

The Woodlands



Keeping You Informed For 50 Years

May 2017

Woodlands NUSD Survey Findings

By Bill Gilmyers

Earlier this year, The Woodlands Association commissioned a survey to see how residents of our community feel about the proposed effort to create a new Northgate Unified K-12 school district (NUSD) separate from the Mount Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD). As noted in the March newsletter, response to the survey was strong, with over 80 respondents, with 66% supporting the effort to create a new district. Overall, respondents indicated a high level of knowledge about the initiative and process, with 92% indicating they were either 'Very Familiar' (64%) or 'Fairly Familiar' (28%) with it.

Engagement with the process was high as well, with 73% of respondents having signed the petition requesting the County Board of Education and the California Department of Education to review the request to create a new school district, and 35% indicating that they had volunteered or participated in the process to create NUSD, or expressed an interest in doing so.

Those expressing support for the initiative indicated a desire for more accountable district leadership (75%) and more local control (72%). As one respondent noted, "MDUSD has always been too large to give attention

(Continued on Pg. 3)

Northgate Unified: A Dangerous Gamble

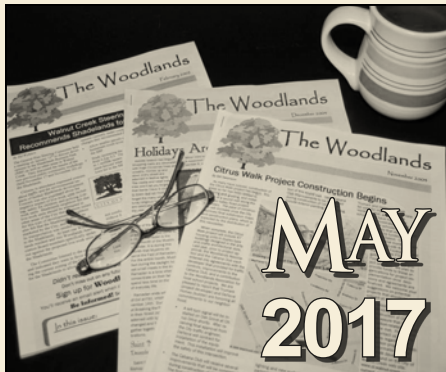
By: Meg Honey

NorthgateUNCAPPED, a coalition of educators, community members, civic leaders, and representatives of local civil rights organizations was formed to oppose the movement to create a Northgate Unified School District. With the limited information provided to petition signers, we believe that community members did not receive the full picture regarding costs, programming, and the neighboring schools excluded from the new proposed "community" school district.

Our Northgate feeder pattern schools are dynamic, innovative learning communities that foster high levels of student engagement and success. The positive growth that the Mount Diablo Unified School District has seen over the last three years shapes and supports student life at all of the Northgate feeder pattern schools.

Thanks to a strong partnership with Mount Diablo Unified School District, Bancroft Elementary School maintains a thriving Dual Immersion K-2 Program, providing students the opportunity to develop academic language proficiency in English and Spanish, master grade level core standards and develop cultural proficiency. The \$300,000 in funding from the Tesoro Corporation, the result of a long established connection with the Mount Diablo Unified School District, supports a thriving after-school

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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>
 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

Ygnacio Canal Trail Repair

The trail between Ygnacio Valley Road and the dead end of Rock Oak Road will be closed off between Rock Oak Rd. and Bayberry Rd. from roughly mid-April through roughly mid-June. Users can detour around the construction using Perada Drive and Rock Oak Road. For a few days in June, the Ygnacio Valley Road underpass will need to be closed off to finish the last section of repairs. This final section will require a larger detour – stay tuned. Questions? Contact Project Manager Alex Wong at 925-943-5899x2239 or wong@walnut-creek.org.

Woodlands Association Board of Directors

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 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, May 6th
Saturday, June 3rd
 at Denica's,
 2280 Oak Grove Road,
 Walnut Creek
 (in Citrus Marketplace)

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings.

Join Your Woodlands Neighbors, and Volunteer

Since 1998, John Muir Health's Caring Hands program has been helping seniors age independently in their own homes as long as safely possible. As we know, the number of seniors is expanding rapidly. Most of us don't want to make a move if we can avoid it.

Many Woodlands community residents have stepped up to help. Those who can spare from 1-3 hours a week receive training and are carefully matched with a frail or isolated senior in their community to help with doctor's appointments, social outings, visits, or grocery shopping. Sometimes a volunteer will simply visit and chat or reminisce with his or her match. A walk in the park or a trip to the cafe for coffee can be just what an isolated senior needs to brighten the day.

Currently Caring Hands has almost 50 seniors waiting for a volunteer. Please consider helping. Hours are flexible, older volunteers are welcome, and the program offers a comprehensive training once applicants have been interviewed and screened. Dr. Patrick Arbore of the Institute on Aging said, "Social isolation is a risk factor; connection a protective factor. Just one person who says "I'm here for you" is profound."



