

The Woodlands

Keeping You Informed For Over 40 Years

December 2014

A Neighborhood Tradition On Candleberry

By Julie Rattaro

Thirty-five years ago my sister, brother, and I begged our parents to put more lights on the outside of our house on Candleberry Road. Little did we know that it would result in a Hiland holiday tradition for many in our community to enjoy year after year, generation after generation. The small display turned into an intricate, well thought-out, month-long preparation of an amazing show with moving Ferris-wheels, Merry-go-rounds, see-saws, Christmas Villages, and a train representing each of their grandchildren, not to mention the endless amounts of lights, Christmas trees, and garland.

Each year my parents start setting up their display the weekend after Halloween. Hours of each day are filled with making this display spectacular! Many weekends are all about improving the display and adding things to it. My mom is the inventor and my dad is the creator. After all the hard work is done, the annual holiday lighting takes place: my dad plugs in the lights and music fills the air along with "oohhs" and "aahhs" from children. Santa arrives and adds to the amazement. The smiles



on the neighborhood children's faces make all the effort and energy well worth it.

In addition to creating this amazing display of lights and holiday décor, my parents also collect donations of toys for the Toys for Tots program. Unwrapped toys can be placed in the receptacle in the driveway. We have taken thousands of toys to children in need in our community. Each one of the grandchildren has ridden with

a car full of toys and has helped deliver these amazing gifts. We thank you for your support in helping our community!

2014 marks the last year of the spectacular display on Candleberry Rd. After 35 years, my parents will be passing on the tradition to my husband and I on Rock Oak Rd. Their home will still be adorned with lights and the lasting impression of their efforts will leave an impact on this neighborhood and community forever. Please stop by to enjoy the lights.

Thank you Mom and Dad for making the holidays a wonderful experience for all of us to enjoy!

Pumpkin Decorating Contest - Results!

By Adrienne Robillard

The pumpkin decorating contest at our very own Valle Verde Neighborhood Park on Banyan Circle was well attended on October 25th, after a night of rain, with 8 ribbon winning pumpkins (pictured with the artists who decorated them). Nob Hill Foods donated 45 pumpkins and between the many contestants and our four judges, all found a great home.

Thank you to Nob Hill Foods for the pumpkin donations, to Brendan Moran for the use of his sign boards, and to the awesome team of Woodlands neighbors who helped to make this a fun community event.





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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

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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

- Adrienne Robillard ~ *President*
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- James Goudy ~ *Webmaster*

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Jennifer Zotti ~ *Newsletter Distribution Manager*
Interns: Danielle Arauzo & Talia Arauzo

Upcoming Board Meetings

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 6th
Saturday, January 3rd

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

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings.



Brown Is the New Green: Permaculture

By Jody Gilmyers

You may remember seeing the ABC7 News van visiting the house at the corner of Citrus and Perada (south end) last spring. The news team was reporting on the homeowners' backyard renovation project, which involved replacing their traditional lawn with eco-friendly, water-saving landscaping. After years of fighting invasive Bermuda grass and looking for ways to decrease their water usage, the homeowners, Lorraine Rose-Lerman and Brad Rose, hired a landscape designer who specializes in drought-tolerant and native landscaping to makeover their backyard. They asked that some of the principles from permaculture be incorporated into the design. Permaculture is a type of landscaping that utilizes sustainable elements - such as drought-tolerant flora - that are geographically native to the area. The elements are selected to serve specific purposes and they systematically work together to mimic a natural ecosystem. The result is a regenerative and lower-maintenance outdoor area that blends in naturally with the surrounding environment.

The Roses have a large backyard area and opted for additional construction so their project took approximately six months to complete. The finished product includes a variety of native vegetation (including edible as well as decorative selections), a raised bed for vegetable gardening, ten fruit trees, natural stones, a

birdbath, a decorative fountain that pumps recycled water, as well as hardscaping, a shady pavilion with an outdoor ceiling fan, a fire pit, and a small guest house. They are committed to using as few chemicals and as little water as possible to maintain the beauty of their newly remodeled backyard. The backyard not only provides a peaceful place to sit and relax, but the Roses are also enjoying the fruit, vegetables, and herbs that they are growing in a sustainable manner. One of the permaculture benefits that the Roses are reaping is from their lemon verbena plant. The plant itself provides nice green foliage and its fragrant leaves make excellent tea.

