

The Woodlands



Keeping You Informed For Over 40 Years

May 2015

Reaching a Goal

By Tammy Hurst & Carol Carter

We feel honored to be a part of this community. We simply asked for you all to recognize Christy Alexander's need and in 2 months a total of \$20,000 was collected! Because of your generosity her family is now able to afford the independence Christy has long desired. Thank you to each and everyone who allowed this dream to become reality. A more deserving family you will not find. Your kindness will be felt everyday by Christy and the Alexander Family. www.gofundme.com/christyalexander

Celebrate the Summer with Barbecue at Valle Verde Park

As some may have noticed, a new barbecue was installed in the newly refurbished Valle Verde park off of Banyan Circle. To celebrate, the Woodlands Association would like to invite all neighborhood residents to a summer kickoff barbecue in the afternoon on Saturday, June 13. Save the date on your calendar and look for more details in next months' newsletter as well as the Woodlands Association on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter @woodlandsasn. Hope to see you there!

Keeping an Eye on the Local Construction

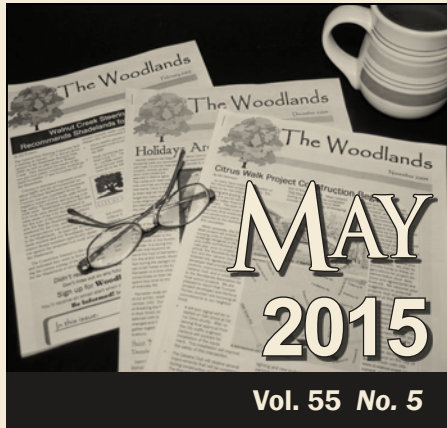
Bill Gilmyers

To anyone driving in and out of the Woodlands on Oak Grove it's pretty clear that there is a lot of demolition and construction activity at the Encina Grande shopping center and just the opposite at the future home of The Orchards, where there has been little obvious activity for several months. While The Orchards site hasn't changed, although it's scheduled to open in September, the Encina Grande work is full speed ahead. The shops at the northeast corner of the center have been razed, and construction has begun on the future home of Walgreens, which will move from its current location adjacent to the existing Safeway store. The Katz furniture store, Radio Shack and Papa Murphy's have closed, but the other businesses including the UPS Store, Jade Garden, Bagel Street and Ace Hardware remain open during construction. Your continued patronage of these local businesses is appreciated during this time.

A Whole Foods Market is slated to open as the new anchor tenant at Encina Grande. Safeway's current lease ends in September, at which point their stated objective is to immediately open a new store at the completed Orchards site across the street. Whole Foods will then begin construction after Safeway vacates and open in 2016. Of course, as mentioned, while construction at Encina Grande continues apace, no new construction has happened at The Orchards as of the writing of this piece in mid-April.

Terramar Centers, which purchased Property Development Corp., who has been developing the property, indicated that permits are being acquired and that construction will begin at the end of April. In the meantime you may have noticed shiny glittering ribbons in the trees, placed there to deter birds from nesting in what will soon be a construction zone.

Regardless, it looks like a long dusty summer ahead, hopefully with good outcomes for the community. Stay tuned for more updates, and 'Like' The Woodlands Association on Facebook for timely progress reports on both projects. www.facebook.com/WoodlandsAssn



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Newsletter Advertising:
woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com

Newsletter Delivery:
 Jennifer Zotti ~ jennsta2000@yahoo.com

Web Site Inquiries:
woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com

Neighborhood Inquiries:
woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com

Contributors:
 Palvir Shoker

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

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

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

Let's Get to 200 Facebook Likes!

Visit the Woodlands on Facebook at <http://www.woodlandsassn.org/> to see what your neighbors are posting about - from community event updates to the new BBQ at our neighborhood park. We are at 158 "Likes" and it's our goal to reach 200 before the summer, when everyone will be posting fabulous photos from the annual 4th of July parade.



Woodlands Association Board of Directors

Adrienne Robillard ~ *President*

Bill Gilmyers ~ *Vice President*

Jan Gall ~ *Treasurer*

Erik Ehlers ~ *Secretary*

Jody Gilmyers ~ *Newsletter Coordinator*

James Goudy ~ *Webmaster*

Marc Graves ~ *Advisory Board*

Jennifer Zotti ~ *Newsletter Distribution Manager*

Interns: Danielle Arauzo & Talia Arauzo

Upcoming Board Meetings

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 2nd

Saturday, June 6th

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

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings.

