

The Woodlands



Keeping You Informed For Over 40 Years

May 2014

ENCINA GRANDE SHOPPING CENTER REMODEL TO BEGIN SOON

by Adrienne Robillard

The Encina Grande Shopping Center, at Ygnacio Valley Road and Oak Grove Road, will be soon be undergoing its first remodel since opening in 1965. The proposed redevelopment includes four components: (1) demolishing the existing Safeway and Walgreens spaces and constructing a larger footprint Whole Foods; (2) moving Walgreens to where Katz Furniture is currently located, and adding a drive-thru pharmacy; (3) a remodel and façade upgrade to the remaining Center; and (4) upgrades to the parking lot, landscaping, and pedestrian areas.

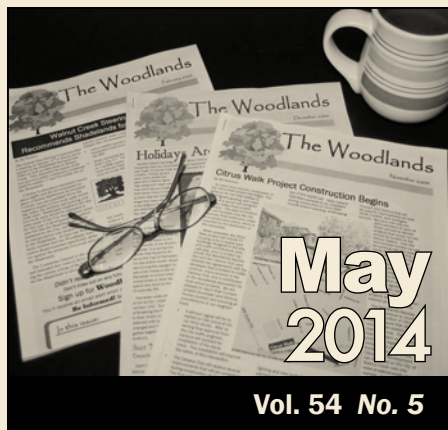
The façade renovation will incorporate a contemporary blend of craftsman style with a modern approach, while at the same time respecting the scale and context of the surrounding residential neighborhood. The building remodel and façade upgrade will include asbestos, lead based paint, and termite damage abatement, cutting back the existing roof overhang to provide increased natural lighting, removal of dated unreinforced masonry buttressed supports replaced by contemporary design steel and stone veneer columns, removal and replacement of existing concrete walkways, additional walkway lighting, the addition of a tower element at the southwest corner for identity signage, new exterior



finishes including plaster, composite siding, and stone veneer, and the addition of extensive ornamental steel trellis work to accentuate contemporary architecture.

Walgreens is expected to open in late 2015. Whole Foods intends to be open in the Fall of 2016. All of the shops will be open during construction and other than Whole Foods, there are no new retailers to announce at the time of this newsletter's printing. Regency Centers will keep the center operating and phase the improvements, which are expected to be complete by the 2016 holiday season.

A list of the stores and their projected locations within the remodeled shopping center, along with renderings for the new look and feel of the center, are available online at http://www.ctbt.com/asp/getblob.aspx/flyer.pdf?ContentID=108743&s=flyer&Listing_Code=U203172.



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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>
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

Want to Write an Article?

The Woodlands newsletter provides a community service by keeping neighborhood residents informed about issues and events of interest. We encourage Woodlands residents to submit articles for the newsletter and we regularly receive articles that are published in the newsletter.

If you would like to contribute an article, please contact us and we will help be happy to work with you to help get it edited and published. Our publication guidelines are relatively simple – topics should be of interest to Woodlands residents, the newsletter cannot be used as a forum to air issues between individuals, and articles may need to be edited to fit within available space (typical length is 200 words or less). To meet our publication schedule for a monthly newsletter, we have established a closing date of the 10th of each month. To the extent that space is available, articles received and ready for print by the 10th of the month will be published in the next version of the newsletter.

We appreciate your help in making the newsletter as informative, useful, and relevant to Woodlands residents. To submit an article, please write to woodlandsassn@yahoo.com.

Woodlands Association Board of Directors

Adrienne Robillard ~ *President*
Bill Gilmyers ~ *Vice President*
Jan Gall ~ *Treasurer*

Erik Ehlers ~ *Secretary*
Deanna Constable ~ *Newsletter Coordinator*
James Goudy ~ *Webmaster*

Marc Graves ~ *Advisory Board*

Kay Ready ~ *Newsletter Distribution Manager*

Upcoming Board Meetings

8 - 9 a.m.

Saturday, May 3rd
Saturday, June 7th

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

Woodlands residents
are encouraged to
attend board meetings.

Woodlands Cabana 5K a Success!

