

The Woodlands



Keeping You Informed For 50 Years

February 2018

Thank You to Our Distributors!- Correction

In last month's newsletter we thanked our fine neighbors who distribute the Woodlands Newsletter every month. Unfortunately, we forgot to include Pankti Clerk and Stella Scafidi. Big thanks to Pankti and Stella, and sorry for the oversight!

Walnut Creek, Home-Building Boom or Bust? What Do You Think Neighbor?

By Erik Ehlers

Here in 2018 there are a few things going on in the Woodlands that we would love more feedback on from our friends and neighbors.

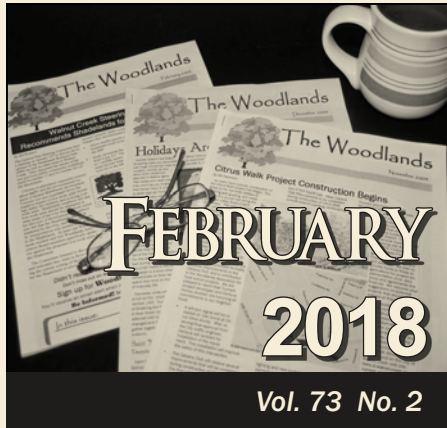
As the bay area continues to experience a deep housing crunch; our city has started to contribute to the solution; building several high-density complexes, principally in the downtown area. The theory seems to be that most of these folks will get to work via BART. Like many things in life, this seems to go better in theory than in practice, as anyone who takes the 24 or 680 to work can attest – traffic gets worse every year, which is great from the perspective of there being plenty of jobs for people, but if they have few options for where they can live, that is a challenge as well. So, what do Woodlands residents prioritize? More dense condo/apartment complexes downtown, or has the increase in traffic made us more concerned about where our civic leaders are taking us?

Closer to home, what do people think about the proposed condo/townhouse complex being proposed for Citrus Circle? The condo complex is a mix of larger and smaller units, though there have been instances in the past where developers could not sell condos so they converted buildings into apartments. On top of that, the townhouses are larger than most Woodlands homes, with most or all of the new townhomes slated to be over 2,000 square feet. This will not only impact traffic, but also bring an influx of new residents to the area and more children to our schools. What will the impact be on Valle Verde, which is currently experiencing its own challenges, at least if the online ratings are to be believed, as well as Foothill and Northgate?

When the owner of the current office space bought this building, did they operate in good faith for operating the building as it is currently zoned, or was the plan from day 1 to try to convert to a residential complex? If this effort is successful, I wonder if the commercial areas on either side of the proposed new buildings will follow the same path, and suddenly the entrance to our beloved Woodlands is full of a mix of enormous townhomes and high-density condos, each complex larger than the last? Adding residences seems sensible, but it must be done in a way that is consistent with what is already there. Our city seems to allow builders to do as they please, but as residents, we should have a say over what happens in our city and our neighborhood. That's how it looks to me, how does it look to others in the Woodlands? Beyond the proposed slew of new housing on Citrus, our local elementary school is facing its own change in perception. Looking at the well-used site greatschools.org, Valle Verde is now a 7/10, while previously it seemed to live as a 9. The change is based on the site's "equity score", which shows how disadvantaged students fare at this school, and that rating is a 2/10. Is the school really falling so far short for those who face a steeper road? As a parent at the school, our experience has generally been positive – what has others' experience been?

For those who would be willing to take the time to let us know how they feel, please email woodlandsassociation@gmail.com. Thank you so much!

The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not represent opinions or positions of the Woodlands Association or its Board.



In This Issue...

Thank You Correction	1
WC Home Building	1
Animal Corner	3
Seeking New Treasurer	3
School News	4
Columnist Wanted	4
Cabana Club	5
Woodlands Police Report	5
Buger Lounge Review	6
RECIPE: Stuffed Mushrooms	7
Advertiser Contents	8

Established in 1965,
The Woodlands Newsletter is a monthly
publication that is published by the
Woodlands Association. Archived issues
are located at www.WoodlandsAssn.org

Newsletter Advertising:
woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com

Newsletter Delivery:
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woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com

Neighborhood Inquiries:
woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com

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P.O. Box 31085
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Newsletter printed by
Minuteman Press
(925) 256-6444

Who to Contact?