Could you offer that connection? To get more information and find out how easy it can be to make a difference in someone's life, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Stacy Appel at (925) 952-2999 or Stacy.Appel@johnmuirhealth.com

Or visit www.johnmuirhealth.com/caringhands. You can also check in with your Woodlands neighbors who will be happy to talk with you about Caring Hands.

Trainings are held 6 times a year, and Stacy will be glad to send more info and/or an application if you call or email.

Survey Findings *(Continued from Pg. 1)*

to the individual schools". Other reasons receiving strong support included the desire for a smaller school district and lack of confidence in current district leadership (both 68%). One respondent summed up their support noting "As long as Northgate can receive adequate funding, I think Northgate's secession from MDUSD would have a positive impact on the Woodlands community".

A smaller number of respondents expressed concern or opposition to the proposal, with 26% of respondents indicating that a smaller district would be less efficient than a larger one, and 25% saying they did not see problems with the existing MDUSD. A number of respondents commented that the survey choices against the new district failed to adequately capture the best reasons to oppose it. Additional reasons cited in the comments included concerns about the impact on special education programs, issues regarding funding and taxation, and concerns that the new district lacks diversity. One commenter noted "It is bad for the students due to a lack of diversity, a loss of special programs, an exodus of teachers. And it will cost more", with another posting "This is a waste of resources and energy... it is not a benefit to teachers or students in the long run".

A few commenters spoke more specifically about the impact of the discussion on the community, and concerns about the tone and level of discourse "I am very sad at the discord this has caused in our community. There was a thread on NextDoor earlier this month that was simply ugly in tone. Neighbors were calling each other names, and there was a hostility that made me very uncomfortable. At the end of the day, we all need to still live together, and one side will be happy and one will not. What happens then?"

Look for more information about the process and outcomes in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

SCHOOL NEWS

VALLE VERDE ELEMENTARY

MAY

1st- 5th Staff Appreciation Week
 8th – 12th Book Fair (MUR)
 19th Volunteer Lunch
 23rd Open House/Art Show/50th Anniversary
 Celebration

FOOTHILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

May 10
 National Bike to School Day

May 11
 7th Grade Renaissance Day

May 17
 Field Trip-Drama 2 Class visiting SF.

May 17
 Open House
 7pm-8:30pm

May 19
 Field Trip - 6th Grade STEAM Walnut Creek, CA

May 20
 Leadership Color Run, Foothill Field
 8am-12noon

May 26
 Field Trip-Environment Awareness w/Mr. Jackson
 9am-2pm

May 26
 Finals

May 29
 No School
 Memorial Day

May 30
 Finals

May 31
 Multi-Cultural Assembly

May 31
 8th Grade Award and Recognition Night
 7pm-9pm

NORTHGATE HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, May 1
 DFAL CHAMPIONSHIP at Boys Varsity Golf

Saturday, May 6

6:00am
 CMEA Band & Orchestra Festival
 9:00am
 Spring Clean-Up Day (tentative)
 1:00pm
 Boys Varsity Swimming at Varsity DVAL Champ. (Finals)
 1:00pm
 Girls Varsity Swimming at Varsity DVAL Champ. (Finals)

Tuesday, May 9

4:00pm
 Alhambra High School at Varsity Baseball
 4:00pm
 Alhambra High School at Varsity Softball
 4:00pm
 Junior Varsity Baseball at Alhambra High School
 4:00pm

Junior Varsity Softball at Alhambra High School
 7:00pm
 NIMB Board Meeting

Friday, May 12

Boys Varsity Swimming at NCS
 Girls Varsity Swimming at NCS

Saturday, May 13

MDMEF Festival, JB II, Time TBD
 Girls Varsity Swimming at NCS

Tuesday, May 16

8:00am
 Link Crew
 4:00pm
 Acalanes High School at Varsity Baseball
 4:00pm
 Berean Christian at Varsity Softball
 4:00pm
 Junior Varsity Baseball at Acalanes High School
 4:00pm
 Junior Varsity Softball at Berean Christian High School
 7:00pm
 Spring Concert at Leshner Center

Monday, May 22

2:00pm
 Yoshi's Set Up & Sound Check
 7:00pm
 Yoshi's Performance 7pm & 9pm

Tuesday, May 23

Second Semester Concert Report Due

Saturday, May 27

7:00pm
 Senior Ball

Update on NUSD Process

By Bill Gilmyers

Over the past few months, you have seen a number of updates and opinion articles here in regards to the petition to create a locally elected Northgate School District. The goal of the Woodlands Board of Directors is to ensure that you hear from all sides equally and ensure that you understand the process and facts. This article is to help explain the process and what is next, key dates are fast approaching.

