

The Woodlands

Keeping You Informed For Over 40 Years

November 2014

Community Service Day at Valley Verde Neighborhood Park a Huge Success

By Bill Gilmyers

Over 50 Woodlands residents volunteered their time on Saturday, September 27 to help improve the Valle Verde Neighborhood Park as part of Walnut Creek's annual Community Service Day. Armed with wheelbarrows, shovels, pickaxes, and even a chainsaw, residents planted new plants, spread wood chips and cut back overgrowth. Earlier in the week two brand new picnic tables were delivered by the city and a new barbecue grill will be added in a few weeks.

"This has been an underutilized part of the neighborhood and we think this is a great opportunity to unlock its potential" commented Adrienne Robillard, Woodlands Association President. "It's been really great to partner with the city to make this happen." Before the day began the city dropped off the pile of woodchips, dozens



of drought tolerant plants, and provided a map for where everything should go.

The ground in front of the park was dense and rocky, which quickly became an issue as members of the crew began digging. Working in shifts, hearty members of the crew began chipping away with the pickaxes, which were essential for getting the holes deep enough. Fortunately, except for a few blisters and one burst water pipe (quickly repaired), the holes were dug and the plants planted.

Stop by the park to check out the handiwork, and if you see a neighbor who helped, don't forget to say "thanks"! (optional - offer them a beer, too).



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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

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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>

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>

Daylight Savings Reminder:

Daylight Savings ends on Sunday, November 2 at 2 AM. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on November 1st.



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, November 1st
Saturday, December 6th

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

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings.

SCHOOL NEWS

Foothill Middle School

Foothill and Sports Basement Partnership

Foothill is excited to continue our ongoing partnership with Sports Basement! Each time you make a purchase at Sports Basement, Foothill families will receive 10% off their purchases, and Foothill will earn 5% from those purchases! All you need to do at checkout is mention "Foothill Middle School." It's that easy!

Yearbook Photos

Yearbook needs your photos! Did you go somewhere exciting this summer? Play a sport? Participate in a great activity?

Please share your photos by going to:

<http://www.hjeshare.com>

Enter code: 6047

The Creek After School Center

Register now for The Creek Middle School Youth Center. Openings are still available.

The Creek is located on campus and is open after school until 6:00PM. Activities include: Homework help, Computer room, snack, indoor and outdoor activities, and community service. Please visit : www.thecreekyouthcenter.org. For questions call Donna Perham or Tricia Carella at 934-3324, or email teenyouthcenter@gmail.com

Northgate High School

Scholarships – SENIORS

Do you have significant community service experience, financial need, and a strong academic record? We need your information! Email Mrs. Slaughter at slaughtera@mdusd.org with your name to be in consideration for upcoming service scholarships. If you have one, bring us your resume and/or complete your "Northgate personal data form" in Naviance so we know if you fit the criteria of scholarships.

2014-15 Online Sport Registration

Welcome to the 2014-15 Northgate Athletic Department online registration for the fall, winter and spring sport seasons. As in previous years at Northgate, online registration is required prior to the sport season of participation. The online registration is step 1 of 2. The 2nd step is to complete the 2 page MDUSD Athletic Activity Clearance form, with parent/guardian and student athlete signatures. At the end of the online registration you can print the MDUSD Athletic Activity Clearance form. Please refer to the calendar schedule and ending dates of online registration.



By Erik Ehlers

There is nothing quite like Thanksgiving. A solemn day of showing gratitude marked by enough calories to have kept all the original Pilgrims and their Native American friends from starving to death. They would have had no bloodlust; after all, instead all would have been catatonic from their eleventh serving of turkey and stuffing. Of course, just like every year at your Aunt Helen's house, the first Thanksgiving no doubt featured some of the first bickering over how to cook the turkey and whether watching 12 hours of back-to-back football games is particularly healthy for a child's brain development.

So how to survive the day, at least without completely pickling your liver? Well, instead of focusing on ourselves, why not turn outward towards the many people in our community who may not be quite so blessed. While we all have a mental picture of a scruffy homeless person asking for change or with a "Will Work for Food" sign, the reality is that many people who could use a helping hand may look like your neighbors.

Groups like the Monument Crisis Center or the Contra Costa Food Bank run on the donations of time and money from the community. They help those who wish their greatest fear this Thanksgiving was whether the Cowboys will cover and if the stuffing is gluten-free and sourced locally. Instead of worrying how big a TV they want to get on Black Friday, they're just hoping to put food on their table. So quit lamenting your own life and find someone in need.