The Woodlands Association receives some emails and questions about many issues that are best resolved by contacting the following agencies directly. The following is a reference guide:

Walnut Creek Code Enforcement, 925-256-3508 or 925-943-5863

The Code Enforcement Division of the Community Development Department is responsible for enforcing provisions of the Walnut Creek Municipal Code involving quality of life and neighborhood quality issues. http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/cd/nuisance_abatement_n_code_enforcement.asp

Walnut Creek Police Department, 925-943-5844

<http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/police/default.asp>
To report a suspicious circumstance, call 925-935-6400

Oversized Vehicle Reporting, Sandy Mulligan: Parking Lead Services Officer, 925-943-5874

Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District (Pests and Insect Issues), 925-771-6196
http://www.contracostamosquito.com/programs_services_index.htm

Contra Costa Water District, 925-688-8000

Water conservation, information, gardening resources, moneysaving tips. <http://www.ccwater.com>

Allied Waste Services of Contra Costa County, 925-603-1144

<http://www.pleasanthillbayshoredisposal.com>

Valley Waste Management (recycling and yard waste service): 925-935-8900

Canal Maintenance, 925-313-2235

The canal is part of the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Maintained by the Public Works Department

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

Contra Costa County Animal Control, 925-335-8300

After business hours, contact the Walnut Creek Police through Dispatch Center at 925-935-6400. <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=59>

Street Maintenance: 925-943-5854

**Anti-Speeding
Campaign
COMING SOON!**

Woodlands Association Board of Directors

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

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

Upcoming Board Meetings

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, February 10th
Saturday, March 3rd

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

Woodlands residents
are encouraged to
attend board meetings.

Woodlands Animal Corner

Valentine's Day Pet Do's and Don'ts

By Charlotte Flint, DVM
Staff Veterinarian at Pet Poison Helpline

A new collar, treats, or toys can all be great gifts for your pet on Valentine's day. Valentine's Day can also be a great time to try a new dog or cat treat recipe or make a new toy. If your pet is already swimming in toys and treats, consider giving toys, bedding, food, or a donation to an animal shelter or rescue group in your pet's name.



Don't forget that many pets appreciate the gift of time and love more than anything!

An extra walk and some extra time cuddling or playing cost nothing and will be greatly appreciated by your cat or dog. The extra exercise and snuggle time is a healthy, happy choice for you as well.

Do be careful to keep Valentine's gifts, foods, flowers, and drinks away from your pet's reach!

Chocolate, flowers, candy, rich foods, and alcoholic drinks are common in our homes as we celebrate Valentine's Day. Dogs will readily ingest toxic amounts of chocolate, and keep us busy here at Pet Poison Helpline at this time of year. If you have cats, please watch out for flower bouquets that include lilies, as lilies are very toxic to cats. Rich foods can cause stomach upset and possibly pancreatitis when ingested by pets. Pets can be sensitive to alcohol, so be certain to keep alcoholic drinks out of reach. Also, be careful with sugar-free foods that might contain xylitol, which can cause a dangerous drop in blood sugar when ingested by pets.

Don't forget to share the love!

Valentine's Day can be a lonely holiday for many people. This could be a great time to visit an animal shelter and donate your time and attention to rescued pets. While I do not recommend giving pets as gifts, if you are thinking about adding a furry friend to your household, Valentine's Day could be a great time to adopt. Maybe a visit with your pet could help brighten the day of someone you know who is unable to have their own dog or cat. This could also be a great time to look into getting your dog certified as a Canine Good Citizen or therapy dog to help others.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Source: <http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/uncategorized/valentines-day-pet-dos-donts/>
(Article First Published on February 13, 2015)

••••• Woodlands Association Seeks New Treasurer •••••

• by Bill Gilmyers •

• The Woodlands Association is looking for a new Treasurer. 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 . •

• 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 •

SCHOOL NEWS

VALLE VERDE ELEMENTARY

FEBRUARY

- 5th Kindergarten Readiness Meeting
- 2/5-2/8 Dine Around Fundraiser at Dos Coyotes (11am-9pm)
- 6th Kindergarten Registration Kick-off Day
- 9th Valle Verde Spelling Bee
- 12th Teacher In-Service Day~No School
- 19th President's Day~No School
- 22nd Valle Verde Science Fair

