

The Woodlands



Keeping You Informed For Over 40 Years

October 2014

Friends of Walnut Creek Appeal Orchard's Approval

By Bill Gilmyers

Woodlands resident Steve Elster, representing the group Friends of Walnut Creek, challenged the approval of the Orchard's project at the September 2 City Council Meeting. Elster argued that by reopening public comment on the project on June 17, after it was ostensibly closed on June 3, the City Council had violated the Brown Act, the California law requiring open meetings.

Elster said that the City had misinformed the public and that many from the public would have come to speak on June 17 had they know that open public comment would be allowed. Based on this Elster said the City Council should restart the process and reconsider any approvals granted. After briefly considering the appeal the City Council denied the claim, disagreeing with the assertion that the Brown Act had been violated.

In addition to the appeal at the meeting, Friends of Walnut Creek has filed a lawsuit in Contra Costa Superior Court requesting that all construction be stopped and no further approvals for the project be given. The lawsuit states that the proposal violates the California Environmental Quality Act.

Friends of Walnut Creek is an unincorporated group comprised of Woodlands and other local residents opposed to the Orchards project as currently envisioned. In particular the group is opposed to the inclusion of a grocery store in the Orchards site plan, which it feels will force the Nob Hill grocery store in Citrus Plaza to close. Additional concerns from the group include increased traffic, the destruction of trees and other natural habitats for a variety of animals.



Call for Pumpkin Judges!

We are looking for a few neighbors to be judges for our Pumpkin Decorating Contest (see flyer in this newsletter!). Judges will determine which pumpkins are selected as "scariest," "funniest," "most original," etc. You must be a Woodlands resident to judge the contest which will be held from 10 a.m. - 12 noon on Saturday, October 25th. Please contact Talmage.anne@gmail.com by October 15 if you can help us and be a judge!





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Newsletter Advertising:
Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com

Newsletter Delivery:
Jennifer Zotti ~ jennsta2000@yahoo.com

Web Site Inquiries:
Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com

Neighborhood Inquiries:
Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com

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>

Check out the Woodlands online on our website and Facebook! Visit our website,

<http://www.woodlandsassn.org/>, to access years of back issues, neighborhood history, see neighborhood photo galleries, read the minutes from our board meetings, and learn about advertising opportunities. Visit our Facebook page, "Like" it, and join in the weekly conversations about our neighborhood park, exciting events, and the changes that are underway at the Encina Grande Shopping Center and The Orchards shopping center at www.facebook.com/WoodlandsAssn.



Woodlands Association Board of Directors

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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, October 4th

Saturday, November 1st

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

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings.

Safety Reminder: Garage Sale Guidelines

From an interview with Officer Mark Kan

The Woodlands Annual Garage Sale has been a positive neighborhood event for years. Let's all do our part to keep it safe & successful. The sale is widely publicized in the Contra Costa Times, Craigslist, and on signage along Oak Grove and other main streets. While this brings in shoppers from all over - not just neighbors - it also provides an opportunity for strangers to be on your property.

If your garage is open, know that anyone who visits your sale can see everything inside. Bike theft is a huge problem in Walnut Creek at this time. Be wary if someone wants to "test drive" your bicycle/s. Take precautionary measures like asking to hold the person's ID until the bike is returned. If your mail slot empties into your garage, clear out any buildup of mail to prevent identity theft.

If you are participating in the garage sale, don't leave out petty cash, your cell phone, wallet, keys or anything personal. These are easy to pocket. Keep an eye on all your sale items. Team up with family members and/or friends.

As a rule, don't allow anyone to enter your house. Keep your house & car locked. Keep in mind that anything visible in your car can be targeted for coming back to later. Even if it's just your gym bag, to someone who's looking for items, it could look appealing.

Let your neighbors know if you will be participating in the sale, especially if they are going to be out of town. Make sure that if they are out of town, any newspapers and/or mail is out of sight.



PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST

at the renovated
Valley Verde Park
Saturday, October 25th
Decorating begins at 10 am

Judging by neighborhood experts will be at 11 am

NOB HILL FOODS will be providing the pumpkins for our event, so you just need to bring your own supplies to paint, carve, sticker, draw...whatever you can imagine!

Your creation may even win "Scariest," "Funniest," "Most Original," or "Weirdest."

***Think ahead and be ready for a lot
of fun at our new park!***



Woodlands Caption Contest!