Landscaping for their project was provided by Roxy Wolosenko (www.designsbyroxy.com) and construction was completed by SG Construction (www.sgconstruction.org). Don't forget that if you do convert your front lawn with water-wise landscape, you can qualify for a rebate up to \$1000 from the Contra Costa Water District. For program information, visit www.cc.water.com.

So.....have you installed artificial lawn, solar panels, water-wise plumbing, or have you taken other steps to promote an environmentally responsible home? Contact us to share your experience and be featured in a future newsletter!



Would you like an expert to come to The Woodlands to discuss sustainable gardening/landscaping methods? If so, please email us and let us know. If there is enough interest, we can arrange for someone to visit our beautiful neighborhood. woodlandsassn@yahoo.com

Holiday Giving Ideas

By Erik Ehlers

Now that you've gotten to December, you may have noticed it has gotten a lot colder than it was back in August, and that while you may enjoy shopping for gifts for your friends and family, you'd like to do something beyond contributing endless dollars to corporate bottom lines. But what difference can one individual actually make?

The good news is that there are a number of local opportunities to make a difference for those who are less fortunate. If you would rather donate money than your time, groups like the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties (foodbankccs.org) will gladly take your donated dollars and buy food for those who need it during the cold winter months. They also have opportunities for volunteering, with more information available at their website.

For those who can't think of holiday shopping without those cheerful bell ringers with red kettles, The Salvation Army not only accepts donations but they have a local office in Concord, and volunteering is a great way to feel better about the eleven pounds of fruitcake and three gallons of eggnog that you're going to consume before the year is out. Find out more at salvationarmyusa.org. Apparently, the key to being a good bell ringer is all in the elbow, so warm up properly to avoid injury.

Not everyone will spend their December shopping and drinking too much, hopefully not all at the same time. There are those who will find this one of the toughest times of year for their family. Located in Concord, the Monument Crisis Center (monumentcrisiscenter.org) works with seniors as well as those in need of food. The elderly often experience the challenges of loneliness around the holidays, and connecting with them is a great way to be less focused on our own desires.

In addition to these fine organizations, visit volunteereastbay.org to connect with groups looking for volunteers. In addition, look around your street or court. Is there an older neighbor who might need help? In the spirit of giving, perhaps find out what you can do here in our own area for someone who just doesn't move as well as they used to.

As a final note, if you don't want to give to those in need, Bill will gladly accept gifts of full size candy bars and bottles of Scotch. Single malt, preferably. If you're a teenager, baby sitting also makes a spectacular gift. Even when you charge the parents, it is still giving. Word to the wise, guys, no one likes it when a guy carries around mistletoe all the time, it just seems desperate. So have a fantastic December, hopefully it's memorable for all the right reasons.

Shop Savvy for the Holidays

By Adrienne Robillard

Nob Hill Foods is convenient to Woodlands residents, walkable for many, and the service is top notch. As we near the holidays, keep in mind that by joining the store's "Something Extra," program, which is free, you accrue points as you shop, receive a quarterly check to use toward store purchases and personalized coupon offers for the items you buy the most. You can join at www.raleys.com and receive updates via email and your reward checks and coupons in the mail. The store also offers a free Something Extra magazine featuring seasonal recipes.

In addition to offering convenient shopping, in the spirit of the holidays you can help feed the hungry this holiday season through the store's "Food for Families Holiday Bag Donation." This can be done in the store or online at www.raleys.com on the order page for holiday food. Just buy a Food For Families bag for \$10 and Nob Hill will donate \$27 worth of nutritious food to your local food bank, with a goal of donating 2 million pounds of food! When you order online, they'll donate to the food bank nearest our store location. See where your contribution goes at foodforfamilies.org.



December 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 December 12th. Top captions will be published in next month's newsletter and the winner gets a free subscription to The Woodlands newsletter!

