

The Woodlands



Keeping You Informed For 50 Years

December 2017

Valle Verde Fall Carnival Wrap-Up

By Erik Ehlers

For this year's Valle Verde Fall Carnival, there needs to be special thanks to all the parents who made it a fun day for the kids, particularly the head hero, Phyllis Mansell. From what I saw, kids were having enough fun that until the heat drained their energy, they would run from carnival booth to booth, and then go for several trips either through the inflatable obstacle course or up the inflatable stairs and down the inflatable slide. Lastly, when it was time for a recharge, volunteers served up tasty food that included the usual slew of tasty morsels like burgers, hot dogs and burritos, plus some cotton candy for dessert. The haunted house showed the school community that fifth graders have some dramatic chops, as numerous kids entered each room with trepidation and anxiety, rewarded with a few good scares.

You may be familiar with the basic details of what transpired at this year's Valle Verde Fall Carnival – there was a haunted house with an Alice in Wonderland theme put on by the fifth graders; and there was a carnival that attracted many families on one of the year's last sunny days. What you may not be familiar with are the gruesome hidden facts of what really happened on that fateful October weekend.

Holiday Lights in the Woodlands

by Bill Gilmyers

I love all the seasons here in the Woodlands, but the holiday season I love best of all. There's a beauty to the way the daylight starts to dim in the middle of the afternoon, reflecting off the leaves just starting to turn. Around the neighborhood holiday lights start to go up on houses, some in mid-November and many more right after Thanksgiving. Slowly our streets come to light, with displays ranging from the simple to the dramatic.

You see them as you walk or drive around, and come to have favorites on roofs and front yards. My daughter, now six, has been captivated by them for years, and I expect this year to be no different. The big kahuna, of course, is at the end of Rock Oak Road where it crosses Perada- the 'Beautiful House' she calls it, and it is truly that, gorgeous and dazzling, a sight to behold.

Every year there's a tree lighting there, with the whole neighborhood invited to attend; one of the highlights of living in the Woodlands. In past years Santa Claus has come for pictures and to collect donations for Toys for Tots. I expect he'll be there again this year, however at the time of press, we don't have a firm date yet. Keep your eyes peeled for more information on the day and time on Facebook and NextDoor.

Above all, have a wonderful, festive and safe holiday season!



In This Issue...

Carnival Wrap-up 1
 Holiday Lights in Woodlands 1
 Citrus Courtyard 3
 School News 4
 What to do in a fire 6
 RECIPE: Mushroom Parchment . . . 7
 Thanks Lori 7
 Advertiser Contents 8

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 (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

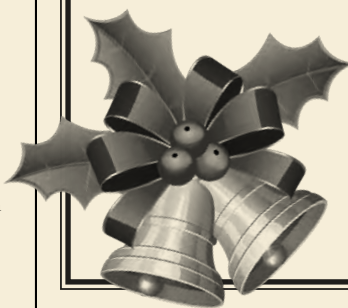
Graffiti Reporting: City of Walnut Creek, 925-943-5854

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
 WISHING YOU THE BEST
 THE SEASON HAS
 TO OFFER!



Woodlands Association Board of Directors

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

- Jennifer Zotti ~ *Newsletter Distribution Manager*
- Susan Pfau ~ *Newsletter Editor*
- Ryan Park ~ *Intern*

Upcoming Board Meetings

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 2nd
Saturday, January 6th

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

Woodlands residents
 are encouraged to
 attend board meetings.

The Latest on Proposed Citrus Courtyard Housing Project

By Bill Gilmyers

This summer representatives from P/A Design Resources and Hunt, Hale, Jones Architects met with representatives from the community to discuss a housing project proposed on the site of the existing office complex on Citrus Circle. At that time P/A Design Resources planned to spend several months preparing an application with the City of Walnut Creek. In the meantime, the Woodlands Association has prepared to play a role in the process so as to best represent the interests of the community.

The Woodlands Association is unusual, in that we are not a typical homeowners' association. We don't collect dues, and while we try to help when there are issues regarding matters such as property maintenance, we have no formal enforcement authority. Instead, we are a community advocacy organization, whose primary role is to share information, both with our constituents in the neighborhood and with relevant stakeholders in the community including city officials, commercial interests and property holders. We do not usually take positions on proposed developments and projects per se, instead trying to ensure that all involved are well informed and that the interests of our neighborhood are communicated.