- Thursday, February 8
11:00am
Homestead Orchestra Festival
7:00pm
Athletic Boosters Meeting

- Friday, February 9
7:00pm
Improv Team Show

- Saturday, February 10
6:00am
El Cerrito HS Jazz Festival

Foothill Middle School

February 12
Teacher-In-Service Day

February 15
Noontime Activity: Basketball-
Staff vs. Students (both
lunches)

February 16
Noontime Activity:
Volleyball- Staff vs. Students (both lunches)

February 19
NO SCHOOL-
President's Day

February 21
Career Day- One Lunch
*Special Schedule

February 23
Coffee w/Dave,
Library at 7:45am



Monday, February 12
President's Day I - No School

Tuesday, February 13
7:00pm
NIMB Board Meeting

Thursday, February 15
7:00pm
PFC General Meeting, Library
7:30pm
MDUSD Honor Orchestra

Monday, February 19
Presidents' Day
President's Day II - No School

Thursday, February 22
6:00pm
Open House

Saturday, February 24
6:00pm
Orchestra & Band on the Run, Dinner, Dance, Auction

Northgate High School

- Saturday, February 3
8:00am
ACT Bootcamp
7:00pm
Winter One-Acts
- Sunday, February 4
12:00pm
Winter One-Acts
- Monday, February 5
11:15am
Diablo Valley College Presentation



COLUMNISTS WANTED

We are looking for a few neighborhood volunteers interested in periodically writing articles for the newsletter. Commitment is extremely flexible, ranging from a monthly column to an occasional article. Topics are flexible, however we're eager to find someone interested in writing a regular column on gardening or home improvement. If interested please email our Editor at newsletter@woodlandsasn.org

This Month at the Cabana Club

Come by the Woodlands Cabana Club on Friday, February 9th anytime from 4:30-6pm to learn about the Kermit's instructional program, Woodlands Swim Team and the Cabana Club. This is a casual stop by Q & A.

Woodlands Swim Team kick off at the Cabana Club and swim team registration opens Sunday, March 11th. Come by the Cabana Club from 1-3pm for Kermit instructional placement evals (younger kids) and to help kick off the season! The pool will be open, weather permitting. WST suit fittings will be available along with new WST merchandise! The team suit design is the same as last year.

New Member questions can be directed to:
Jgwalsn@yahoo.com

We look forward to a great 2018 season!
Jill Walson
WST New Member Coordinator

WOODLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT



*Please note this information was pulled from the LexisNexis Community Crime Map (<http://communitycrimemap.com>) for the Woodlands neighborhood. The following does not include all incidents. The entire Walnut Creek police daily bulletin can be viewed at: www.walnut-creek.org/departments-services/public-safety/police/online-crime-reporting/walnut-creek-online-reporting

(10/1/17 - 12/31/17)

TRAFFIC INCIDENTS

Crime: TOW/STORED VEHICLE
Location Type: HIGHWAY/ROAD/ALLEY
Date: 12/08/2017
Time: 5:07 PM
Address: OAK GROVE RD / CITRUS AV

Crime: IMPOUND TOW
Location Type: HIGHWAY/ROAD/ALLEY
Date: 12/20/2017
Time: 8:27 AM
Address: TEAK CT

ALL OTHER - CRIMINAL

Crime: PC 653 ANNOY/HARRASS/THREAT
Location Type: RESIDENCE/HOME
Date: 10/15/2017
Time: 9:30 PM
Address: FIRESIDE CT

ASSAULT - OTHER

Crime: PC 242-ASSAULT - OTHER
Location Type: RESIDENCE/HOME
Date: 10/02/2017
Time: 3:22 PM
Address: BANYAN CR

BURGLARY FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

Crime: PC 459-BURGLARY-VEHICLE
Location Type: PARKING LOT/GARAGE
Date: 12/07/2017
Time: 6:15 PM
Address: CITRUS CR

Eat is the Word – Woodlands Restaurant Review

Burger Lounge

By Susan Pfau

As a self-proclaimed foodie and former Elite Yelper (you know when I had time to write reviews before children), one of my greatest pleasures in life is telling friends, family, even people on the street about scrumptious food they must try. The look of ecstasy on someone's face when they take their first bite of heaven truly gives me a natural high. Let me put it to you this way, when it comes to food, I will never (I hope!) steer you wrong.