The Contra Costa County Division of Election has certified the results of the petition, which required 25% of registered voters to sign. We have been informed that 57.2% of voters in the Woodlands signed the petition.

Under California State law, spelled out in the Education Code, the Contra Costa County Board of Education and the Redistricting Committee, composed of the five elected Trustees will review the request to form a new school district. The request is not taken lightly as the Education Code sets forth that nine criteria will need to be met. This criteria includes but is not limited to financial viability, demographic information, ensuring that special needs students will have adequate programing and staffing and that programs currently offered will not be impacted.

In order to ensure the criteria is met the BOE has retained a consultant to conduct a study. Furthermore, Northgate CAPS, the organization which organized the petition, has hired a consultant. The Trustees, which compose the Redistricting Committee will get to review both reports and will vote to either move the process forward or find that it fails to meet the state criteria. Following the review by the County, the State Department of Education will appoint a special redistricting committee to assess the findings. Again determining if the new district would meet the states requirements for viability. After that process is concluded the issue will go to a vote of the people.

On April 18th the Walnut Creek City Council will vote to put forth a resolution on NUSD. The resolution provides support from the city and recommends that the voting area be only NUSD territory (approximately 20,000 voters) versus all of Mt. Diablo (approximately 160,000 voters). Due to timing of the resolution to when we print this newsletter, we can't say if the resolution was adopted but will plan to update our Facebook page and Web site with the information. Five members of the City Council as well as nine previous Mayors of Walnut Creek have endorsed the NUSD petition.

May 2nd and 3rd at 6 p.m. are dates the County has provided for public hearings on this matter. We encourage all to attend and voice your opinion. The hearing will take place at the Board of Education 77 Santa Barbara Rd, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 If you cannot attend the hearings but you wish to voice your opinion you can send a letter or E-mail to the Trustees.

Christine Dean who represents the Woodlands
cdeane@cccoe.k12.ca.us

Mike Maxwell mmaxwell@cccoe.k12.ca.us

Vikki Chavez vchavez@cccoe.k12.ca.us

Fatima Alleyne falleyne@cccoe.k12.ca.us

Jeff Belle jbelle@cccoe.k12.ca.us

Statement of Interest: Vice President

As a resident of the Woodlands since 2010, I feel privileged to have served on the Association's board for several years. As the parent of young kids, I want to see the neighborhood continue to grow in a positive way, and would like to continue in my present role as Vice President and would appreciate your support.

Thank you,
Erik Ehlers

This Month at the Cabana Club

Election Results

The Cabana Club is excited to announce the following new Board Members: Facilities Manager, Jeff Barnas; Membership, Saloni Patel; Secretary, Hilary Scholtens; Treasurer, Mara Still and Vice President, Sarah Marks. Thanks to everyone who participated in the election.

Opening Day

Don't forget that the Opening Day B-B-Q is Saturday, May 13th from 1:00 pm-7:00 pm. This is a great chance to show off the club to prospective members and earn that \$100 referral fee, so bring a friend! Hamburgers, hotdogs and Cesar Salad will be available to purchase. This event is open to non-members.

Lifeguards Needed!

Ever considered a summer job as a lifeguard? The Woodlands Cabana Club is now hiring lifeguards for the 2017 season. Interested? Send an email to: lifeguards@woodlandscabanaclub.org to schedule an interview. Need certification? Lifeguard certification classes will be offered at the Cabana Club. Stay tuned for details.

The Woodlands Cabana Club has a Membership for Everyone.

Did you know that the Cabana Club isn't just for swim team? 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 Saloni Patel at membership@woodlandscabanaclub.org to sign up.

The Woodlands Cabana Club 2015 Social Calendar

Opening Day: Saturday, May 13th

Floats and Floaties, June 11th 3 – 5 pm

Annual 4th of July Celebration

Dangerous Gamble *(Continued from Pg. 1)*

robotics program at Foothill Middle School. The diverse and robust student population at Northgate High School enriches the institution's award winning academic programs, clubs, and events. The college acceptance rates, SAT, and AP scores at Northgate continue to be stellar, and the school is expanding its academic offerings.