By Adrienne Robillard



Photo by Bill Gilmyers

Over 50 people, some of them entire Woodlands families, participated in this year's Cabana Club 5K. The route looped up Dogwood, along Citrus, up and around Perada, back onto Citrus, down Sugarberry (where there was an appreciated water station), up Mandarin, along Peachwillow, and around Banyan Circle before heading back to Dogwood through Valle Verde Elementary. Woodlands residents cheered for their neighbors as participants jogged, ran, rode bikes and scooters, and pushed jogger strollers. The event ended with a pancake and fresh fruit breakfast at the Cabana Club, followed by swimming. Proceeds from the annual event are going toward the purchase of a ping pong table and other club improvements. Hope to see you at the 5K next year!

Good Neighbor Reminder – Scoop the Poop

With the weather getting nicer, please remember to keep your dogs on a leash and don't allow them to use a neighbor's yard as a personal bathroom. When you pick up your dog's poop, please don't leave the doggy bag in your neighbor's trashcan – dispose of it in your own. Let's keep our neighborhood beautiful by taking care of our furry friends and being respectful of our neighbor's property.



A BIG Thanks to Kay Ready

By Ed Wohlers

After almost ten years of faithfully serving the Woodlands Association, Kay Ready has decided to retire as Distribution Manager this June. The Association would like to thank Kay for her dedication to the Woodlands, as she has made sure we all receive our newsletters every month, rain or shine. During her tenure she has been the primary contact for newsletter delivery issues, she recruited new volunteers to deliver the newsletter throughout the neighborhood and regularly filled in for people who were on vacation. Until new volunteers were found, you might have seen her and Lee (her husband) delivering newsletters for the route that needed to be filled. Kay and Lee also personally deliver copies of the newsletter to advertisers who don't live in the Woodlands.

Kay and her husband Lee have lived in the neighborhood for 42 years and raised their children here. Kay is also involved with the City Council, Planning, Design Review and Transportation Commission meetings, staying informed about issues that might affect the Woodlands neighborhood. I have worked with Kay for many years and really appreciate all the hard work Kay has done on behalf of the community. She has always been very kind, caring and thoughtful. The next time you see Kay, let her know how much you appreciate her efforts over the years.

Book Club Anyone?

By Sallie Mungle

Several of the ladies on Rock Oak Road have started sharing their love of reading by getting together once a month to discuss a book chosen earlier in the month. Last month we discussed "The Book Thief" by Marcus Zusak. Since several of our members either lived through the war, or had a personal family connection, it was a great discussion. This month we are sticking with the historical theme, but going back in time. Several of us have been watching a history course about Medieval History, so we chose a book about that period, and are reading "The White Queen" by Philippa Gregory. We'd love to have new members, so if you would be interested in joining us, please call Jan Gall at (925) 933-3244. The date for our next meeting is still to be determined, but will be within the last few days of April.



SCHOOL NEWS

Foothill Middle School

California Assessment on Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

Students at Foothill have been practicing a new assessment that we will trial in April and May. It is called the California Assessment on Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). This year's result will not be available to schools or parents but it is still very important for our students to do a good job on the assessment. Our data will be used by Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) to design the assessment for next year's actual implementation. You can view a short video that we are showing to students which explains their participation in the trial program. Go to YouTube and search for "SBAC Middle School Video".

The Foothill testing window this year will open on March 31 and continue until May 15. The reason for the lengthy testing window is the availability of computers. For this reason, students will be taking this online assessment during their regularly scheduled English or math classes in a computer lab. We estimate each student will need three class periods to complete the trial assessment. Please contact the administrative team if you have any questions or concerns about CAASPP.

Locker Help Needed

Foothill is unique in being the only MDUSD middle school to have student lockers. These lockers require care and repair each year, however, and the hours involved in cleaning and preparing them for use are significant.

Foothill staff is seeking parent volunteers to lead clean outs during the week after school finishes and to prep lockers for fall use at the end of the summer. Without this much needed support, our school may be unable to issue lockers next year. Please contact PFA President Julie Stokol @ jaks@pacbell.net if you are interested in being a part of locker clean out efforts.

Arts, Adventures and Academics Summer Camp 2014!

June 23- July 25th

AAA is a place where children entering 1st-9th grade can explore a variety of specially designed classes that blend creative arts and academics in a fun and supportive environment. Our exceptional teachers are a combination of arts educators from Walnut Creek's Civic Arts Education, great teachers from our neighboring school districts and unique specialists from throughout the Bay Area.

