that adorned the club grounds. The pools were filled by laughing and splashing locals, who mostly allowed their children to join them in the refreshing waters. These were waters of the United States, but thanks to a sufficient serving of chlorine, there was no need for any environmental analysis, just plenty of cold drinks and gleeful grins.



Ready for the parade!

The annual candy competition for kids was followed by a set of water balloon toss competitions divided by age group, all leading to the fun of raft races. George Washington crossing the Delaware certainly may have looked more stately in his boat, but our own Woodlands raft racers beat the first president when it came to having fun. The day closed as family and friends said their goodbyes and trickled out of the club in small groups. After a day with so much fun and joy in celebrating the nation's 241st birthday, 2018 will indeed have quite an act to follow.

Huge thanks to Kristen McNulty and the rest of the Cabana Club board (and too many other volunteers to mention) for once again hosting a great party. A lot of work goes into the day and it shows, with a great time had by neighbors and guests alike.



Vol. 67 No. 8

In This Issue...

Fourth of July	1
Citrus Circle	3
School News	4
Woodlands Election Results.	5
Speeding Woodlands	5
Advertiser Contents	6
New Treasurer	9

Established in 1965, The Woodlands Newsletter is a monthly publication that is published by the Woodlands Association. Archived issues are located at www.WoodlandsAssn.org

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 Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Newsletter printed by
Minuteman Press
 (925) 256-6444

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

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 GET ENGAGED...**

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 ASSOCIATION BOARD!**

Woodlands Association Board of Directors

- Bill Gilmyers ~ *President*
- Erik Ehlers ~ *Vice President*
- Vacant ~ *Treasurer*
- Robert Baldwin ~ *Secretary*
- Members at Large ~ *Jared Asch*
- Todd McNeill ~ *Webmaster*

Jennifer Zotti ~ *Newsletter Distribution Manager*
 Lori Bhatia ~ *Newsletter Editor*
 Intern: Ryan Park

Upcoming Board Meetings

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, August 5th
Saturday, September 3rd
 at Denica's,
 2280 Oak Grove Road,
 Walnut Creek
 (in Citrus Marketplace)

Woodlands residents
 are encouraged to
 attend board meetings.

Community Meeting to Discuss Citrus Courtyard Housing Project

By Bill Gilmyers

On June 24 approximately 35 members of the Woodlands, including residents of Citrus Walk and current tenants of the offices in Citrus Courtyard met with Jim Parsons of P/A Design Resources to discuss a housing project proposed on the site of the existing office complex. The purpose of this meeting, which was called and led by P/A Design Resources, was to explain the project and solicit feedback from the members of the community members. By regulation, residents within 600 feet of the proposed project were notified of the meeting by personal invitation. In addition, the meeting was announced on the front page of last month's Woodlands Newsletter, on NextDoor and on Facebook.

Parsons provided high-level information on the project, which, as proposed, would include just over 80 total for-sale units including town houses and a condominium building. Townhouses would be on the outer portion the property facing Citrus Avenue and the back portion of Citrus Circle, across from the existing Citrus Walk townhouses. The Condominium would be in the center of the project and take up the space where the existing office complex sits.

Dick Hunt, of the architectural firm Hunt, Hale, Jones Architects described the design of the project. He indicated that the design did not include or resemble the 'contemporary motifs' present in the new developments downtown, but instead incorporated different 'materials and palettes' more in keeping with the existing community. Both Hunt and



Residents meet to learn more about proposed citrus courtyard project

Parsons said they anticipated that there would be changes to the design during the process, which, should the project be approved, could take 2 or more years; it would be at least 3 years before the project could actually start. Hunt also said that while the project was not originally seen as one that would cater to families, high housing costs in the area may have an impact on who ultimately purchases or occupies the properties.

Parsons also described proposed changes to the traffic corridor along Citrus Avenue and Citrus Circle, including a dedicated right turn lane off of Oak Grove Road into Citrus Circle, and prohibitions on turning left onto Citrus off of the end of Citrus Walk closest to Oak Grove Road. Parson said his firm had attempted to work with Mount Diablo Unified School District to understand the potential impact of the projects on the local schools, but that the district was unable to provide any guidance before a formal application for the project has been submitted.

Parsons said that the next step for his firm is to review the feedback received and potentially make changes to the proposal. Once this review is complete a formal application would be submitted to the city, Parsons indicated that the preparation for the application would take 3-4 months.

A range of questions and concerns were raised by community members in attendance. Some questioned whether the Yu family, who owns the property, had worked hard enough to make the existing office complex financially viable, or if the intent had always been to redevelop the property and 'flip it'. There was a significant amount of discussion about the impacts on the schools, electrical grid and basic infrastructure, and even more pertaining to the volume and timing of traffic associated with the development. Parsons presented preliminary traffic figures, provided by the city, which were met with skepticism by some in the audience. Not all of the feedback was negative, with one community member thanking Parsons for the project and noting that there was significant resistance when Citrus Walk was proposed, but that that project was successful and its residents are 'good neighbors'.