Because of Mount Diablo Unified School District's size and population, feeder pattern students are provided with specialized services that do not even exist at the county level. Northgate feeder pattern schools offer specific programs for students with special needs including Strategic Autism, Intensive Autism, and Mild to Moderate Special Day programs. Students who need to miss school because of an unforeseen illness or injury can ensure that they stay on their academic track with Mount Diablo Unified School District's Home and Hospital Program. We have no idea how the CAPS organization will ensure that these vital programs and services will be maintained. Endorsing a new school district without concrete answers will put many students in jeopardy.

For further information regarding our opposition, please visit the #NorthgateUNCAPPED Facebook page: [facebook.com/northgateuncapped](https://www.facebook.com/northgateuncapped)

Meg Honey teaches Advanced Placement United States History at Northgate High School and serves as a Lecturer in the Kalmanovitz School of Education at Saint Mary's College of California.

ADVERTISING

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NEW Advertising Deadline
 Please submit all ads and
 payments for the next issue by
May 10, 2016

Advertising Rates & Sizes

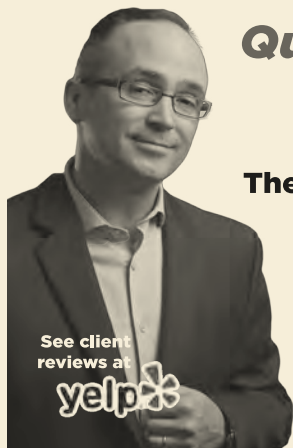
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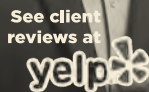
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STEVE HANSEN

CA BRE # 01774754
1700 N. Main St.

Walnut Creek, CA 94596

925.639.1979

www.SteveHansenHomes.com



Dayna Wilson selected to be featured on T.V. Top Real Estate available on Xfinity/ Comcast On Demand.

TV Top Rated Real Estate features videos of Top Rated Real Estate Agents and their properties listed for sale which will allow consumers to select the best when buying or selling their home. Dayna Wilson is one of an exclusive few able to offer her clients the opportunity to market their homes on television 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week.

“Top rated Real Estate Agents like Dayna Wilson were hand selected and interviewed by an independent research team who determined them to be the top 5% in the region. Real Estate Agents were selected because of popular reviews by customers on review websites such as Yelp, Trulia, Zillow, Redfin, Realtor.com and other leading independent real estate rating companies.”

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Although her business handles all types of home sales, her Boomers and Seniors on the Move Division was formed to address the specialized concerns and needs of transitioning older adults. Dayna was one of the first to enter the Contra Costa County market in 2010 with this type of focus and there are still only a handful offering these comprehensive services nationwide.

Dayna Wilson 925.788.6582

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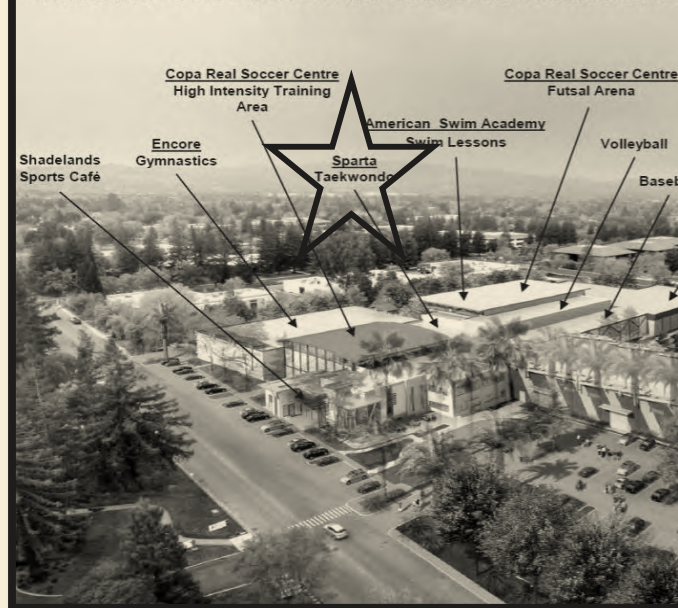
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We would like to dedicate this month’s issue to the local businesses, family and friends who supported our fundraiser for the Northgate High School baseball program. This year’s charity golf tournament raised over \$28,000 for the baseball program.

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