If you can't go to an organized group or even participate in a food drive, perhaps you could help stimulate the home economy of someone in need. When you want to hire twenty zombies to frighten small children and teens alike, why not get creative and hire someone who may actually need the money? The president who declared the first Thanksgiving, Abraham Lincoln, believed that work was essential to humanity's sense of self-worth and intrinsic to a life well lived. Even if you aren't throwing a party featuring the undead, perhaps you can at least consider those doing the hiring where you work to consider giving someone a fresh start and a leg up.



October Caption Contest Winner

Anonymous winning submissions: "You want me to bake a pie with that?" and "I lost my head just thinking about this contest!"

Thanksgiving Caption Contest!

Think you can come up with a funny caption to go with this photo? Post it on The Woodlands Facebook page or send it to woodlandsassn@yahoo.com by November 12th. Top captions will be published in next month's newsletter and the winner gets a free subscription to The Woodlands newsletter!

See if you can do better than this:

"These turkey backpacks are really lousy. Maybe we should just have them for dinner instead?"

Thank you to Bomsik Kim for 13+ years of delivering The Woodlands newsletter!

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

November 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.

WOODLANDSPOLICECALLS

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 9/14/14 - 10/1/14

Note: police calls have been truncated to exclude minor traffic-related incidents as well as other insignificant issues.

09/14/14 14:28:31 2400 Bl Oak Grove Rd.
Employee requested police department assist for 11-82 with property damage. Male subj in maroon Nissan caused damage to the gas pump. Dispo: Facilitated exchange of info for gas pump being pulled off when driver drove away. No crime or collision. Service to Citizen.

09/15/14 21:58:03 500 Bl Banyan Cr.
415 verbal, smashed glass. Dispo: Verbal argument over the ownership of a vehicle. Parties went to bed. Disturbance- 415 PC.

09/17/14 19:43:28 600 Bl Rock Oak Rd.
Three cars parked on street. Juveniles climbing through empty space between houses. White Honda Accord, 2 other cars dark in color. Reporting party believes they are going up behind property to drink and smoke. Dispo: Subjects gone on arrival. Susp. Circumstance.

09/18/14 11:37:38 1900 Bl Oak Grove Rd.
459 from storage unit. #1824 poe: reporting party's vehicle was previously stolen in Oakland with storage code inside, reporting party thinks related. Dispo: Occurred 9/14 13:06 hrs. Burglary.

09/19/14 8:54:36 2800 Bl Oak Grove Rd.
Person using the phone number contacted reporting party's 12-year-old on a gaming site, reporting party's daughter gave the subject her address, then the subject was texting the daughter trying to find out what school she went to. Dispo: reporting party's daughter was contacted by a gamer on Clash of Clans asking for her address, school, and a picture. Susp. Circumstance.

09/22/14 19:15:58 Ygnacio Valley Rd. / Oak Grove Rd.
Two people hiding in the bushes south of tunnel adjacent to golf course. Both people were wearing an unknown color shirt, khaki pants and were last seen 5 ago north bound on trail. Susp. circumstance.

09/28/14 16:16:18 3400 Bl. Citrus Av.
Theft of golf clubs from an open garage door occurred Thursday night. Reporting party says he now sees them for sale on craigslist. Dispo: theft of \$600 golf clubs from open garage. Investigation on-going. Burglary.

09/28/14 18:04:51 Perada Dr. / Tupelo Dr.
3 Hispanic men in their 30s were looking at houses through a fence near the canal trail last seen 2 ago heading southbound on Perada Dr. Service to citizen.

09/29/14 19:17:12 3600 Bl. Citrus Av.
Daughter saw mountain lion behind property 10 ago. Dispo: canal trail clear. Animal complaint.

09/30/14 11:48:33 Banyan Ln. / Peachwillow Ln.
Stop sign down. Dispo: signal repair advised. Miscellaneous traffic.

10/01/14 10:10:33 600 Bl. Rock Oak Rd
city hall lobby follow up to online report, Dispo: fraudulent purchases made on the victim's Wells Fargo credit card at the Apple store (Roseville, Santa Clara



Chili Challenge

The 3rd Annual John Hokanson Chili Challenge will be on Sunday, November 2nd at 4:00 at the Woodlands Cabana Club (non-members are welcome!). We hope that Brian Kilcourse and the Guilty Saints will be playing for us. We have a new alternate judge, the Honorable Jon Campopiano.

Let's start spreading the news and getting our challengers fired up. So far we have Trish Carstensen, Henry VanBrocklin, Joanne Sibley (current Taster's Choice Champ), and Charyl Levy (Taster's Choice Champ from the 1st Annual Challenge) ready to make their fabulous, mouth-watering chilies!