Think you can come up with a funny caption to go with this picture? Send it to woodlandsassn@yahoo.com by Sunday, October 12 to enter. Top captions will be published in next month's newsletter, and the winner gets a free one-year subscription to the Woodlands newsletter!

Here's one to start:

"Does this hat make me look like a pumpkin?"

Think you can do better? Send it in!

SCHOOL NEWS

Valle Verde Elementary

DONORS CHOOSE Have you checked out DonorsChoose.org? What a great way to support a classroom. It is an online charity that makes it easy to help classrooms in need. Just go to www.DonorsChoose.org to see what teachers have posted.

TUTTI FRUITTI has graciously agreed to support Valle Verde again this year with a percentage of profit given back with purchases every Monday and Wednesday all year long! Just remember to say you are with Valle Verde!

Foothill Middle School

Parent Patrol - Please Volunteer

Parent Patrol is one of the best opportunities you will have to volunteer at Foothill Middle School and really see "what's up". Parent Patrol plays an important role in helping maintain safety during lunch. We ask that each family volunteer a minimum of two days per year. We prefer to have two volunteers per day. The Parent Patrol lunch supervision time is from 11:05am - 12:40pm (M,T,F), 11:25am - 12:50pm (Wed) & 11:30am - 12:50pm (Thurs).

Please go online to the Parent Patrol calendar on the PFA website to see what dates are available, or contact our Parent Patrol Coordinators: Denise Bird dbirds5@att.net or Marianne Howie mpghowie@yahoo.com.

Academic Prep

Academic Prep (AP) was added to the bell schedule by the Foothill Staff last year and students will see some additions and improvements. Based on student feedback, we have moved AP to after lunch. They had requested AP be held later in the day. Our goal is to provide students the opportunity to receive additional instruction or enrichment each week during a separate 38-minute period. Every Wednesday students will have the opportunity to attend a Closed Session which can include a time to work on homework, missed assignments, makeup work, or receive targeted instruction. For students who are demonstrating mastery and completing their school work, they will have the opportunity to attend an Open Session which could include a study time or an enrichment activity. More information will soon be posted on the Foothill Website. During the first two weeks of school students will be receiving additional information during the Welcome Back Assemblies. Please email us if you have any questions or ideas about Academic Prep. The first official session will begin on Wednesday, September 10.

A6 Computer Lab Open Daily Before School

The A6 computer lab will be open Monday thru Friday from 7:30 - 8:00 am for academic purposes. Mrs. Wesser-Singh will be supervising.

Back By Popular Demand, Coffee With Dave

Don't miss the first Coffee With Dave from 7:30 to 8:15 at the Foothill Library on Friday, September 26. This is an opportunity for mingling, question asking, and getting to know more about Foothill. Mr. Roe will be your host and his coffee is always from Peet's!

Foothill Spirit Alert

Foothill spirit wear is on sale now. Please remind your sons and daughters to dress for our Friday Spirit Days and show what it means to be a Griffin! Every Friday we encourage our students to wear their Foothill spirit wear, which can still be purchased through ASB, or show spirit by wearing purple and gold.

Northgate High School

Online Sports Registration:

To prepare for the upcoming sports seasons, all Northgate student athletes are required to complete the online registration at www.northgatebroncos.org and turn in their completed 2-page MDUSD Athletic Activity Clearance form. More information is included in the online registration process. Please note the registration and MDUSD Athletic Activity Clearance form schedule below:

Winter Sports - open and ending October 31st

*Winter Registration will close October 31st

Spring Sports - open and ending January 30th

*Spring Registration will close January 30th

Northgate Education Fund:

Northgate parents have a tradition of active involvement in the school community. No matter what our students choose to pursue, we continually demonstrate our commitment to excellence in education and enhancing campus life. Parents and students will find useful information regarding the Education Fund. The education fund supports:

- College and Career counselors
- Naviance (college and career planning software for every student)
- Support Counselors on campus
- An On-site Computer Technician
- Extra Academic Class Periods over and above the number provided by MDUSD. This funding provides flexibility in the master schedule, results in smaller class sizes, and more academic classes being available to our students - whether they are interested in AP, performing arts, trade & technology classes.
- Teacher Training and Development
- Baccalaureate, Teacher Appreciation, Special Education, Campus Beautification, and more!