By registering early you will get the best choice of classes, a registration discount and an optional payment plan! Please take a moment to look at our website: www.walnut-creek.org/aaa where you can see all the details and to register, or call 925-943-5846.

Valle Verde Elementary

AQUANAUTS: Does your daughter love dance, gymnastics and swimming? Then she will love Synchronized Swimming! World renowned Walnut Creek Aquanuts are inviting girls 6-12 years old to their Summer Trainee Program. After participating in this program, your daughter will get a chance to participate in a swim show and try out for the WCA team.

More information on: <http://www.aquanuts.org/content/2012-camps-and-programs>

(925) 934-4792 or WCA.Trainees@aquanuts.org

Northgate High School

Parents Wanted for Northgate Parent Faculty Club (PFC) Board 2014-15

The Northgate PFC is looking to fill positions for the 2014-2015 board. Please consider yourself! Volunteering is a great way to get to know the school and to give back to the community.

There are opportunities to help coordinate Walk-Thru Registration, Teacher Appreciation, Gift Card program, Landscaping, the Spring For Education Auction as well as the Executive Board.

If you are interested in any of the positions or need more information about them, please email Kristin Mortl, Nominating Chairperson, at mortl@astound.net.

Class of 2014 Grad Night- Volunteers and Sponsors Needed
Grad Night is an all night, alcohol and drug-free party for the Northgate High School class of 2014 that features entertainment, dancing, games, prizes, food and beverages. This year's Grad Night will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, immediately following the graduation ceremony.

The 2014 Grad Night Team appreciates participation from all senior parents in planning this year's event--either through volunteer time or financial sponsorship. We have a great class and outstanding parent support and know we can count on parents in planning this party for our seniors. We would like to see every student participate who wants to!

Grad night info night is coming up on May 14 @ 7 PM at the Northgate HS library.

Grad Night Co-Chairs are Liz Timmerman and Sydney Austin. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact them by @ nggradnight@gmail.com.

The City Should Put Our Community First By Omitting A Supermarket From Any Shadelands Development, Especially With Safeway Selling Its Shadelands Property

by Steve Elster, Woodlands resident

The entire process of considering a rezoning and development of Safeway's Shadelands property at Oak Grove and Ygnacio Valley has been skewed by the fact that Safeway, the supermarket corporation, was also Safeway, the owner of the Shadelands property. That is why at every instance, this process has been pushed forward with the precondition that a Safeway supermarket be bundled into the proposed Shadelands development, even as evidence mounted that a supermarket should not be a part of this development because there is not enough demand for three supermarkets at this location (Nob Hill, Whole Foods (who will be replacing Safeway at Encina Grande), and Safeway's proposed 55,000 sf store in the Shadelands).

Last month, Safeway announced a merger deal with Albertsons. As part of that deal, Safeway will be selling its real estate subsidiary, Property Development Corporation

("PDC"), which owns the Shadelands property. Safeway's impending sale of PDC means that the tether between the Shadelands property and Safeway will be severed. The new owner of the Shadelands property, whoever that will be, may well have different plans for it. As well, the new owner of the property will not have Safeway's motivation to bundle a supermarket into the development that will drive Nob Hill, a Safeway competitor across the street, out of business.

Building a supermarket in the Shadelands will impose significant negative impacts on our community, including undermining the viability of the Citrus Marketplace shopping center when it loses Nob Hill as a supermarket anchor, exacerbating traffic and congestion when the former Nob Hill customers are diverted onto Oak Grove and Ygnacio Valley to shop for groceries in the Shadelands, increasing residential street traffic, and creating more dangerous streets for pedestrians.

With Safeway jettisoning its Shadelands property, there is less reason than ever for the City to include a supermarket in this rezoning. A supermarket should be left out of any rezoning and development in the Shadelands so as to avoid the significant negative impacts that will otherwise be imposed on our community.

If you share these concerns about the impact of Safeway's development, please feel free to email me at manfromcal@sbcglobal.net.

Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of Woodlands resident Steve Elster. The Woodlands Association may take a position on the proposal in the future based on hearing from the community and further evaluation of the developed proposal.