Given this, we anticipate that our work with regard to the proposed project will involve listening to members of our neighborhood, and seeking to understand your concerns. In addition, we will work closely with the city to track the progress of the project, and make sure that concerns are raised and communicated to the appropriate parties. We plan to have neighborhood meetings and focus groups to allow you to share your thoughts on the proposal, and expect to start these early next year. We'll also plan to attend meetings of the City Council on the relevant committees who will be working on this project.

We received a note from Jim Parsons at P/A Design resources last week, and he indicated that their work has been delayed. They hoped to submit their application by this time but have decided to go through a pre-app submittal process which will allow them to get answers and feedback they need from the city in advance of submitting their formal application. He has committed to meeting with the Board to provide an update after they've done so, and we'll report back to the community what we learn.

The Woodlands Association will continue to monitor this project and provide information to the community as it becomes available. We welcome your feedback 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.

Carnival Wrap-up (Continued from Pg. 1)

Phyllis Mansell chaired this year's extravaganza, including the heart stopping haunted house, staffed by legions of fifth graders. With the attendant levels of heart stopping fear, it seems likely that there should be a criminal investigation; probably by the fun police, as there appear to have been numerous individuals who entered the scare factory and were never seen again. Who are they? It is certainly hard to say, since what don't you understand about never having been seen again? If the concerto of high pitched screams is any indication, there was a level of terror that compares with pop quizzes and Lone Star Staters with hockey masks and chainsaws on Halloween night.

Aside from the blood curdling panic associated with the haunted house, there was a different type of distress on display during the carnival. The booths appeared to be staffed quite ably by pleasant, even smiling members of the Valle Verde community, but each one delivered a shock as the youths aimed to attain victory in each game of skill.

The games were a fun challenge, with the option of a CTE-free football experience, though the spots to throw the plush mini-balls were small enough it took the dads setting up the game ten and nine throws, respectively, to achieve a completion, as well as a classic carnival contest of throwing a ring atop a glass bottle, which proved less perplexing, and the fun contest of using a squirt gun to move ping pong balls off of golf tees, which showed some of the kids to be ruthless point blank winners. The bevy of tickets won by the participants would stretch from Valle Verde to the moon, or at least the future SF bedroom community of Reno, and could be used to either enter raffles for fun prizes or in exchange for items like fidget spinners and bouncy balls.

All in all, it was a spectacular display of community unity and fun for kids and adults of all ages. Kudos to all the volunteers who made it such a fun day.

SCHOOL NEWS

VALLE VERDE ELEMENTARY

DECEMBER

1st Box Tops Collection
20th Ugly Sweater Day

Foothill



5th- MDUSD Middle School Honor Band Rehearsal
Field Trip- Build a Bear / Community Service
6th- Winter Concert I
7th- Linkbot Robotics Club
8th- 6th Grade Dance
7th/8th Grade Dance
11th- MDUSD Middle School Honor Band Rehearsal
12th- Winter Concert II
14th- Winter Concert III
Linkbot Robotics Club
19th- Mixed Choir Winter Choral Concert
20th- PFA Meetings - Library
21st- Linkbot Robotics Club
22nd- End of 2nd Quarter / 1st Semester
Coffee with Dave

Northgate



Friday, December 1
Boys Junior Varsity Basketball at Acalanes JV
Tournament (time is TBD)
Saturday, December 2
Boys Junior Varsity Basketball at Acalanes JV
Tournament (time is TBD)
2:00pm
Boys Varsity Soccer at San Lorenzo
4:00pm
Girls Varsity Soccer at Campolindo
Monday, December 4
6:00pm
Basketball Practice
7:30pm
Basketball Practice
Tuesday, December 5