"Mow no Mo'!"

(How to Remove Your Lawn) Workshop

Would you like to cut your water use—and your water bill—in half? If so, register for this "Mow no Mo'!" (How to remove your lawn) workshop:

Saturday, May 30, Pleasant Hill

\$30, 10:00–3:00; register at www.BringingBackTheNatives.net

You'll learn how to remove your lawn (where a quarter to half of the water you use is applied), select native plants, and design a water-conserving, pesticide-free garden that attracts wildlife. Most importantly, you'll have the hands-on experience of sheet-mulching a lawn, and you'll depart confident that you can do this at home. Not ready to take out the whole thing? Then start small; maybe just reduce the size of your lawn by widening the garden beds.

Here is what past participants said:

"This was a fabulous workshop and it was so useful to actually take part in the sheet mulching process. There is nothing better than the hands-on experience. Thank you so much, a really enjoyable day."

"This was great. I have read many articles on sheet mulching, but until you experience the entire process up front and personal, you just don't get it. Thank you."

"The process of learning how to sheet mulch was great. We are confident that we can complete our project and do it well."

Register now, as spaces fill up quickly!

Get Outside and Enjoy the Scenery

By Erik Ehlers

While many Woodlands residents are familiar with Lime Ridge Open Space, that abuts the neighborhood, when you're looking to change things up, there are a number of great outdoor options. This time of year is fantastic for hiking and camping, before the mercury climbs into the triple digits come summer, and every trail is trafficked like Ygnacio at rush hour.

As for Lime Ridge, dogs are only allowed north of Ygnacio.

South of YVR, Lime Ridge is a wildlife preservation area. There are trail entrances at the top of the hill where Bayberry and Perada meet, as well as at the end of Rock Oak Rd, and where the Canal trail crosses Citrus, roughly at the northern edge of the Woodlands east side.

Another local treasure is Borges Ranch, featuring a preserved early 20th century farm and farmhouse, along with a few typical farm animals such as sheep, goats and pigs, plus antique tractors and other farming implements. In addition, there is a trailhead leading to miles of great hiking. If you go for a big hike, bring plenty of water and watch for coyotes. I was shadowed from about 200 hundred yards a couple years ago while my wife and I hiked with our son, who was in a rugged stroller. Not a great feeling. Overall, Borges is a fantastic park where you can hike into Shell Ridge Open Space as well as the Diablo Foothills, part of the East Bay Regional Park District, with views of the entire valley just a mile's stroll up the Borges Ranch trail. It's a beautiful spot for a picnic if you bring along a blanket and a trash bag, as you'll need to take your trash out with you. To reach Borges Ranch, take Oak Grove Road south to Castle Rock Road. There are barbecue areas down near one of the parking lots and bathrooms at the Bob Pond Activity Area. Just watch out for the horse leavings.

If you enjoy a game of golf, check out the large green area south of YVR: Boundary Oak Golf Course, a great place to enjoy a leisurely day wondering why the ball just won't go to its home. Tee times can be reserved over the phone by calling the clubhouse at (925) 934-4775 or visit www.playboundaryoak.com.

Last but not least, we have some great neighborhood parks nearby. Valle Verde Neighborhood Park is located on Banyan Circle, adjacent to Valle Verde Elementary school's fields, with logs for climbing, picnic tables and a built-in BBQ grill. The elementary school has the usual assortment of slides, swings and playground equipment, though the main playground doesn't offer much in the way of shade on a warm day. Nearby we have Diablo Shadows Park, just south of Ygnacio Valley Road on Diablo Shadows Road, as well as the indomitable Arbolado Park, on Arbolado Drive, home to a couple playgrounds, basketball courts that frequently host pickup games, and large grassy fields.

All of these options are great ways to burn off some steam and enjoy the beautiful area we call home. For additional information, use any search engine or visit the Walnut Creek website at www.walnut-creek.org.

SCHOOL NEWS

Valle Verde Elementary School

PTA Meetings: We have just one meeting left for the school year and everyone is welcome to attend! At the Tuesday, May 5th meeting we will be presenting our annual service awards and discussing plans for the following year. Meetings are held at 7pm in the B pod, generally on the first Tuesday of each month.

Staff Appreciation Week: The week of May 4th, we will be celebrating our teachers and staff. If you would like to join in the celebration (i.e. bring a treat, flowers, write a card etc.) please email the PTA President at vvptaprez@gmail.com.



