

# The Woodlands



Keeping You Informed For 50 Years

June 2017

## Citrus Circle Gathering

P/A Design Resources, Inc.

Dear Woodlands Resident,

Ware land planners, civil engineers, surveyors and consultants to the Yu Family, in studying, designing and processing a new townhouse and multi-family residential project to replace the two existing aging office buildings they own at 3000 and 3050 Citrus Circle (APNs 134-122-002, and 134-122-003) situated within the 3.50 acre Citrus Circle parcel located in the City of Walnut Cree. (see aerial site location map enclosed).

As a follow up to our meeting with the Woodlands Association Board or Directors, and because you are a property owner and neighbor located within 600 feet of the subject site, we would appreciate the opportunity to provide with first-hand knowledge of the plan prior to preparing a formal application for submittal to the City of Walnut Creek.

Therefore, we invite you to attend a site visit on Saturday morning, June 24, 2017 starting promptly at 9:30 a.m. We will meet in the rear parking lot. opposite the residences of Citrus Walk, which fronts Citrus Circle. We will review the plan and then walk the property, for those interested, to see the access, location and orientation of the architectural design. You will be able to see how the project relates to your property and the surrounding neighborhood. We welcome your participation and input.

*(Continued on Pg. 3)*

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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](mailto: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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**Newsletter Advertising:**  
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Woodlands Association  
P.O. Box 31085  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

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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](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](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

**DONT' FORGET  
TO VOTE FOR THE  
WOODLANDS BOARD!!  
BALLOT ON PG. 5**

## 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, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**

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

Woodlands residents  
are encouraged to  
attend board meetings.

## Citrus Gathering (Continued from Pg. 1)



We are interested in identifying and fully understanding any neighborhood issues relative to this project very early in the process, and generating solutions to those issues to the extent possible. Following the site visit, we will evaluate the comments and input we receive and then prepare the formal application, which will be submitted to, and processed through the City of Walnut Creek in the near future, which will include public hearings.

I look forward to seeing you on the site visit.

Very truly yours,

James C. Parsons, Principal  
P/A Design Resources, Inc.

## Thinking Outside the Bubble: The Need to Re-evaluate Standardized

Testing (Part 1 of 2)

By Alissa Johnson, Woodlands Association Intern

Tick! The timer goes off. An African-American student who lives in a public housing project in the Bronx begins anxiously filling in bubbles. He stumbles a few times in answering reading comprehension questions about things he has never heard of, like tea saucers. A few weeks later the student gets his 'below average' test results back. African-Americans, Hispanics, and low-income students consistently score below privileged white and Asian students (Rooks). But why is this? As Albert Einstein once said, "Everyone is a genius, but if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will spend its whole life believing that it is stupid." In other words, if students are tested on things they have never been exposed to due to their socioeconomic class, they could be misevaluated leading to consequences for themselves and their community. The following week his school is forced to close because of a lack of funding due to low test scores. Unfortunately, with the current system, this is the story for many schools in low income areas. Apart from socially biased questions, the high-stakes of standardized tests cause unhealthy levels of stress for students and teachers. Finally, all the time spent teaching to the test limits time that could be spent on quality education. The use of standardized tests should be re-evaluated because it limits quality education, causes severe stress, and is socially biased.

Standardized tests limit education because they cause teaching to the test and do not measure what is meaningful. The Center on Education Policy reported in 2007 that social studies, science, art, music, physical education, lunch, and recess were cut from 44 percent of schools in the nation after No Child Left Behind was passed in 2001 (Kamenetz, 28). These subjects and activities help to make a student well rounded. For example, having knowledge of social studies promotes understanding of world issues and involvement in the community. Music and art allow for creativity. Standardized tests emphasize a narrowed curriculum of math and language arts. Neuroscientists at MIT teamed up with Harvard and Brown Universities in a study that found that students' fluid intelligence, or their ability to use reasoning in new situations was not applied in standardized tests. Students who scored high on standardized math tests showed no greater fluid intelligence (Kamenetz, 14). This study shows that standardized tests do not test skills needed in the real world. The real world demands skills such as a working memory, the ability to process information quickly, and the ability to solve complex problems. As for Language Arts, the focus is more on reading than writing because it is easier to grade a multiple choice answer sheet than an essay. The reading comprehension questions focus only on comprehension not higher order-critical thinking. The writing portion is similarly inadequate. The writing portion

(Continued on Pg. 4)

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Valle Verde Elementary School

DISMISSAL FOR LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: The last day of school is June 9. Our kindergarten friends will be dismissed at 11:15am and Grades 1-5 will be dismissed at noon.