Advertise With Us!

To Advertise in the Woodlands Newsletter,
Contact Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com
or visit www.woodlandsassn.org/advertise

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 - \$90/month

1/2 Page – 5 x 7.5 - \$50/month

1/4 Page – 5 x 3.5 - \$30/month

1/4 Page on back cover - \$50/month

1/8 Page – 2.5 x 3.5 - \$20/month

Want Ads - line ad with 30 words or less:

\$5 Woodlands Residents, \$13 Non-Residents

NEW Advertising Deadline

Please submit all ads and
payments for the next issue by

May 10, 2014

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.

The Woodlands

Upcoming Woodlands Board Elections

Are you interested in serving the community? The positions of President and Secretary are up for election this summer. Among other responsibilities, the President oversees the monthly publication of the newsletter, leads monthly board meetings, represents the Woodlands at City Hall meetings, responds to resident questions and concerns, and takes on other projects of interest. The Secretary records monthly meeting minutes, posts minutes to the woodlandsassn.org website and contributes ideas and feedback to the organization. Both roles are voting board positions that require regular attendance at our monthly board meetings.

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. Statements of interest for eligible candidates will be printed in the June newsletter. All submissions should be sent to the Woodlands Board at woodlandsassn@yahoo.com no later than May 10, 2014. If you have any questions, please email us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Open Board Position Advertising Manager

Are you a talented salesperson who is passionate about the Woodlands neighborhood? The Woodlands Association is looking for an Advertising Manager to oversee and execute sales for the neighborhood newsletter. The Advertising Manager is responsible for online and offline communication with current advertisers as well as soliciting new advertisers to reach revenue goals, as The Woodlands newsletter is made possible by the continued support of our valued advertisers.

As a member of the Woodlands Association, the Advertising Manager attends monthly board meetings (typically about an hour, on the first Saturday of the month) and has the opportunity to participate in neighborhood projects and advocacy as desired. Typical monthly time commitment is 2-4 hours, plus the meeting, and the board asks for a 2-year commitment from its members.

This is a great opportunity for an energetic resident looking to get involved and make a positive contribution to our neighborhood. If interested, please send an email to woodlandsassn@yahoo.com.

WOODLANDS POLICE CALLS

The following information is taken from the Police Daily Bulletin as posted for public viewing on the Walnut Creek Police Department's website. The entire Walnut Creek police daily bulletin can be viewed at: www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/police/bulletin.asp. Some issues of the Woodlands Newsletter may include only a portion of the monthly police activity in our neighborhood, as available print-space varies from issue to issue.

Compiled by Anne Talmage

Police Calls from 03/08/14-04/03/14

03/09/14 12:36:43 3200 Bl Sugarberry Ln. ****21**** regarding threats made to her and her husband by her neighbor. Dispo: mediated civil dispute between neighbors. Civil Matter.

03/11/14 13:02:32 3400 Bl Citrus Av. 18 wheeler parked IFO the address overnight. Dispo: GOA. Service to Citizen.

03/13/14 20:25:26 3600 Bl Citrus Av. Reporting susp male going door to door asking to check kilowatt usage. Not in uniform. Dispo: area checked, utl, GOA. Susp. Circumstance

03/17/14 19:35:11 600 Bl Rock Oak Rd. Btwn RP's addy and Perada. Male seen looking over back fence. Told RP the resident was feeding wild turkeys and he wanted to kill them. Stated he lived on Citrus then started yelling at the RP. AMA 65-70yo, blk hair, unk clothing. Occrd 5 min ago.. Dispo: subject gone on arrival, no crime, just upset over neighbor feeding turkeys.