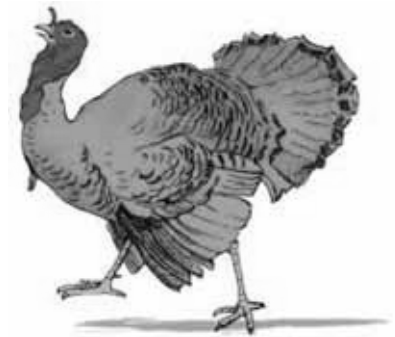
See if you can do better than this:

"Finally, Mrs. Claus got me something on my wish list!"

Beware: Turkeys

The Woodlands neighborhood turkeys have been adding new meaning to the term "wild turkey." Usually shy and passive, the turkeys have been approaching neighbors in an aggressive manner this fall. Perhaps they are in need of food.

Please keep your distance, watch the turkeys from afar, and stay safe.



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

December 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.

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 10/9/14 - 11/7/14

10/09/14 18:25:44 500 Bl Banyan Cr.
Small amount of marijuana found in park. Dispo: small amount of marijuana found and booked for destruction. Found Property.

10/10/14 16:22:19 300 Bl Peppertree Rd.
21 request for advice regarding juvenile son smoking marijuana. Dispo: busy tone on multiple call back attempts. Service to Citizen.

10/11/14 23:17:13 3100 Bl Peachwillow Ln.
Reports a car parked in her driveway and bunch of subjects in her driveway smoking marijuana. Subject sounded a little confused + language barrier. Dispo: Unable to locate/ gone on arrival. Susp. Circumstance.

10/12/14 08:49 3200 Bl Peachwillow Ln.
Reports juveniles on the field. Dispo: subjects left upon officer arrival, contacted some and released. Service to Citizen.

10/13/14 10:08:57 300 Bl Peppertree Rd.
Requesting advice re: 17 year old son smoking marijuana ***21***. Dispo: contacted reporting party. Advice given regarding son's conduct in the home. Service to Citizen.

10/14/14 19:09:28 3600 Bl Perada Dr.
Second hand info to reporting party. Dogs found a bunch of syringes on ground. Facing house they are located near the left fence at end of long driveway. Dispo: hypodermic needles found and disposed of at the station. Service to Citizen.

10/18/14 8:38:48 Peachwillow Ln. / Banyan Cr.
Welfare check on subject sitting on corner with hands in sweater. Reporting party thought subject may have been there all night, could not articulate why. White male, juvenile, 16-years old, brown hair, gray sweatshirt, jeans. Dispo: subject given ride to residence in Concord. Welfare Check.

10/18/14 8:46:26 600 Bl Rock Oak Rd.
Suspicious package sent to father-in-law at Ukiah address. Father-in-law brought package to reporting party's home with him. Reporting party believes package may contain radioactive material. Sent from unknown subj in the Ukraine. Dispo: reporting party called back to cancel. Determined package sent by family member through another subject. Service to Citizen.

10/19/14 9:38:21 300 Bl Peppertree Rd.
1021 Reporting party wants advice, found marijuana pipe in bathroom that was left by son. Dispo: options discussed. advice given. Service to Citizen.

10/21/14 14:53:11 2200 Bl Oak Grove Rd.
Reports suspect subject was just inside using product, when reporting party approached her she started yelling & spitting at him. Short, very tan female, dark hair with gray in it, blue sweater with yellow writing, cropped jeans. Last seen headed towards Oak Grove /Citrus 5 ago. Dispo: area check negative, subject unable to locate. Susp. Circumstance.

10/24/14 12:31:27 3600 Bl. Perada Dr.
A female in area associated with a blue Honda sedan has been walking on the street and contacting people in area asking about things on the street and staring at houses. Dispo: vehicle located unoccupied, unable to locate subject associated with vehicle. Susp. Circumstance.

10/28/14 20:34:30 600 Bl. Banyan Ln.
Unknown subject keeps leaving old dirty dolls and other toys wrapped in paper bags on reporting party's porch. This has occurred every few weeks for past 10 months. Dispo: reporting party advised on suspicious doll packages left on his porch, advice given. Service to citizen.

10/31/14 20:09:28 3200 Bl. Peachwillow Ln.
Adult subject was standing out in front of Valle Verde when reporting party drove by, he flashed a light in his eye and beat on his car. Reporting party said he wasn't doing anything illegal. Dispo: GOA/UTL. Susp. Circumstance.