The HEAT IS ON!

2014 Woodlands Garage Sale

By Erik Ehlers

This year's Woodlands Garage Sale was a resounding success. The neighborhood was flooded with bargain hunters finding a new use for a multitude of items. Many thanks to David Galindo for his hard work to make this event a resoundingly positive one. While there are not yet any confirmed reports that an early Van Gogh was sold to a value-minded buyer who immediately recognized its value, more common was the circumstance where pots, pans, pants and popcorn all went home with a happy new owner. If you didn't get to sell everything you wanted, there are some great options in the interim: online selling (i.e., Woodlands Nextdoor website or Woodlands Facebook page), donations to those in need, and leaving your unwanted items in Diablo Shadows. Here's looking forward to another great Garage Sale in 2015!

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The Orchards at Walnut Creek Update!

After three years of active community engagement, hundreds of neighborhood meetings and dozens of public hearings, Property Development Centers (PDC) is excited the project is moving forward.

In fact, PDC has already secured tenant agreements for over 60% of the project, including: **Safeway, Stein Mart, Crunch and Petco.**

Furthermore, the plan calls for planting over 600 new trees, including 116 highly protected trees... **more than quadrupling the number of trees there previously!**

We can't wait to host The Orchards' Grand Opening in **Fall 2015**, and greatly look forward to having you all there.



Follow our progress by visiting www.SafewayAtOrchards.com

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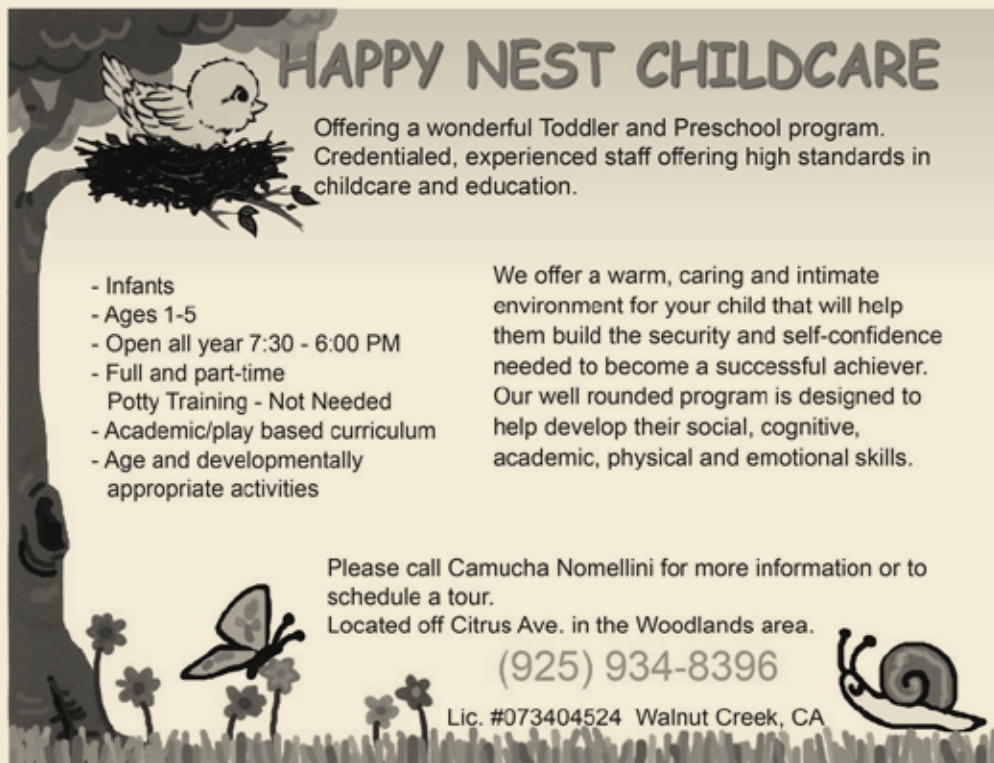
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- Wall & Ceiling Texturing

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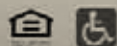
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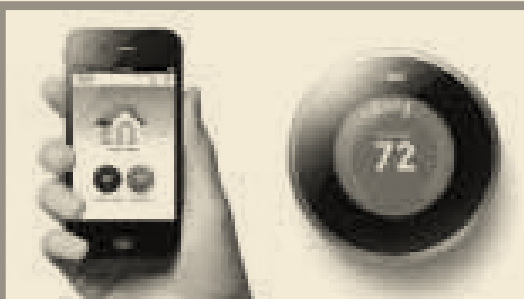
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