The Woodlands Association will continue to monitor this project and provide information to the community as it becomes available. We will also look for opportunities to gather feedback from the neighborhood and identify opportunities to influence the process to ensure a favorable outcome for the Woodlands. We welcome your feedback at via e-mail at woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com or in person at one of our monthly Board meetings, held the first Saturday of the Month at 8 AM at Denica's.

SCHOOL NEWS

Valle Verde Elementary

AUGUST

7th

Kindergarten Screening Day- If you have a new, incoming Kindergartener, please stop by on August 7, between 8am and noon, for a short screening for your child. This will help with class placement. Parents can enjoy meeting with other parents and have some lemonade while your child is being screened.

14th

Drive Through packet pick up at Valle Verde- Pick up your packet between 7 and 10am or 5:30-6:30pm. Inside the packet you will find your Parent/Student handbook, bell schedule, map, event magnet, and other documents. Your child's emergency card will be included.

15th

New Family Orientation in the MUR at 5pm- If you are a new family to Valle Verde, please come to our New Family Orientation meeting on August 15th. The meeting will be in the MUR from 5-6pm.

16th

Walk Through at Valle Verde- New Kindergarten families are invited to a Parent Orientation Night on August 16th from 6:30-7:15pm in the MUR.

16th

Kindergarten Parent Orientation Night- Parents are invited to learn about resources, tools, and information to help support and guide your children to a successful school year!! Saturday, August 19, 2017, 8:00-1:00pm at Loma Vista Adult Education Center at 1266 San Carlos Avenue in Concord. For information, please contact the Parent Education Program at Mt. Diablo Adult Education (925-685-7340 ext. 6720 or parented@mdusd.org).

21st

TK/Kindergarteners: Meet the Teacher- TK and Kindergarten families, come and meet your teacher on August 21, between 10 and 11 am in their classrooms.

22nd

First Day of School- First Day of School is August 22. TK/K Early friends start at 8:05; late friends start at 9:50. Grades 1-5 start at 8:10am.

31st

Back To School Night for grades TK, 1-5- Back to School Night is August 31. Grades 3-5 will be from 6:30-7:15pm and Grades TK, 1 and 2 will be from 7:15-8:00pm. Watch for more information from your teacher.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS FOR SUMMER: Office will be open until June 28, from 7:30-3:30 daily and will reopen on August 1.

Foothill Middle School



August 10

Walk-Thru

1pm-7pm @ Foothill

August 14

Camp Griffin for incoming 6th graders
9am-11am

August 14

New to Foothill
7th & 8th graders
11:15am-11:45am

August 22

1st Day of School
8:15am

August 23

Welcome Assembly-6th Graders 1:00-1:35pm
MU

August 23

First Short Wednesday.
Dismissal at 1:40pm

August 24

Fall Pictures
Gym 8:00am-2:30pm

August 25
Fall Pictures
Gym 8:00am-12pm
(some make-ups)

Northgate High School



Walk-through Registration: Seniors
14 Aug 2017 at 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Walk-through Registration: Juniors
14 Aug 2017 at 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Walk-through Registration: Sophomores
15 Aug 2017 at 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Walk-through Registration: Freshman
15 Aug 2017 at 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

2017 Woodlands Association Board Election Results

By Jared Asch

On behalf of the Woodlands Association Board, I would like to congratulate Erik Ehlers on his election to vice president. Erik and his wife has lived in Walnut Creek for nearly a decade and are parents of two young children. In addition to the Woodlands Board, Erik is an active parent at VVE. Erik, has a BA in economics from UC, Davis.

We'd also like to thank the other challengers in this race. While it was a hard vote race, in which Erik only won by seven (7) votes, we appreciate everyone running a clean and honorable campaign.

At this time, nobody has yet announced a candidacy for the position of treasurer. While one candidate has received a write-in vote, he has not yet accepted the position. If you are interested in the Treasurer position, please let us know by contacting us at woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com

Additionally we would like to welcome Susan Pfau who will serve in a board appointed role of newsletter coordinator. So stay tuned these articles are going to get better! Susan and her husband Jason recently moved into the Woodlands and experienced their first July 4th Parade. They have two young boys who will be attending Valle Verde.

The Woodlands Board is planning to move its elections Online, this fall we will be revisiting our bylaws to allow for mailed and online ballots. We believe this will increase community involvement.

Speeding in the Woodlands Association - Make Your Voice Heard

By Bill Gilmyers

On NextDoor and through e-mails to the Woodlands Association, we continue to receive comments regarding speeding in the neighborhood and what might be done to address the problem. This is an issue that the association has taken on in the past, working with the city, with some success. With combined efforts we were able to have the digital speed sign installed on Peachwillow leading up to the school and there was a speed trailer on Perada for a short period.

With that said, and as noted above, there is still an opportunity to work with the city to do more. The Woodlands Association has, and will continue to, engage with the city to continue to bring focus to this issue and to drive action. We've reached out to Rafat Raie, the city traffic engineer, to express our continued concerns regarding this issue and requested a meeting, to include members of the community, the city, and potentially members of the City Council, to discuss what other remedies may be available. A preliminary discussion is scheduled for July 17, the day after this issue goes to press.