The Northgate Education Fund is the PFC's primary source of funds to bridge the gap between public funding and the current, true cost of the full educational experience we want for our students. This is the PFC's primary fundraiser for the school year.

Woodlands Boy Scout Helping Educate Ecuador Orphans One Step at a Time

In Ecuador, children cannot go to school unless they are wearing shoes. And not just any shoes—they must be black shoes. And there's no budget for black shoes for most of the country's orphanages.

Tate Lloyd, a lifelong Woodlands resident, decided to step into the dilemma. As part of an Eagle Scout program, he's asking for help sending black school shoes for Ecuador's orphan kids.

Tate is seeking shoes from Walnut Creek residents and businesses. His idea was born three years ago when he was visiting his sister Abby, who was

volunteering at orphanages through the Orphanage Support Services Organization (<http://www.orphanagesupport.org/>).

Tate is collecting black shoes in U. S. children's sizes 7 through men/women size 8, through the end of September. All shoes will be sent to OSSO.



You can get more information on the shoe drive by emailing Tate at solesforsouls088@gmail.com. Collection boxes are also available at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 100 Northgate Road in Walnut Creek.

You can also get more information from Terry Lloyd at terry@terrylloydcpa.com or (415) 298 4300.

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

October 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.

Join the Nextdoor Woodlands Group

By Jody Gilmyers

The Nextdoor website is a free social networking site that is created for neighbors to share anything from classified listings to crime and safety information. The dedicated Woodlands Nextdoor group can be found at <https://woodlandswalnutcreek.nextdoor.com>. As of 9/14/14, there are 99 Woodlands residents signed up who are sharing information about lost-and-found pets, providing dry-cleaning and contractor recommendations, advertising free items / posting wanted ads, and providing crime and safety tips.



Once you've signed up you can send invitations to your neighbors and Woodlands friends to join, which expands the network and increases its social value. If you're a Facebook user, this website will look familiar: you post on a neighborly topic and then other Woodlands residents can either "thank" you for your posting (similar to Facebook's "Like" button) or comment on the post. Those of us who are already signed up look forward to seeing new members join. Just keep in mind that Nextdoor's "Guidelines for Neighborly Behavior" advise against using profanity, over-posting, and airing personal issues, so as much as you may want to call out your @#!&\$*!! neighbor who annoys you to no end by posting an hourly rant about the person, this is not the forum. Oh, for those of you who are wondering, I promise I'll turn down the music, mow my weeds, and stop throwing my trash over the fence - so please, no need to post about me. ;)

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 8/5/14 - 9/5/14

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

08/06/14 9:18:00 3200 Bl. Peachwillow Ln.

Reports subject attempted to steal her golf cart and she detained them and has since let them go. Suspect was caught loading cart into maroon truck with lumber rack. Reporting party states she didn't know she should call at time. Dispo: attempt theft of a golf cart - interrupted. Suspect, Hispanic male adult with a waist-length ponytail in a maroon Toyota pulled up with lumber rack. Auto theft.

08/06/14 204814 Citrus Av. / Oak Grove Rd.

Male walking towards Oak Grove throwing glass, and jumping in front of vehicles, woman wearing a white shirt and basketball shorts. Dispo: arrested.

08/17/14 175913 3200 Bl. Peachwillow Ln.

Reporting four subjects climbing on solar panels with wires and ropes. Two subjects shirtless. Dispo: GOA - unable to locate with no damage observed. Service to citizen.

08/25/14 15:44:52 2200 Bl. Oak Grove Rd.

Theft of bike from in front of the store over the last 15 minutes, black/white/ong mountain bike. Dispo: theft of men's Trek 3500 bike black/oar between 15:23 and 15:30 hrs. Theft.

08/26/14 18:02:51 2900 Bl. Cedro Ln.

Welfare check. Reporting party reports male and female in house. Not answering door. Dispo: spoke with homeowner, he was not intoxicated. The water was shut off due to faulty valve. Service to Citizen.

08/26/14 21:06:57 3500 Bl Citrus Ave.

415 verbal between reporting party. Dispo: verbal only. Husband left to go to airport for early morning flight. Disturbance - 415 pC.

09/03/14 18:02:47 2200 Bl Oak Grove Rd.