11/03/14 14:34:17 Mandarin Ln./Peachwillow Ln.
A child was left unattended in a black vehicle. Poss three year old. Dispo: GOA/UTL. Service to citizen.

11/06/14 16:36:06 Bayberry Dr. / Perada Dr.
Dispo: gold GMC pick-up truck was impounded for an expired registration of over 6 months.
Tow/ impound.



SCHOOL NEWS

Foothill Middle School

Absences

Is your student not feeling well or are you going out of town for a day or two? Please don't forget to notify the Attendance Secretary, by calling (925) 682-8000 (our main District line) extension 5702. This must be done for every day your student is missing school. You have 72 hours to clear an absence or it will be recorded as truancy. We do try to notify you of any absence not cleared by sending out an evening telephone call, and e-mail.

Thank you,
Mary Shepherd
Attendance Secretary/Registrar
Foothill MS

Intra-District Transfers

The process for Intra-District transfers begins October 15 through January 15. If your child is currently on an Intra-District Transfer, you must re-apply for high school. If you would like your child to attend a high school that is not in your attendance area, you will need to fill out the application. Applications will be on the District Website by October 15. All applications must be turned into Student Services at the District Office. January 15, 2015 is the absolute deadline.

Cold-Blooded Critter Cause

Dear Foothill Parents and/or Guardians, Students, & Staff;
Since arriving at FMS in 2006, I have maintained an indigenous species display of native and local, ectotherm (cold-blooded) animals in my Earth Science classroom that includes fishes, arachnids, mollusks, crustaceans, amphibians, & reptiles. The cost is approximately \$25 - \$30 week or \$100 - \$120 or a month, which goes to food, filters, UV lights, enclosure, bedding, etc. In 2012 all funding ceased and I have carried it on

my own and with the gracious donations of FMS families; so I am again reaching out for small donations to continue highlighting and displaying some of the most important organisms in our own backyards. You or your student may drop off any monetary gift in the FMS office or in Mr. Monroe's room B-7 in the secure donation box labeled "Mr. Monroe's Cold-Blooded Critter Cause" (please no coins). The box is located just inside the door on the left above the pencil sharpener. Please make checks payable to Foothill Middle School or FMS. Donations can be made at any time throughout the school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate contacting me.

As always, thank you for your continued and valuable support.

Randy Monroe
MonroeR@MDUSD.org
Randy@MonroeScienceed.com
(925)939-8600 X5725

Northgate High School

2014-15 Online Sport Registration

Welcome to the 2014-15 Northgate Athletic Department online registration for the 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. Have a great school year and Go Broncos!

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Home IS Where the Heart Is!

I am truly honored that so many buyers and sellers chose me as their agent and trusted advisor this past year. I am grateful for the many blessings and abundance in our lives.

Thank you for making this the best year ever!



During the Holidays, we tend to spend more time with our loved ones....As a Seniors Real estate Specialist I am wondering...

- Are you dealing with any Elder Care issues? Do you know someone who is?
- Noticing changes in Mom or Dad?
- Has their home become an emotional, physical or financial burden?
- Not sure where to start, who to contact? What to do with all the “stuff?”
- Wondering how best to help them either stay in their home or transition to another?

LET'S HAVE A FRANK CONVERSATION! If you answered “YES” to any of the above, you will want to attend my educational *Focus Group for Boomers* for Answers to some tough questions.



FOCUS GROUP FOR BOOMERS

Wednesday January 14th

5:45PM—7:00PM

100 Pringle Avenue, #100

Walnut Creek

RSVP-space is limited, Refreshments served

Dayna Wilson

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Bruce Lesser **925-788-6020**

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800 S. Broadway, Walnut Creek, CA. 94596
BruceLesser@remax.net www.BruceLesser.com



SEE YOUR AD HERE!

The Woodlands is published monthly and delivered to the 900 homes in our neighborhood.

Effective advertising rates start at just \$20/month for 1/8 page to \$90/month for a full-page. Email woodlandsassn@yahoo.com, see p. 5 of this newsletter, or visit the website for more information.

www.woodlandsassn.org



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- Spot Painting After Repairs
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GUTTER WORK

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 - Brickwork
- Odds and Ends

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