Box Tops: Check your cereal boxes, Kleenex boxes, Ziplock and other household items for box tops before tossing them out. At **\$0.10 each**, it really adds up!! Just cut them out and drop them off at the school office and we will take care of the rest.

Foothill Middle School

Absences

This has been a very hectic time in terms of attendance. Lots of students have several different illnesses. If your student is out 3 days or more, you can contact me with a homework request. I send a form to the teachers requesting homework, which is turned back into the office by 3:00. Otherwise you can contact your student's teachers by using your Homelink account. If your student is out for more than 4 days, we need a note, or call, from your Doctor's office. If needed, please obtain a Dr. note for PE, as well. If you have any questions, please contact the office at (925) 939-8600.
- Mary Shepherd, Attendance Secretary/Registrar

Foothill Dress Code: Daily Dress Code and Dress Code for 8th Grade Activities

With spring also comes a change in wardrobe. To maintain student focus please support the Foothill dress code by monitoring your child's attire. Of particular concern are shorts, which should be at least as long as the tip of the child's thumb, and tops which must cover modestly. In addition, dressing appropriately for all 8th grade activities is also important. Girls are allowed to wear all strap types for their dresses to the dance except strapless dresses. Strapless dresses will not be allowed at the dance. Dresses must be the required school length, which is to the bottom of the middle finger when arms are extended at the side. For the promotion ceremony all dresses will be allowed but we ask that girl's wanting to wear strapless dresses bring a wrap or sweater. Boys should wear collared shirts and long pants for promotion and the dance. No jeans or shorts please. If your child is doubtful about their attire for any event please have them bring the clothing item to the office for approval.

Many Thanks!

And last but not least, a big thank you for the generous support of your Parent Faculty Association who continues to work diligently to contribute services and materials that include counseling support, great lunches, classroom supplies, crossing guards, parent patrol, Smart Start, tech support, and the outstanding 1st Annual Health

Fair. This is made possible by your time and donations to the Foothill Education Fund. Thank you Foothill Families!

Foothill PFA Positions

Foothill's Parent Faculty Association is looking for interested parents to fill several open chair positions for the 2015-16 school year. Current openings include:

- 8th Grade Activities (3-4 positions)
- Library Volunteer Coordinator
- Lunchtime Parent Patrol
- Nominating
- PEAK Liaison
- Salad Bar Volunteer Coordinator
- School Directory
- Scholastic Book Fair

Contact PFA President Julie Stokol (president.foothillpfa@gmail.com) if you are interested in a position or would like to learn more about opportunities on the PFA executive board.

Northgate High School

Grad Night 2015

Register Seniors NOW at the Grad Night Web page. You can start supporting Grad Night 2015 today with a tax-deductible donation. We are still looking for Team Leaders for the Clean-Up job on Friday, June 12, 2015 and for the Tear Down job on Saturday, June 13, 2015. Volunteer using Sign-Up Genius or email the Co-Chairs at the address below if you are interested. Grad Night Co-Chairs are Kristin Mortl, Paula Dewberry, and Denise Casten. If you have any questions regarding Grad Night, please contact them by email.

Teacher Appreciation Committee

Volunteers Needed! The Teacher Appreciation Committee is looking for volunteers to donate food for the teacher appreciation luncheons that are held on throughout the year. We will send out an email with food items that are requested before each event and you can choose what donations you would like to provide. Typically, the food can either be dropped off at school the morning of the lunch or at a designated house the evening before the event. Typical food requests include salads, soups, pastas, desserts, breads, etc. This is a great way to show your appreciation for our wonderful Northgate teachers. Please sign up to help by sending an email with your name and phone number and we will add you to the volunteer list.-Deidre Rubcich, Melissa Sunbury & Cindy Lentz

Education Fund Honor Roll for 2014-2015

The encouraged contribution for 2014-15 is \$350 or more per student. However, we understand that every family's situation is different, and our goal is to have 100% participation from Northgate families, regardless of the dollar amount of the donation. No amount is too small and every dollar makes a difference for our school. Your donation funds College and Career counselors, Naviance, support counselors on campus, on-site computer technician, extra class periods, teacher training and development, and more. For more information, view the [PFC budget online](#), or contact Anna Dito, Betsy Ortiz and Dee Dee Robillard, Education Fund Co-Chairs, at northgateedfund@gmail.com.

This Month at the Cabana Club

And the Results are in.....

The Woodlands Cabana Club 5k and Family Fun Run was attended by a small but athletic group of Woodlands residents. The kids ruled the day with John Wathen winning the race in 24:20 and Donald Brown close on his heels at 24:27. These boys could use some serious competition so start that training regimen now and get ready for next year's event!