Reporting party victim of scam occurred at 16:30 hrs. Reporting party deposited check for \$3,400 for stranger and withdrew cash and gave it to her. Susp #1 Black female adult, 20s, unknown stripe shirt w/ red heart on front. Went into bank with reporting party. Susp #2 Black female adult, 20s, unknown clothing. Susp association with white crossover vehicle. **21 rpt**. Dispo: telephoned reporting party, determined no crime occurred. Advice given. Service to Citizen.

09/04/14 16:15:33 2200 Bl. Oak Grove Rd.

Reporting party cashed fraudulent check for unknown subjs. Reporting party 97 will be in a gold Honda Accord. Dispo: occurred: 09/03/14 between 15:00hrs-16:00hrs. Loss: \$3400, check book and debit card. Susp: 2 Black female adults, mid-20s. Susp v: with SUV. Fraud.

09/05/14 8:39:16 3000 Bl Citrus Cr.

Cold 459c occ'd between 18:00-08:10hrs. Poe: front door, desks ransacked. Reporting party already in the office. Dispo: door pry to the office of Edward Jones Investments. Occurred 9/5/14 at approx. 04:00 hrs. Burglary.



Halloween Tips

By Erik Ehlers

Halloween is typically known as a time for ghosts, werewolves, princesses, firefighters, astronauts, and many other mythical creatures to blend in with the rest of us without having to put on a disguise. It's also a time for children to see how much sugar they can consume in a single night, for 13-year-olds to light mediocre fireworks to show how rebellious they are, and for adults to drink fermented grains in a celebration of the harvest and/or saints.

It's important to have a few tips in mind if you're going to brave the mean streets of Walnut Creek on All Hallows Eve (it might be Dutch for Boxing Day, really hard to translate). First, don't let your children eat all the candy that they get going door to door. After all, if you tell them it might be poisoned or have razor blades and needles in it, it gives you an excuse to eat way too much processed sugar. Let them have a single fun-sized 3 Musketeers bar and then "trade" the rest for a couple apples. Second, try to limit how far you're going to walk around the neighborhood. The Woodlands alone is surprisingly large, and you could spend hours going door to door. Third, see if you can get your kids to actually respect the wishes of the kind soul who puts out a giant bowl of candy and asks them to only take one piece each. Lastly, if you send in a picture to this publication showing that you have festooned your child with the most reflective items, particularly reflective tape, you may be eligible to win a prize. Though you may win nothing, it remains to be seen.

As for the adults, wear comfortable shoes. Also, bring drinks that will be easily portable. You don't want to be that guy, lugging an 84-can cooler around the neighborhood, unless you're doing so just to share with the other parents who left their homes unprepared. That would be downright neighborly.

So to sum it up, don't let your kids go crazy, don't let them drive you crazy, and say hi as you see the other parents. No pressure, these are just lifetime memories you're building for your progeny.

VALLE VERDE CARNIVAL Fun for Everyone!

By Julie Rattaro

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to Valle Verde for a fun filled day of games, food, raffles, fun entertainment, and sweets. Take a ride on the train, check out our amazing cakes and vote for your favorite in our cake decorating contest and much more.

Don't forget to wear your costumes - grown-ups too! There will be a costume contest to kick off the event at 11 am.

Everyone is welcome! It's the event you don't want to miss this fall. Various types of food, drinks, and snacks will be available all day at the Carnival. Be sure to check out our amazing Sweet Tooth Booth, always a crowd pleaser!

Valle Verde Elementary School

3275 Peachwillow Lane

Sunday, October 26, 2014

11:00 am - 3:00 pm



The HEAT IS ON!

The 3rd Annual John Hokanson Chili Challenge

will be on Sunday, November 2 at 4:00 at the Woodlands Cabana Club. 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 Charryl Levy (Taster's Choice Champ for the 1st Annual Challenge) ready to make their fabulous, mouth-watering chills!

ADVERTISING

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 Represented Buyer

**Thinking about a move? Make sure to include the marketing professional
 in your interviewing process. These sellers are glad they did!**

**Please talk to me before you consider any improvements, prior to selling. I know which
 items will net you the most money and which items you should not consider.
 First impressions mean everything. I will help you stage your home for success.**

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925.639.1979

www.SteveHansenHomes.com



When you are ready to MOVE, Dayna will make it happen...