4:30pm
Bear Creek High School at Boys Freshman Basketball
6:00pm
Bear Creek High School at Boys Junior Varsity
Basketball
7:00pm
NCMB Meeting - NHS
7:30pm
Winter Concert II
7:30pm
Basketball Practice
7:30pm
Bear Creek High School at Boys Varsity Basketball
Wednesday, December 6
6:00pm
Girls Varsity Soccer at Miramonte
7:30pm
Basketball Practice
7:30pm
Basketball Practice
Thursday, December 7
Mock Congress
Boys Freshman Basketball at Ygnacio Valley Frosh
Tourney (time is TBD)
7:30pm
Winter Concert III
7:30pm
Basketball Practice
7:30pm
Basketball Practice
Friday, December 8
Mock Congress
7:30pm
Basketball Practice
7:30pm
Basketball Practice
Saturday, December 9
6:00am
Basketball Practice
8:00am
San Ramon Jazz Festival
2:00pm
Las Lomas at Girls Varsity Soccer
6:00pm
Boys Varsity Soccer at Windsor
Monday, December 11
Winter Spirit Week
7:30pm
Basketball Practice
Tuesday, December 12

SCHOOL NEWS

First Semester Concert Report Due
 Winter Spirit Week
 4:30pm
 Boys Junior Varsity Basketball at Oceana High School
 6:00pm
 Boys Varsity Basketball at Oceana High School
 7:00pm
 NIMB Board Meeting
 7:00pm
 Berean Christian at Boys Varsity Soccer
 Wednesday, December 13
 Boys Junior Varsity Basketball at Arroyo JV
 Tournament (time is TBD)
 Boys Varsity Basketball at Arroyo Tournament Varsity
 (time is TBD)
 Winter Spirit Week
 Thursday, December 14
 Boys Junior Varsity Basketball at Arroyo JV
 Tournament (time is TBD)
 Boys Varsity Basketball at Arroyo Tournament Varsity
 (time is TBD)
 Winter Spirit Week
 6:00pm
 Girls Varsity Soccer at Piedmont
 7:00pm
 Athletic Boosters Meeting
 7:00pm
 Boys Varsity Soccer at Miramonte
 Friday, December 15
 Boys Freshman Basketball at Arroyo Freshman
 Tournament (time is TBD)
 Boys Junior Varsity Basketball at Arroyo JV
 Tournament (time is TBD)
 Winter Spirit Week
 7:00pm
 Improv Team Show
 Saturday, December 16
 Boys Junior Varsity Basketball at Arroyo JV
 Tournament (time is TBD)
 Boys Varsity Basketball at Arroyo Tournament Varsity
 (time is TBD)
 3:00pm
 Acalanes at Girls Varsity Soccer
 5:00pm
 Acalanes at Boys Varsity Soccer
 Tuesday, December 19
 1st Semester Finals
 Wednesday, December 20
 1st Semester Finals
 Thursday, December 21

1st Semester Finals
 4:00pm
 Boys Freshman Basketball at Livermore High School
 5:30pm
 Boys Junior Varsity Basketball at Livermore High
 School
 7:00pm
 Boys Varsity Basketball at Livermore High School
 Friday, December 22
 1st Semester Finals
 7:00pm
 PFC General Meeting (tentative)
 Saturday, December 23
 6:00pm
 Boys Varsity Soccer at Richmond
 Monday, December 25
 Holiday Break - No School
 Tuesday, December 26
 Boys Varsity Basketball at San Diego Surf n Slam
 Varsity (time is TBD)
 Holiday Break - No School
 Wednesday, December 27
 Boys Varsity Basketball at San Diego Surf n Slam
 Varsity (time is TBD)
 Holiday Break - No School
 2:00pm
 Alumni Match 2:00pm
 Thursday, December 28
 Boys Freshman Basketball at Dougherty Valley Frosh
 Tourney (time is TBD)
 Boys Junior Varsity Basketball at Dougherty Valley JV
 Tournament (time is TBD)
 Boys Varsity Basketball at San Diego Surf n Slam
 Varsity (time is TBD)
 Holiday Break - No School
 Friday, December 29
 Boys Junior Varsity Basketball at Dougherty Valley JV
 Tournament (time is TBD)
 Boys Varsity Basketball at San Diego Surf n Slam
 Varsity (time is TBD)
 Holiday Break - No School
 Saturday, December 30
 Boys Junior Varsity Basketball at Dougherty Valley JV
 Tournament (time is TBD)
 Boys Varsity Basketball at San Diego Surf n Slam
 Varsity (time is TBD)

What to do in a fire?