So, as an omnivore attempting to reduce my carnivorous cravings for both animal welfare and environmental reasons, the Burger Lounge is not much help, or is it?

Burger Lounge, a fast-casual restaurant with its beginnings in Southern California is turning out some pretty tasty offerings at the Orchards. In fact, the Orchards location is the first one in the Bay Area. With a society of more sophisticated palates and even more so being conscious of where our food comes from and how it's produced, the Burger Lounge hits the bullseye (pun intended).

I have a family with small children, so as you can imagine we usually avoid dining out like the plague. However, we have become braver parents and are exploring the world outside of takeout. My family has been patronizing Burger Lounge since it's opening, but our foursome went to eat at the restaurant just recently.

The location is clean, modern, inviting and thankfully kid-friendly. The staff is outgoing and more importantly the menu is inviting to all (well maybe not so much the vegans, but you can do some workarounds). At this fast-casual restaurant, you order at the counter and then your food is delivered to your table.

On this particular Sunday night, the crowd was light; but there was a constant stream of people coming in. What I noticed right away was the diverse crowd. This is always a good sign because, if there is anything that equalizes us (well those with actual working taste buds) is appreciating and enjoying delectable food.

We ordered a "Classic" burger, the "Organic Quinoa Veggie Burger," their special "Paleo" burger, "Crispy Chicken Bites (on a stick)," onion rings, French fries, a "Nice Little Side Salad," and their house made "Lavender-Mint Lemonade." They offer kids' meals but be warned the kids' chicken bites don't come on sticks. Our four-year-old dictator demanded the sticks, hence the regular order of the bites.

The most noticeable characteristics of everything we were served was the level of quality and freshness. I have to say, it's been a couple of weeks now and I'm still thinking about that Paleo burger (especially since my youngest ate half of it). The presentation was simple yet so elegant. Chunky cuts of avocado with a sprinkle of sprouts on top of an actually good slice of tomato with an incredibly fresh and satisfying grass-fed beef patty sitting on top of bacon, grilled zucchini and bed of lettuce. This meal stole the show for me, but I must say the quinoa burger was one of the tastiest I've tried (vegetarians rejoice!). Even the side salad is by far one of the finest I have had at an establishment like this. The Lemon-Basil Vinaigrette completed the bounty of flavors in this salad.

Needless to say, my husband and kids mowed down the Classic burger, chicken bites, onion rings and fries. The chicken bites are good, but a bit bland for me. There was one minor family dispute over the Lavendar-Mint Lemonade which I thought was refreshing (and I loved how it wasn't too sweet). My husband on the other hand did not care for it.

So basically, if you like burgers (and even if you don't), there is a high probability you'll find something to enjoy at the Burger Lounge.



Burger Lounge Location & Hours:
The Orchards at Walnut Creek
2920 Ygnacio Valley Road
Tel: 925.433.8958

Hours:
Sunday thru Thursday:
10:30am to 9:00pm
Friday & Saturday:
10:30am to 10:00pm
*Online Ordering is available!
www.burgerlounge.com

Spinach & Feta Stuffed Mushrooms

By Colleen O'Donnell

Stuffed mushrooms are sort of retro but are always a crowd pleaser! This version has a lot of flavor without sour cream or mayonnaise. The breadcrumbs are there for a little extra binding, but you could leave them out if you needed to. Enjoy!