LUNCH FOR LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: If you would like to purchase a bag lunch for your child for the last day of school, you will need to put your order in to the cafeteria by May 26. Please call the office and we can transfer you to the cafeteria.

## Foothill Middle School

June 01  
Spring Concert I- Concert Band.  
Jazz Band  
7pm-9pm MU

June 01  
Finals

June 02  
Field Trip-8th Grade Activity Day  
9:30am-4:30pm.  
One Lunch Schedule 12:06pm.

June 05  
Finals  
June 06  
Finals & Yearbook Distribution

June 07  
8th Grade Promotion Ceremony  
Foothill Field  
2:30pm-3:30pm

June 07  
8th Grade Party/Dance  
MU 7pm-9:30pm

June 08  
Dismissal 1:40pm

June 09  
Dismissal at 12:30pm  
All classes meet periods 1-7. No Lunch.

## Northgate High School

Thursday, June 1  
7:00pm Performing Arts Awards

Friday, June 2

9:00am Summit Awards Ceremony  
Sunday, June 4 Baccalaureate Ceremony  
4:00pm Baccalaureate, Time of Reflection  
4:00pm Baccalaureate

Tuesday, June 6  
7:00pm NCMB Meeting - NHS  
7:00pm NIMB Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 7  
FINALS

Thursday, June 8  
FINALS  
6:00pm  
Graduation  
9:30pm  
Grad Night

Friday, June 9 FINALS  
4:30pm Grad Night  
End of Quarter 4  
End of Semester 2  
Final Day for Students 2016-2017  
School Year

## Outside the Bubble *(Continued from Pg. 3)*

on standardized tests commonly asks you to write a 5 paragraph essay, which test students based on correct mechanics and length rather than creativity, rhetorical dimensions, and purpose (“How Standardized Tests Shape-and Limit-Student Learning”). While standardized tests limit quality education, they also lead to high levels of stress.

Standardized tests cause severe stress for many students and teachers. According to the Sacramento Bee, “test-related jitters, especially among young students, are so common that the Stanford-9 exam comes with instructions on what to do with a test booklet in case a student vomits on it” (qtd. “Is the Use of Standardized Tests Improving Education in America?”). Test makers obviously consider vomiting a common side effect of test taking. But what causes this anxiety? Firstly, many standardized tests are high-stakes meaning they determine aspects of education not just for students, but for teachers and schools as well. For students, scoring poorly means not getting into a certain class, not getting into a certain college, or even not graduating. Research dating back to the 1950s has shown that 25 to 40 percent of students suffer anxiety significant enough to depress test performance and that these anxious students perform 12 percent worse on average” (Kamenetz, 18). Test related anxiety is prevalent and can affect the scores. On top of that many students face pressure from their parents to do well on these tests. Kamenetz writes that, “The total test preparation, tutoring, and counseling market in the United States was estimated at \$13.5 billion by 2015, and the global private tutoring market was estimated to pass a whopping \$78.2 billion” (Kamenetz, 19). It is alarming that the pressure to do well on these tests has led to a growing billion dollar industry. The money invested in students to do well on these tests adds to the high-stakes of testing. For the teacher, high-stakes testing causes pressure to teach to the test. Teaching to the test not only limits student’s education, but can lead to cheating. An investigation done by the Atlanta Journal Constitution in 2012 revealed that 196 school districts throughout the nation showed evidence of cheating (Kamenetz, 29). After investing many hours of test preparation, teachers are inclined to do anything it takes to raise their student's test scores. They know if the scores are too low, their school faces the possibility of closing and they will lose their jobs. Could students and teachers look beyond the stress of high-stakes testing to see possible benefits?

*-First of two parts, part two to run in next month’s newsletter*

## Woodlands 2017 Board Elections

Woodlands Board elections take place this month for the Vice President and Treasurer positions, for a voluntary two-year term beginning August 1, 2017. Eric Ehlers, current Vice President, is running for re-election to that role.

All Woodlands residents are members of the Woodlands Association, each residence is allowed two votes, and all voters must be 18 years or older.

Please complete the ballot below and send to: Woodlands Association, P.O. Box 31085, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 by July 10, 2017. Results of the election will be published in the August newsletter.

### Ballot for open Woodlands Board positions:

#### Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_ Eric Ehlers

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name Here)

#### Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name Here)

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include your contact information in case we have any questions. If you have any questions, please contact the Board via e-mail at [woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com](mailto:woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com) and provide a contact number.