“I can’t imagine going through such a lengthy and complicated process with anyone but Dayna. She had an answer for every question, kept a cool head when our situation got uniquely difficult, and always knew what the next step should be. This was our first house so we were very green. However, we never worried, since we knew we had Dayna on our side. Some people have people skills, some have deep knowledge, and others are great negotiators... Dayna is the whole package. She’s personable, but professional. She’s knowledgeable, but could dumb it down for us. If we ever decide to do this again, we would never even consider using someone else.” Dave-Buyer

“We selected Dayna to help us sell our house and I’m very happy we did. After interviewing other agents, Dayna showed she had superior local knowledge about our neighborhood. She connected us with staging and photography resources that helped make our house shine. She was spot on with her pricing strategy, demonstrating that strong local knowledge. I could go on and on about the little things that Dayna did to help us sell and move, but as a busy executive in the middle of a job change, working with someone that was highly professional, crisp with her communications and respectful of our time was what stood out for me. If you’re in the Woodlands, definitely give Dayna a call!” Kieran-Seller



Whether you are Buying your first home, Moving-up, Relocating or Downsizing, take the first step TODAY...Call for a no-obligation personal consultation. She is passionate about serving her clients at the highest level.

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BRE # 01781285

Woodlands Garage Sale

Sunday , October 5, 2014

Enjoy the opportunity to meet new neighbors and re-acquaint yourself with old neighbors at the Woodlands Garage Sale !!

If you would like to participate and did not get a chance to register for the map by the deadline, just open your garage door !

There will be lots of buyers driving around the neighborhood.

HAVE A GOOD TIME !



David Galindo CRS

Jan Williams GRI , CRS

J. Rockcliff Realtors

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BRE # 00674809, 00862023

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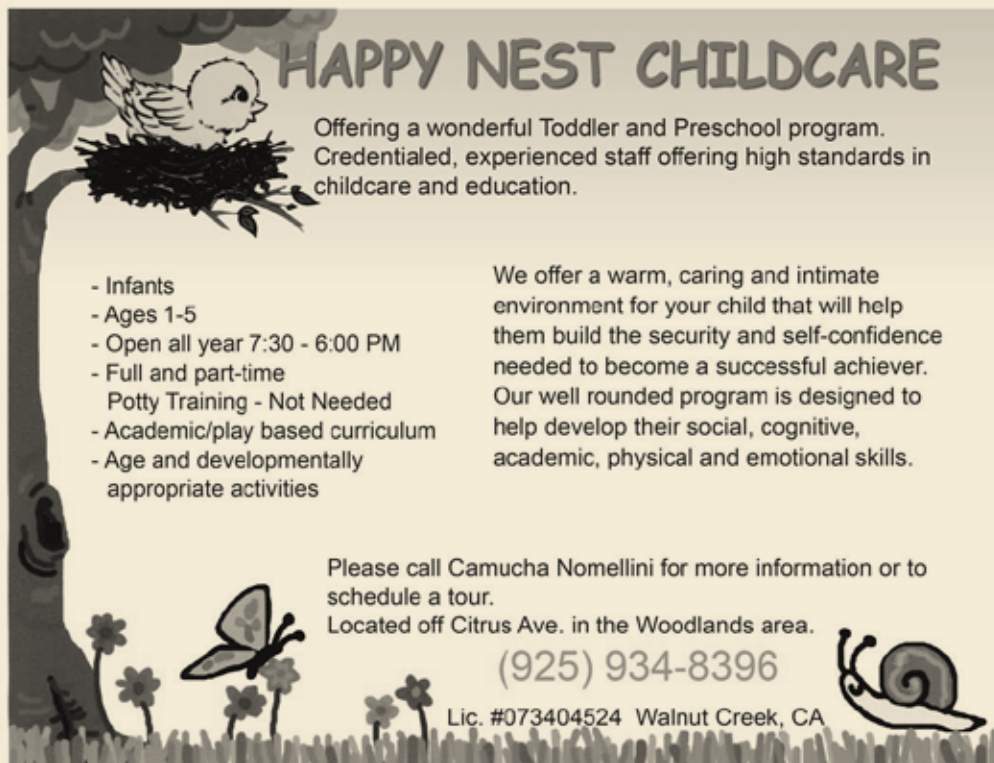
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- Repair Replacement of Washer, Faucets, Commodes, Wax Rings – Water Heaters

PAINTING

- Exterior – Interior
- Spot Painting After Repairs
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GUTTER WORK

- Clean out Gutters – Installation of gutter screens

CARPENTRY & DRYWALL

- Installation of Doors, Locks
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