Opening Day

Don't forget that the Opening Day B-B-Q is Saturday, May 9th from 1:00 pm-7:00 pm. So dig out those bathing suits and come on down to the pool for a good time. This is a great chance to show off the club to prospective members and earn that \$100 referral fee, so bring a friend! Hamburgers and hotdogs will be available to purchase. This event is open to non-members.

The Woodlands Cabana Club has a Membership for Everyone.

Did you know that the Cabana Club isn't just for families? It's true! The Cabana Club proudly offers memberships to meet the needs of all Woodlands' residents. Memberships start as low as \$275.00 per season so contact Cathy or Mike Escobar at: 925-943-6987 or email: membership@woodlandscabanaclub.org to sign up today.

The Woodlands Cabana Club 2015 Social Calendar

Opening Day: Saturday, May 9th

Annual 4th of July Celebration

Movie Night Sept. 25th

Chili Challenge-TBDChili Challenge-TBD

Kids' Corner

Let's Be Silly! By Beatrice Lowrie, 1st Grader at Valle Verde Elementary

Take 5 minutes to fill in the blanks with your family for funny results!

This story takes place in _____
(noun)

where everyone only says _____
(number)

and not that many people live in

(noun)

Everyone's favorite movie in this

_____ place is
(adjective)

(name of movie)

Everyone in this place has a pet

_____ and is _____
(noun) (number)

years old.

Kids' Corner is a new part of our newsletter just for kids. Kids 12 and under are welcome to submit a photo of original artwork (must look good in B&W), article, jokes, letter to the Editor, favorite recipe – be creative! Just send by the 10th of the month to woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.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.

Police Calls from 03/09/15 - 04/07/15

03/09/15 11:42:49 3500 BI Perada Drive
2014 red dodge ram 1500, unknown plate, egged and reporting party found two pieces of flattened metal nearby. Occurred sometime since Saturday afternoon. Dispo: suspicious circumstances case taken. Susp. Circumstance.

03/09/15 14:05:15 600 BI Candleberry Road
10-21 Reporting party requested advice re: found cell phone in backyard yesterday, unknown how it got there. Reporting party

made contact with a subject that called the phone who came and picked it up and now reporting party is unsure if the person she gave the phone to is the actual owner. Dispo: advice given. No crime occurred. Service to Citizen.

03/09/15 21:47:15 3500 BI Perada Drive
Reporting party requested area check. Dark blue station wagon drove by resident about 15 min ago. Unknown plate. Lis headed Perada toward Citrus. Reporting party believes it may be associated with subject who egged his truck earlier in am, disgruntled employee who lost his job. Dispo: gone on arrival. Unable to locate. Susp. Circumstance.

03/14/15 17:01:32 3600 BI Citrus Avenue
Reporting his son missing, 16 years old, last seen last Sunday. Ongoing issues per reporting party. Was going to stay with a friend across the street and then left. Reporting party thinks he is with non-custodial mother *pd lobby*. Dispo: juvenile entered into mups. Missing person.

03/18/15 11:30:23 2200 BI Oak Grove Road
Elderly customer being asked to wire \$3k to mx and can't articulate why she is doing so. Reporting party thinks she is being scammed. Dispo: as reported. Fraud.

03/23/15 12:29:34 3200 BI Peachwillow Lane
Unknown subjects hopped the fence, and stole three bunnies from locked cage outside. 98 reporting party to right/rear of play structure. Dispo: theft of three bunnies from a daycare area at the elementary school. Susp: one teen male, four young teen girls. Occurred approximately 18:00 yesterday. Theft.

03/25/15 13:38:57 3000 BI Citrus Circle
Male was in the women's restroom in the building, peeked his head under the stall. Third party info from employer, victim will be 21 soon. Dispo: no crime. determined an autistic juvenile wandered into the wrong bathroom. Susp. circumstance.

03/28/15 16:23:08 3200 BI Peachwillow Lane
Reporting party saw a 5 year old white female juvenile with a white male adult in his 30's, wearing a rusty colored t-shirt with white cut off shorts. It appeared that the girl was scared and didn't want to get in the truck with the male. Reporting party followed the adult and juvenile pull up in front of a house. Reporting party asked if everything was ok and the male cursed at her. Dispo: contacted father and daughter at their residence. Everyone was fine.