03/24/14 8:27:36 100 Bl Kelobra Ct. Reports theft of plates from both vehicles personal plates. Dispo: 5 plates since 19:30 3/23/14. Theft

03/25/14 7:30:41 3600 Bl Perada Dr. HM rang doorbell says he is from PG&E wanting to check meter for corrosion, lsw ong vest, helmet, carrying a clipboard, ls heading north. Dispo: subject was a contract worker for PGE. Advice given. No crime. Service to Citizen

03/28/14 10:14:44 3400 Bl Peachwillow Ln. ****Lobby**** regarding advice on his stolen veh. Dispo: advice given. Service to Citizen

\$500 Reward for Custom License Plates No Questions Asked

By Dan Otoshi

I live in the Woodlands and my personalized license plates were stolen last month. The plates were:

MUTT LMO
K9YACHT
DK9LIMO
FIDO MBL
DOGGYRV

They were stolen from three cars, a boat trailer and a camp trailer in front of my house on Kelobra Ct. I am offering a reward of \$100 per set of plates, \$500 for all. K9YACHT and DOGGYRV are single plates and the others are sets of two. THE DMV WILL NOT SIMPLY REPLACE THE PLATES. Unless I recover the stolen plates, they are gone forever because they would come up as stolen if found on a vehicle. I just want them back. This is strictly a "no questions asked" reward.

Because this crime may have been committed by a young person or persons, I understand that this is just fooling around. I don't want to

get anyone in trouble, I just want the license plates back.

STEALING LICENSE PLATES IS A FELONY! I found this out when I called Walnut Creek PD to report the theft. Each set of plates was written up as a separate theft, so someone could be facing FIVE FELONY CHARGES. As I said, I have no interest in getting anyone in trouble. No tricks; if I get the plates back I'll pay the reward and I won't press charges. But if someone is caught, your chances of getting into a good school could be jeopardized, and it could follow you for the rest of your life, affecting your job opportunities, your ability to vote, etc. If you are an adult and you have heard anything about this theft, please act on it. This "prank" could mess up a kid's life and it's not worth it!

Anyone with info can simply leave the plates at 114 Kelobra Court, call or text me, Dan Otoshi, at (925) 360-0440 or contact the Woodlands Association at woodlandsassn@yahoo.com. Thank you.

This Month at The Cabana Club

Opening Day

Don't forget! Opening Day is Saturday, May 10th from 3:00-7:00 pm.

Come out to the Cabana Club for a B-B-Q, Games and a great time.

Maintenance Update

The board has been working during the off season to maintain the facilities. An extra big thank you goes out to Linda VanBrocklin and the Boy Scouts from troop #832. They spent a day scrapping and prepping the main building in preparation for a new paint job. Big thanks also go out to Daniel Bean and Val Hansen.

5K Results

And the results are in..... The second annual Woodlands Cabana Club 5K and Family Fun Run was another huge success. The weather was perfect and over 50 people turned out to walk or run the 5K through the Woodlands, enjoy pancakes and a swim in the pools. The top four winners were: Josh Fineberg, Matt Campopiano, Donald Brown and Ainsley McNulty. Congratulations! The Cabana Club would also like to thank to following sponsors for their generous donations to our event: The Bagel Street Café, Nakd Bars, Nob Hill Foods and Sports Basement. Thanks!

Woodlands Swim School

Join us at the Woodlands Cabana Club this summer for swim lessons and water aerobics! You can contact Emily Andrews at woodlandsswimschool@gmail.com for more information and sign-ups. Class descriptions are at: www.woodlandscabanaclub.org/swim_school.php. Here is the 2014 summer schedule from June 16th through August 22nd:

Mondays and Wednesdays:

Beginner Group (Members & Non-Members): 12:00-12:30 p.m.

Intermediate Group (Members & Non-Members): 12:30-1:00 p.m.

Advanced Group (Members & Non-Members): 1:00-1:30 p.m.

Private Lessons begin at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays:

Drop-In Water Aerobics Class: 12:00-12:45 p.m.

Valle Verde Children's Center Beginner Group: 1:00-1:30 p.m.

Valle Verde Children's Center Intermediate Group: 1:30-2:00 p.m.

Valle Verde Children's Center Advanced Group: 2:00-2:30 p.m.

Fridays:

Private Lessons all day beginning at 12:00 p.m.

COST:

*Water Aerobics- FREE for Members, \$5.00/class for Non-Member Seniors, \$10.00/class for Non-Senior/Non-Members

*Group Lessons (30 Minutes twice a week)

Members (M,W) and VVCC students (Tu, Th): \$45.00 total

Non-Members (M, W): \$65.00 total

*Private 30-Minute swim lesson

Members (M, W, F): \$30.00

Non-

Members (M, W, F): \$40.00

DEALS:

Are you signing your swimmer up for multiple 30-minute private swim lessons? How about our BOGO deal? Buy a swim lesson and get the second one half off! OR you can buy two swim lessons and get a third one free!