## Roasted Vegetable Sandwich

by Colleen O'Donnell

I am far from vegetarian, but I have some good friends that are and enjoy coming up with great tasting options that usually end up pleasing the vegetarians and omnivores alike! Side dishes are easy—main courses always seem to stump me. We recently planned a hike and picnic lunch to follow and wanted to be sure the vegetarian option was as hearty, delicious and full of flavor as other dishes that contained meat. The resulting sandwich was a hit, and packed with bold flavors. Substitute your favorite ingredients (grilled mushrooms would be a great addition), and you can always add cold cuts or grilled meats to this if you must! Each component can be enjoyed separately, and benefit from being made the night before. Assemble the sandwiches up to several hours ahead—wrap in plastic wrap and keep refrigerated. When well wrapped, these sandwiches travel very well.

1 loaf focaccia or very soft ciabatta, sliced horizontally.  
½ cup olive tapenade (Trader Joe's has a great one)  
1 recipe Roasted Eggplant  
1 recipe balsamic roasted beets, sliced into rounds  
8 oz. Feta cheese- sliced or crumbled  
2 Tablespoons flat leaf parsley, chopped  
2 Tablespoons fresh mint leaves, chopped  
1 Tablespoon capers, drained or rinsed if using those packed in salt, chopped.

#### Roasted Eggplant

1 eggplant, washed and dried, sliced into ½ -3/4 pieces  
3 Tablespoons extra virgin olive oil  
salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Brush both sides of eggplant slices with oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place on baking sheet lined with foil or parchment paper (I find parchment is best since it doesn't stick at all).

Roast for about 20 minutes or until soft. If it looks like it is starting to dry out, brush on a little extra oil.

Once cool, wrap and refrigerate until ready to use.

#### Balsamic Roasted Beets

4 beets (skin on, not trimmed)  
Olive Oil  
Salt  
2 T Balsamic Vinegar  
2 T Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Wash and dry beets.

Place each beet on a sheet of foil and drizzle with olive oil, sprinkle with salt.

Wrap each beet in foil and place on sheet pan.

Roast until beets are tender (test with knife). This takes about an hour.

Once cool enough to handle (if you have disposable latex gloves time to grab them) using the back of a knife (not the sharp part, scrape the skin off the beets—it should come off fairly easily. Remove top and fibrous root end. Slice into rounds and toss with balsamic vinegar and olive oil. Add salt and pepper to taste.

#### To assemble sandwich:

Spread each side of the bread with olive tapenade and chopped capers. Place eggplant slices so they are slightly overlapping, on the bottom half of the bread.

Layer on the sliced beets, slightly overlapping.

Add the sliced feta and sprinkle on the herbs.

Place top of bread and cut into two large halves, then each half into four pieces—I recommend using a toothpick to hold each small sandwich together. Can be wrapped and stored in fridge until ready to enjoy!

# ADVERTISING

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### NEW Advertising Deadline

Please submit all ads and  
 payments for the next issue by  
**June 10, 2016**

### Advertising Rates & Sizes

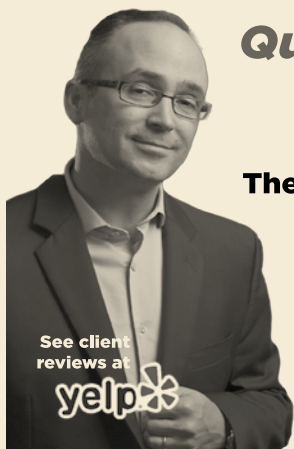
Please note: the actual sizes below allow for binding/bleed space.  
 Size = height x width in inches

- 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 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?

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 Playpalpetcare@gmail.com  
 References available

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Local Woodlands resident!

# S U M M E R Fun

## Art on the Main

Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21, Main Street, Walnut Creek

## ARF Animals on Broadway Walnut Creek

Saturday, May 20, Walk begins at 9:30, Community Festival 10 - 4

## Walnut Creek Art & Wine Festival

Heather Farm Community Park, Saturday, June 3 & Sunday, June 4

## 81st Annual Walnut Festival

September 21 - 24, Heather Farm Community Park

## Diablo Valley Farmer's Market

Every Saturday, 9:00 - 1:00

Kaiser Park Shadelands Parking Lot

## Downtown Farmer's Market

Every Sunday, 9:00 - 2:00

Locust Street between Lacassie and Civic

### It's Festival Season in Walnut Creek!

I hope this list of local events and activities will keep you and your family busy and entertained all summer long! Summer is also an active time for real estate! If you're considering a move, or simply wonder what your home may be worth in today's active market, please give me a call. I'm always happy to help answer any questions you may have. Have a fun summer!