20 button mushrooms, cleaned and stems removed (stems are chopped and used as part of the filling)

3 shallots, finely chopped

2 cloves garlic, minced

1 Tablespoon Extra Virgin Olive Oil

1 ½ cups fresh spinach

2 teaspoons bread crumbs

1 egg yolk

¼ cup feta cheese—crumbled or chopped

1. Preheat oven to 400
2. Brush dirt from mushrooms with a damp paper towel.
3. Remove stems from cap and trim off dry end if needed, set mushroom stems aside.
4. Place the mushroom caps with the stem side facing down and roast for about 10 minutes, until mushrooms are slightly softened. They will release their liquid. Remove from oven and set aside.
5. Finely chop the mushroom stems.
6. In a large pan heat ½ tablespoon of olive oil over medium heat and add the finely chopped mushroom stems shallot and a pinch of salt. Sauté for about 5 minutes, until softened and shallots are translucent. Add the minced garlic and cook for another minute. Place in large bowl.
7. In the same pan, add the other ½ Tablespoon of Olive Oil and add the fresh spinach and another generous pinch of salt. Cook until spinach has wilted and some of the liquid has evaporated. Let cool just slightly.
8. Once cool enough to handle, place spinach in some paper towels or clean kitchen towel and wring out some of the excess moisture.
9. Roughly chop the spinach and add to the bowl with the mushroom stem mixture.
10. Add the bread crumbs and the pepper and mix to combine. Now is a good time to taste for seasoning—the feta is a bit salty, so don't add too much extra salt.
11. Add the egg yolk and feta and stir to combine.
12. Fill each mushroom cap with filling- mounding slightly. If the feta falls off—place back on top.
13. Bake for about 20 minutes until mushrooms are soft.

Enjoy!

ADVERTISING

Advertiser Contents

AUDREY SLAUGHTER-COLLEGE ADVISOR .11
 BELFAST PLUMBING 15
 BRUCE LESSER 14
 DAYNA WILSON - REALTOR 10
 DIAMOND TERRACE 19
 DONALDSON CONCRETE 9
 GOLDEN PALM LANDSCAPE 19
 KAREN GUARISCO - REALTOR 12
 KEVIN GREEN - LAWN SERVICE 8
 KUMON - WALNUT CREEK NORTH 19
 KYLE M. JOHNSTON - ESTATE ATTORNEY ... 8
 MARC GRAVES - REALTOR 17, 20
 MINUTEMAN PRESS PLEASANT HILL 20
 PAUL'S HANDYMAN SERVICE 15
 RENEE WAGNER - REALTOR 18, 20
 STEVE HANSEN, J. ROCKCLIFF REALTORS . 13
 TESSA PAWS CONSULTING 16
 THE KOZAK TEAM - REALTOR 9
 VALLE VERDE CHILDREN'S CTR 11

NEW Advertising Deadline

Please submit all ads and payments for the next issue by **February 10, 2018**

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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Kyle M. Johnston
 Estate Attorney

See client reviews at 

Rockridge Oakland 510.527.1880 Northgate Walnut Creek 925.278.6180

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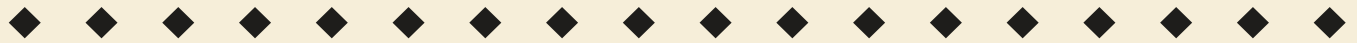
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A Roadmap for College

THE COLLEGE LIST

Are you asking the right questions to tailor your search?

ACADEMIC FIT

What does your student want to study? What type of academic environment will be best?

FINANCIAL FIT


What is the budget you have for college? Are you writing a blank check for your student with no strings attached?


SOCIAL FIT

What else does your student need in order to thrive in college? Hobbies, activities, or ways to get involved are crucial to college success and happiness!

Want to find out how to answer these questions? Call for an Introductory Session today and see how A Roadmap for College can help! Start early in high school!

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 A Roadmap for College

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We have an extremely low inventory of homes for sale and tons of pent-up buyer demand. NOW is a very opportune time to take advantage of this exciting market!

Thinking about a move? Make sure to include Steve in your interviewing process. All my Woodlands sellers are sure glad they did!

Whether you are thinking about a move this year, just curious about your home's value or considering some updating and want to know which improvements add the most value, please do not hesitate to contact me for a complimentary, no obligation consultation and market analysis of your home's value.

Steve@SteveHansenHomes.com

J. Rockettiff



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www.WoodlandsAssn.org



February 2018



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After

www.WheresBruce.com



*Bruce is in Walnut Creek...but where?
The answer, at www.WheresBruce.com*

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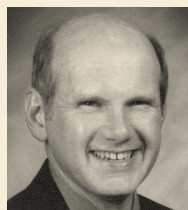
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