Water Aerobics Update

This summer (starting in June) we will be offering free Water Aerobics to club members now twice a week on Tuesday's and Thursday @ 12:00pm! This was a popular activity and we are looking to get even more attendees. Please spread the word that this is an added perk for our members. If you know of anyone looking to participate in Water Aerobics right here in their neighborhood have them contact Cathy Escobar, membership@woodlandscabanaclub.org. We have great rates for Senior and Adult only memberships!!

The 2014 Woodlands Cabana Club Social Calendar at a Glance

Sunday, April 13th – Woodlands Cabana Club 5k and Family Fun Run

Monday April 21st-April 27th - Club Open for Spring Break (weather permitting)

Saturday, May 10th – Opening Day BBQ

Thursday, June 26th – Movie Night

Friday, July 4th – 4th of July Parade and BBQ

Sunday, Sept. 28th – Closing Day

Sunday, Oct. – TBD Chili Challenge

and much more to come.....

Drought Tips:

By William Gilmyers



With a record drought underway, the Contra Costa Water District has implemented a voluntary program targeting a 15% reduction in water use by its customers. Now that the not-so-rainy season is behind us it's a good time to dust off some old water saving wisdom, along with a few new tips as well. Here are some tips to help you get to your 15%.

Inside the home:

Happily, when it comes to washing your dishes, the best things to do are also the easiest:

- Washing dishes in the dishwasher is more efficient than doing them by hand (score!)
- Pre-rinse your dishes as little as possible before putting them in the dishwasher (double-score!), especially if your dishwasher is a newer model, which will clean more thoroughly than an older one.
- Instead of scrubbing your pots and pans under-running water, let them soak awhile instead. Go have a cocktail and clean 'em later (triple score!). If you're lucky maybe your spouse will end up cleaning them instead. Be strategic.

You can save water in the bathroom too, though it's not as much fun as in the kitchen:

- Keep a couple of empty pitchers by your shower, and fill them as the water get's warm enough for you to jump in. Otherwise this water just gets wasted. Then use it to water your plants.
- Take a stop-start shower, where you turn the water off while you are lathering or shampooing and then back on just to rinse. Definitely a pain, but not so bad in the summer when it's warm.
- Use the same stop-start approach in the sink when you are brushing your teeth or shaving. To clarify, you do not actually need to be in the sink for this to work.
- Gross but effective- rely on the old potty-time mantra, "If it's yellow, let it mellow, if it's brown, flush it down". Just remember to discontinue if you're having company.

Outside the home:

Take pride in your brown lawn- it's a great way to signal to your neighbors that you are doing your part to help out! Give judgmental, disapproving looks as you walk by your neighbors with lush green lawns- peer pressure can be fun! Virtually all grasses will recover once they receive moisture at the end of the drought.

You are still gonna want to water your trees during the drought, they may suffer from stress and attract insects if you don't. There are things you can do to use less water however:

- Apply 2-3 inches of organic mulch.
- Bury a soaker hose just above the tree's roots. Run it once a month for about an hour for a good, deep water.

General tips:

- Always water in the early morning or the evening. Watering in the middle of the day is not a good idea, because much of the water evaporates instead of getting to the plants.
- Water deeply but less frequently for better and more water efficient results.
- For extra credit, get a smart controller which manages your watering times and frequencies based on weather patterns, soil moisture, evaporation rates, etc.

Free Home Water Use Survey:

On request, the CCWD will come to your home, inspect your irrigation system and make water saving tips. They will even give you free, high-efficiency shower heads and kitchen faucet aerators. To make an appointment, follow this link- www.ccwater.com/conservesinglefamily.asp

Some of these tips are more extreme and only make sense while the drought persists but others are good idea no matter how much rain has fallen. For now our water reductions are voluntary- do your part to help until the drought ends.