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Spring is a popular time for sellers to place their home on the market for sale. And, listing your home involves much more than getting it ready for its debut to the public. To get the buyers through your door the home must be listed at the right price.

1 It may sell faster.

A well priced home not only captures the attentions of buyers, but it prompts interested buyers to act. The more quickly they do, the more likely one of them will make an offer and get the process underway.

2 You'll target the right buyers.

If your price is right, it will attract the buyers that can afford your home. Over-priced listings can scare away would be buyers and often do not appraise for the offered price. Underprice and you may invite 'low-ball' offers.

3 Your home may sell for closer to it's list price.

When priced well, interested buyers may see its value and write an offer close to the list price, or more. In today's market, it may even set off a bidding war!



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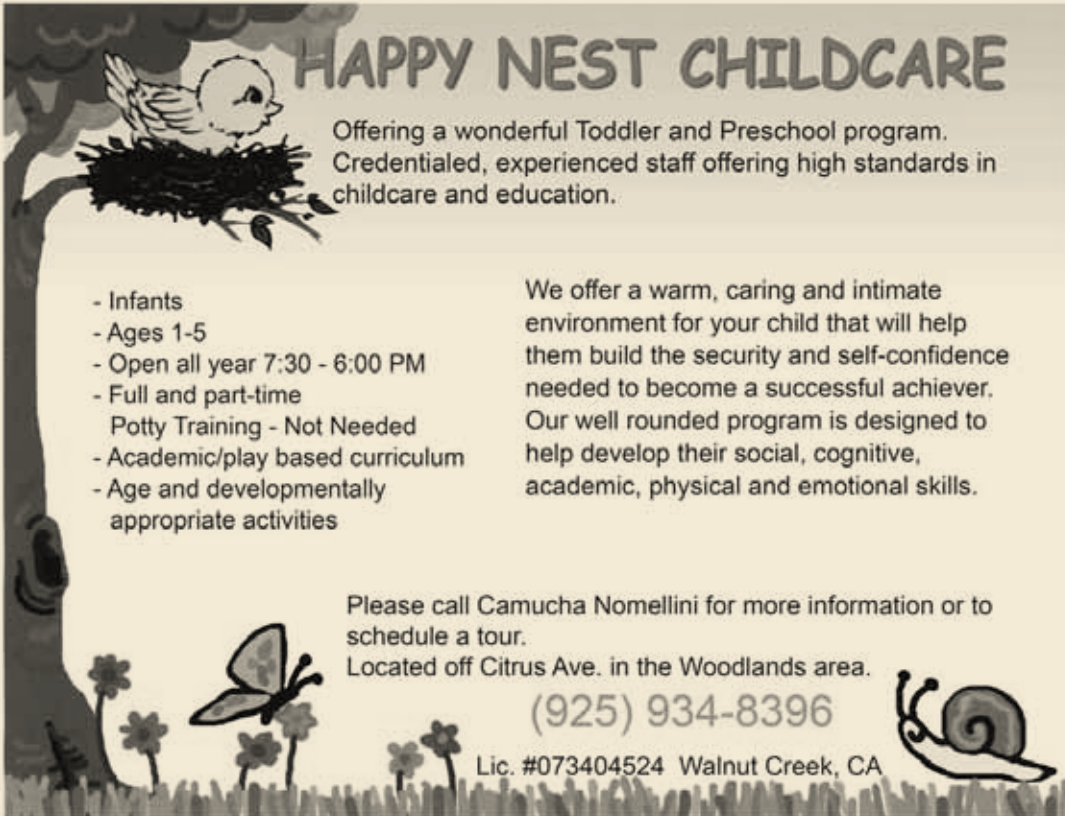
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 - Repair of Leaking Pipes
 - New Installations
- Repair Replacement of Washer, Faucets, Commodes, Wax Rings – Water Heaters

PAINTING

- Exterior – Interior
- Spot Painting After Repairs
- Wall & Ceiling Texturing

GUTTER WORK

- Clean out Gutters – Installation of gutter screens

CARPENTRY & DRYWALL

- Installation of Doors, Locks
- Repair Stucco – Drywall
 - Brickwork
- Odds and Ends

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- Seal and Grout Existing Tile

If you need a service not mentioned above, just call us. Prices will be quoted by the job.

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

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Want Ads - line ad with 30 words or less:

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Please submit all ads and
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June 10, 2015

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.



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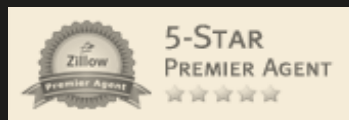


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