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### *Recent Market Activity in The Woodlands*

Address	# Beds	# Baths	SF	List Price	Sold Price
<b>SOLD</b> 615 Candleberry Rd*	4	2.5	2079	\$1,080,000	\$1,270,000
<b>SOLD</b> 3643 Perada Dr*	4	2.5	2422	\$1,198,000	\$1,200,000
<b>SOLD</b> 653 Banyan Circle	5	3	2352	\$1,065,000	\$1,115,000
<b>SOLD</b> 3615 Mahogany Ct	4	2.5	1990	\$989,000	\$975,000
<b>SOLD</b> 3648 Sugarberry Ln	3	2	1602	\$929,500	\$930,000

\* Listed with Dudum Real Estate Group



**Audrey Slaughter**  
 Independent College & Career Advisor  
 Woodlands resident for over 15 years  
 925-207-5884 | Audrey@ARoadmapForCollege.com



**SIMPLIFY. ORGANIZE. PERSONALIZE.**  
**ENJOY THE COLLEGE SEARCH JOURNEY!**

**Summer plans?** What is your student doing to pursue an interest or activity more deeply this summer? You don't have to pay for an expensive 'program' to have a meaningful experience. Get creative - go online to find resources!

**College Visits** – Take college tours to understand what colleges offer. Colleges today have new features and academic options. Engage the family – seek fun activities near the college!

**Start NOW** - Help your student design a 4 year plan to prepare for the college search. What are they doing to discover their interests ? This needs TIME and planning in the early years of high school... before senior year!

**I have a limited number of openings left for Class of 2018 students.**  
**Call to check for availability today!**

What topics are my Class of 2019 and 2020 students working on now for college preparation?  
 Follow me on Facebook or join my newsletter online to find out more!

ARoadmapForCollege.com

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**JUNE 12 - AUGUST 16\***  
 7 AM - 6 PM

**\*WE ARE**  
**CLOSED JULY 3 & 4**



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*J. Rockcliff*



REALTORS

More info at [www.3512LimeTree.com](http://www.3512LimeTree.com)

**STEVE HANSEN**

CA BRE # 01774754  
1700 N. Main St.

Walnut Creek, CA 94596

**925.639.1979**

[www.SteveHansenHomes.com](http://www.SteveHansenHomes.com)



# RECENT HOMES LISTED AND SOLD BY Dayna!



**SOLD IN ONLY 14 DAYS @ \$1,362,000!**  
**3451 Echo Springs Rd. Lafayette**  
2 Bedrooms 2.5 Baths 2,216 sf



**SOLD IN 8 DAYS OVER ASKING!**  
**3648 Sugarberry, Walnut Creek**  
3 Bedrooms 2 Baths 1,602 sf



**SOLD 124% OF LIST PRICE @ \$900,000!**  
**23 Marlee Rd. Pleasant Hill**  
4 Bedrooms 3 Baths 2,143 sf



**SOLD IN ZERO DAYS @ \$790,000!**  
**3266 Ptarmigan, Walnut Creek**  
2 Bedrooms 2 Baths 1,521 sf



**SOLD IN 8 DAYS, 105% OVER ASKING!**  
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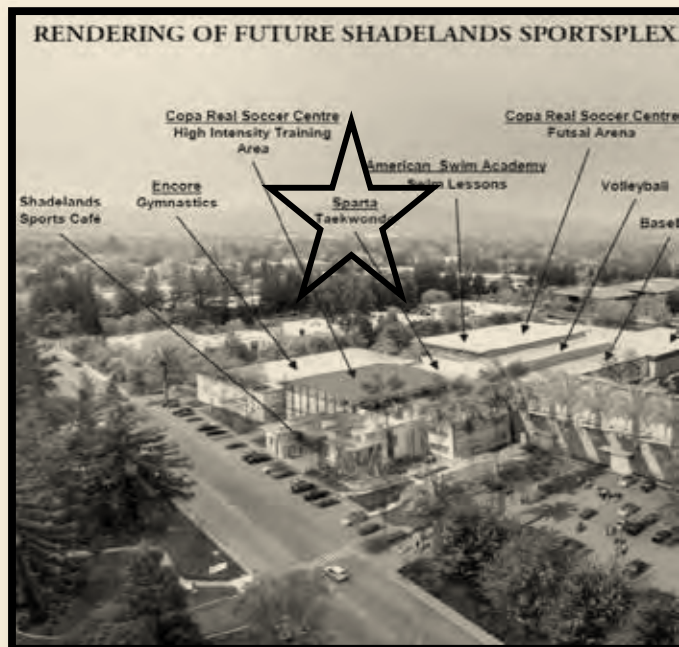
- ❖ Helps Instill Discipline & Respect
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