Design Review Commission Approves "The Orchards"

by Bill Gilmyers

On Wednesday, April 16th, Walnut Creek's Design Review Commission met to review the status of Safeway's proposal for "The Orchards" and to determine whether to recommend that the proposal be sent to the Planning Commission for a vote. If approved, Safeway hopes to break ground in time to move to its new location in the Orchards when its current lease at the Encina Grande Shopping Center expires on September 30, 2015. After a presentation from the development company, a public comment period, and further comments from the members of the Commission, the motion to move the proposal on to the Planning Commission passed by a vote of 2-1.

A representative from Property Development Centers, Safeway's property development company, made a brief presentation at the start of the session. PDC stressed the large number of meetings with both the committee and members of the community, and the lengths it believes it has gone to incorporate community feedback into its planning. PDC also discussed its partnership with Northern California Presbyterian Home Services on the Senior Housing portion of the project.

During the public comment phase of the meeting, seven members of the community expressed their views on the project. Six of the seven voiced opposition to the project, based on concerns ranging from the removal of trees (particularly those designated as "highly protected") from the property to increased traffic. Others were more generally opposed to new development and bemoaned the reduction of open space in Walnut Creek. The seventh speaker was more specific in her concern, regarding the right turn lane onto Ygnacio Valley road and potential safety issues associated with its proposed design. She did not express an overall position on the proposal.

Following public comment Commissioner Gorny expressed his positive feelings regarding the project. He feels that the general area is in need of revitalization and that the tradeoffs associated with a project like this are well balanced. Commissioner Fotheringham expressed broader reservations about the project, though many of his objections were technical in nature pertaining to deviations in the proposal and the site plan. Chairman Volkmann also expressed support of the project, predicting that the increased entertainment options will be a benefit to the community, particularly for young families.

The motion to move the proposal onto the Planning Commission passed 2-1, with Chairman Volkmann and Commissioner Gorny in favor and Commissioner Fotheringham opposed. Commissioners Weiss and Cothren were absent.

Valle Verde Neighborhood Park Needs You!

By Adrienne Robillard

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission will review the possibility of a low-profile (such as balance beams, stepping stones, or hollow log) play element addition to our neighborhood park, located on Banyan Circle, adjacent to Valle Verde Elementary School.

If you would like to be a part of transforming our neighborhood park into a community gem, please join me in speaking for a minute or two to voice your support for improvements to the park when the Commission reviews whether or not to allocate funding. If you have any questions, please email woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com or ask me in person at the meeting on Monday, June 2nd, at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 1666 N. Main Street.

DOTING DADS

Father's Day will be on Sunday, June 15th this year and we are inviting residents to send in photos together with dad to be featured in our June issue Father's Day special, along with one or two sentences of how you celebrate Father's Day. Please send photos no later than May 12th to woodlandsasn@yahoo.com.



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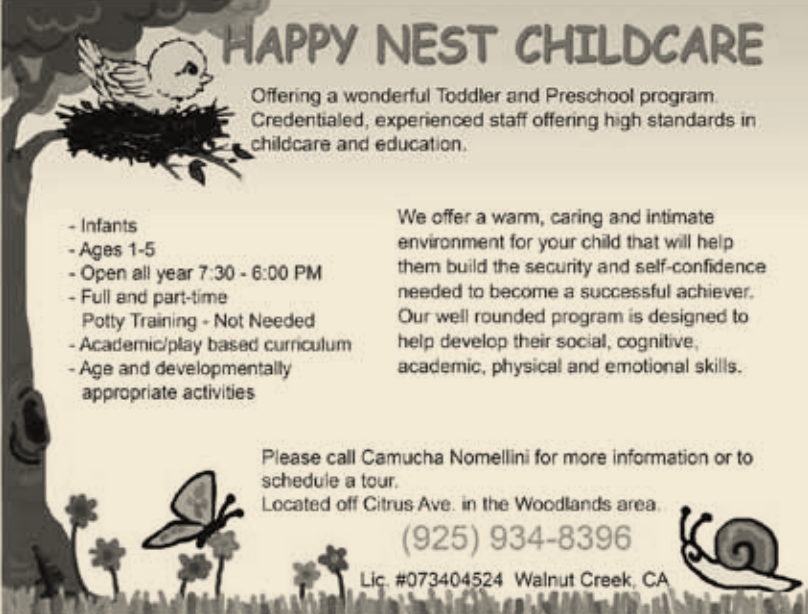
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