By Jared Asch



In light of the recent fires in the Bay Area, the Woodlands Association felt prudent to address fire safety. Every household can benefit by devising a plan ahead of time.

Last month the Fire Marshall wrote a guest article about Ready, Set, Go. **READY** – Prepare, **SET** – Have situational awareness, **GO** – Evacuate and follow your plan.

This month we would like to address how to develop your plan for fire safety. First, you need to create your plan. Some key elements that go into your fire safety plan include:

- Draw a map with escape routes.
- Identify a safe meeting spot, usually the end of your neighbor's driveway. Remember if you have little kids, minimize street crossings.
- Ensure there are two ways out of every room.
- Pair an adult to a child, do you have a caregiver who gets the baby? Who gets the toddler?
- If you have a two-story home, do you want a safety ladder?
- Don't forget your pets! Put them in your plan.
- Emergency contact, have a friend or relative that is out of the area serve as a central contact point. If you get separated communicate through one central place. Teach everyone to memorize the phone number.
- If you have an elderly neighbor or a neighbor with mobility issues, please reach out to them and ask how you can help each other.

Remember those fire drills you used to have in school? Do you have them at home? You should practice your fire safety plan every six months.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Teach your kids fire safety – “Get Low and Go” & “Stop, Drop and Roll”
- Close doors, it slows the fire
- Watch out for doorknobs they can be hot
- Never go back in, if your out don't be the hero alert fire rescue – stay out
- Home Fire Drill – practice every six months

TIPS FOR YOUR HOME

- Change batteries in your smoke and CO2 monitors yearly
- Test smoke and CO2 monitors every six months
- Have a Fire Extinguisher, replace it every 12 years
- Safety ladders for upstairs rooms

Get Low & Go – smoke and toxins rise to the top, get on the ground and crawl. Fire fighters do it too.

If you have time, putting a wet cloth around your nose and mouth can help.

Stop, Drop & Roll – clothes on fire. Stop moving, drop to the ground and roll around.

More information can be found from the National Fire Protection Association.

<http://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Safety-in-the-home/Escape-planning/Basic-fire-escape-planning>

Mushrooms in Parchment

This is a festive vegetarian entrée that is special enough for a holiday dinner. Mushrooms and herbs combine with a delicious cream sauce that is both rich and satisfying. Use any combination of mushrooms that you prefer but a mixture of white button mushrooms, cremini mushrooms and oyster mushrooms is divine.

1 medium onion, diced
 5 cups sliced or quartered mushrooms- any mixture you prefer- button mushrooms, cremini and oyster work well. (If using large portobello mushrooms, be sure to remove the gills and chop into manageable pieces.)
 2 T Extra Virgin Olive Oil, divided
 2 T Unsalted Butter, divided
 1 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
 ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
 ¼ cup dry white wine
 ¼ cup heavy cream
 1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh rosemary
 1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh sage
 1 Tablespoon finely chopped parsley
 4 small red or Yukon gold potatoes, cooked and quartered
 1 T Unsalted Butter



1. Prepare 4 pieces of parchment paper—about 14 inches long
2. In a large skillet, sauté the chopped onion in 1 T of Olive oil, 1 T of butter and ½ teaspoon of salt. Cook over medium until translucent. Place in a large bowl.
3. Add the remaining oil and butter and the mushrooms and salt. Cook over medium high until liquid has evaporated and mushrooms are golden brown.
4. Add the white wine and stir, scraping up any brown bits from the bottom of the pan.
5. Add the cream and simmer for about a minute. Add mushrooms to the onions and add in the parsley.
6. Divide the potato amongst the parchment squares and place in the middle of the square and top with the mushroom mixture. Top with ¼ T of unsalted butter.
7. Gather the edges of the paper and tie with oven proof twine.
8. Bake for 15-20 mins until hot.

These can be assembled up to one day ahead. Allow for a few extra minutes in the oven to come up to temperature. Serve hot.

Thanks to Lori Bhatia, Outgoing Newsletter Editor

The Woodlands Association Board

The Woodlands Association would like to express its appreciation to Lori Bhatia, who is stepping down as newsletter editor this month. Lori has ensured that articles published in the newsletter are well-written, free of grammatical errors and typos since 2015. This was a huge help to the Association during an extended period where the Newsletter Coordinator position was vacant and had to be covered by other members of the Board.