For members of the community who are concerned about this issue, we encourage you to make your voice heard as well. We need others to write, and call, our representatives (see below for more information on this) to continue to make the city aware of this issue. Rafat Raie can be reached via e-mail at Raie@walnut-creek.org. In addition, the city has a non-emergency number to report speeding when you see it at 925-943-5844.

Finally, allow me to use this as an opportunity to encourage interested readers to get involved. The Woodlands Association is a volunteer organization made up of neighbors like yourself. We meet the first Saturday of every month, at Dennica's, at 8 AM. We encourage members of the public to join us to share concerns, but also to find out how they can help us address this and other issues of importance to the community. A few of us can get a little bit done, a lot of us can get a lot done.

ADVERTISING

Advertiser Contents

1800JUNKSTER	15
ANGIE CLAY - REALTOR	7
AUDREY SLAUGHTER-COLLEGE ADVISOR	13
BELFAST PLUMBING	15
BRUCE LESSER	14
DAYNA WILSON - REALTOR	12
DIAMOND TERRACE	9
GOLDEN PALM LANDSCAPE	9
KEVIN GREEN - LAWN SERVICE	18
KYLE M. JOHNSTON - ESTATE ATTORNEY ..	15
MACY MOVERS	10
MARC GRAVES - REALTOR	17, 20
MINUTEMAN PRESS PLEASANT HILL	20
PAUL'S HANDYMAN SERVICE	18
RENEE WAGNER - REALTOR	19, 20
STEVE HANSEN, J. ROCKCLIFF REALTORS ..	11
VALLE VERDE CHILDREN'S CTR	13
WELCOME BUILDING MAINTENANCE	18
WOODLANDS GARAGE SALE	8
YOUR LOCAL HOME REPAIR	16

NEW Advertising Deadline

Please submit all ads and
payments for the next issue by
August 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

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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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Woodlands Annual Garage Sale

Sunday, October 1, 2017

A map of the neighborhood, identifying the locations of those who are participating in the garage sale is created to aid buyers to find your homes. Maps will be provided to the participants to hand out to buyers. To get on the map you need to register. You may still participate without registering.

Starting on Friday September 1st
call 945 - 4575 To Register
Please do not call prior to this date

Registration Ends Sunday,
September 24th

When you call, please leave (1) your name, (2) home phone number, (3) address, & (4) a brief description of the items for sale. You will receive a call back to confirm the information within a few days.

*Garage sale hours are advertised as 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
You can open and close your garage whenever you wish.*

**Because of the details involved in setting up this event,
 Please Call No Later Than 6:00 p.m., Sunday, September 24th**



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Woodlands Association Seeks New Treasurer

by Bill Gilmyers

The Woodlands Association is looking for a new Treasurer. After more than 5 years of service to the Association, Jan Gall, the current Treasurer, has chosen to step down. She will be finalizing her role as Treasurer in July, at the end of her term. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who would like to serve our wonderful community.

Time commitment is approximately 2-4 hours per month, plus the monthly Woodlands Association Board meeting, which is the first Saturday of the month at 8 AM. The ideal candidate is well organized, reliable, and able to meet regularly scheduled deadlines. Training for the role will be provided. A list of duties and responsibilities is listed below. If interested, e-mail the Woodlands Association at woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com.

Treasurer Duties:

- Track and coordinate with newsletter advertisers to manage payments
- Communicate with Newsletter Coordinator to confirm advertisers to run in monthly newsletter
- Manage Association bank accounts
- Track Association Finances in Quicken (training provided)
- Generate financial reports for review at monthly Board meeting
- File Association taxes annually
- Maintain list of advertisers, including contact information
- Mail Woodlands Newsletter to advertisers living outside the Woodlands



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College Planning Tips by Grade

9th and 10th - Read more in any subject this summer! Excellent reading/comprehension skills will be key for SAT/ACT success and can only be learned over the years. Enjoy the summer and explore your other interests! What do you love to do?

11th - Specialize. Go deep into a few of your activities/interests this summer. WHY are these activities meaningful to you - what have you learned from them? Explore local colleges. Schedule campus tours to get familiar with the college evaluation process.

12th - Focus time! Create a resume of your activities - why did you stay with them and what did you learn? Research your college options, take college tours, and create your list by end of summer. Create your timeline of tasks so you stay focused!

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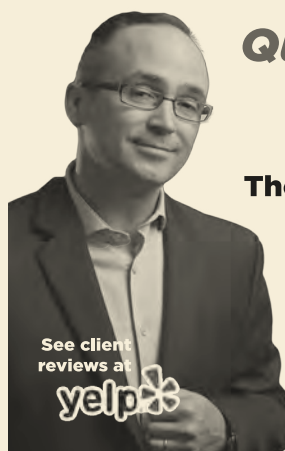


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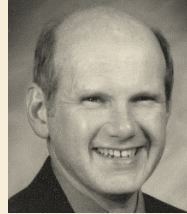
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