Lori remains active in the community, especially in support of the Valle Verde PTA. We thank her for her service to the community, and look forward to seeing her around the neighborhood!

ADVERTISING

Advertiser Contents

AUDREY SLAUGHTER-COLLEGE ADVISOR .11
 BELFAST PLUMBING 15
 BRUCE LESSER 14
 DAYNA WILSON - REALTOR 10
 DIAMOND TERRACE 19
 DONALDSON CONCRETE 9
 GOLDEN PALM LANDSCAPE 19
 KEVIN GREEN - LAWN SERVICE 8
 KUMON - WALNUT CREEK NORTH 19
 KYLE M. JOHNSTON - ESTATE ATTORNEY ... 8
 MARC GRAVES - REALTOR 17, 20
 MINUTEMAN PRESS PLEASANT HILL 20
 PAUL'S HANDYMAN SERVICE 15
 RENEE WAGNER - REALTOR 18, 20
 STEVE HANSEN, J. ROCKCLIFF REALTORS . 13
 TISH KANAT - REALTOR 12
 VALLE VERDE CHILDREN'S CTR 11
 WELCOME BUILDING MAINTENANCE 15
 YGNACIO VALLEY LIBRARY 9
 YOUR LOCAL HOME REPAIR 16

NEW Advertising Deadline

Please submit all ads and payments for the next issue by
December 10, 2017

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 woodlandsassn@yahoo.com. We accept PDF and Microsoft Word documents ONLY.
- Payment is due when you submit your ad. Please pay via www.woodlandsassn.org/advertise/ or make checks payable to "Woodlands Association" and mail to: PO Box 31085, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.



Questions About Wills, Trusts, and Probate?
 The answers are right here in your neighborhood.

Kyle M. Johnston
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Rockridge Oakland 510.527.1880 Northgate Walnut Creek 925.278.6180

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Established in 1988, Donaldson Concrete has been serving the Entire Bay Area and Central Valley for nearly 30 years.

From remodeling to new construction, our staff and expert technicians are dedicated to working with you to implement your needs.

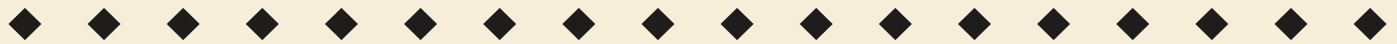
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Email: info@donaldsonconcrete.com



Advertise With Us!



For more information, contact:
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SPECIAL HOLIDAY BOOK SALE

2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek

Saturday, December 9, 2017

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Our one-day Holiday Book Sale is a special event. The books for this sale have been hand-picked, choosing only those in excellent condition which are suitable for gift-giving. Come early and shop for the book lovers on your list!

FRIENDS OF YGNACIO VALLEY LIBRARY

Visit our new website: YVLFriends.org

Next Quarterly Book Sale: January 19-20, 2018

“ With courage you will dare to take risks, have the strength to be compassionate, and the wisdom to be humble. Courage is the foundation of integrity.

- Mark Twain



Many Woodlands Neighbors are part of the ‘sandwich generation,’ raising awesome children while caring for, or advising, an aging parent. Take note of any changes you see in your loved ones this holiday season. When you are faced with the challenge of assisting an elder homeowner with a late-life move, Dayna Wilson’s *Seniors on the Move* Team is here to help, providing you with:

- One-stop solutions for all your real estate and move management needs
- Professional project management for presale preparation, relocation oversight
- Trained professionals experienced in mature moves and senior living options
- Experts serving seniors and their families saving you time, money and stress
- Maximum exposure, effective negotiations, more money in your pocket
- Excellent references from our raving fans

Call or email Dayna today to schedule a **no-obligation** personal consultation!




Dayna Wilson Real Estate - Seniors Real Estate Specialist®

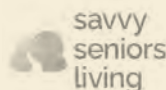
Top 1% of all agents in the Area for a Reason!

Not just a Top Woodlands Agent, also #10 in ALL of Walnut Creek, out of Contra Costa agents for detached homes. I welcome you to compare!



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 *Happy Holidays
from my Woodlands
home to yours! May
the Spirit of the Season
be with you and yours!*





A Roadmap for College

SIMPLIFY. ORGANIZE. PERSONALIZE.

Holiday Topics to avoid to have a peaceful
and warm family gathering:

1. Your senior's College List


Ask relatives to refrain from asking your student about his/her choices. Give your students the space to own their college list and not have to listen why Uncle Bob loved his college the best. They have chosen their colleges for their own personal reasons, so respect them for these decisions.


The process needs to be owned by the student, and giving them the space to enjoy the choices they are making is powerful.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

For more tips on college planning, please subscribe to my blog at www.Aroadmapforcollege.com

ARoadmapForCollege.com

 Roadmap4College

 A Roadmap for College

VALLE VERDE CHILDREN'S CENTER

FALL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

- ✦ Before & After School Care
- ✦ TK/Kindergarten Program
- ✦ Affordable Pricing
- ✦ Flexible Schedules

- Science & Engineering ✦
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WE'RE OPEN:
Monday - Friday
7 AM - 6 PM



Website:

valleverdechildrenscenter.org

Phone: (925) 944-5255



SHARE THE Warmth



ONE WARM COAT®



This year, Dudum Real Estate Group is supporting the efforts of **One Warm Coat** to collect coats for local residents and victims of October's North Bay firestorm. You can drop off gently worn coats (all age groups) at four convenient locations:

WALNUT CREEK: 1910 Olympic Blvd., #100

LAFAYETTE: 999 Oak Hill Road, #100

DANVILLE: 100-A Railroad Avenue

BRENTWOOD: 60 Eagle Rock Way, Suite B

You can also reach out to me directly, and I will pick up your coat donations from you! My contact information is below.

During this season of giving, we hope you will join us in Sharing the Warmth! Thank you for your support.

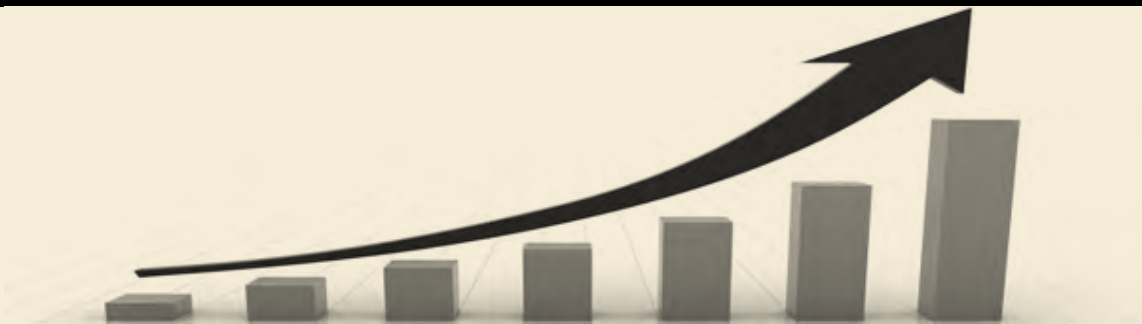


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Average Sales Prices in The Woodlands



2017 has been another feverish market in The Woodlands. Over half the sales were well over a million. Here are some stats showing year over year average sales prices in The Woodlands since the market recovery began in 2012. The average sales price has increased 55% since 2012. There are many items affecting the “averages”, such as the number of spectacular remodeled and/or larger homes selling vs. smaller “fixer-uppers” in a given year. You need an active area specialist to determine your unique home’s value.

Year	Number of Sales	Average List Price	Average Sales Price	Price Increase Over Prior Year
2012	20	\$677,665	\$673,720	N/A
2013	27	\$740,315	\$763,366	13%
2014	21	\$830,363	\$838,929	10%
2015	28	\$872,903	\$896,879	7%
2016	27	\$919,837	\$941,248	5%
2017 (YTD)	33	\$1,017,491	\$1,047,755	11%

Information compiled from data submitted to the Contra Costa County Association of Realtors, MLS by Realtor members. Information is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

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.

- Top Woodlands Realtor
- Over 20 Years of Experience and Hundreds of Homes Sold
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- Great References From ALL my Happy Clients

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



Your Woodlands Specialist
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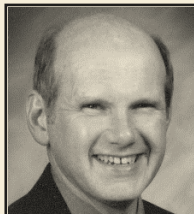
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