

# The Woodlands

Keeping You Informed For Over 40 Years

January 2015

## Thank You to All Our Distributors

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers for delivering this newsletter to the 900 homes in our community. We also thank Jennifer Zotti for adeptly managing distribution and Marge McDowell and Charlie Freschl for expertly delivering the bundles to our stellar block captains each month. Our newsletter celebrates 50 years in print in 2015, and this wouldn't be possible without your valuable efforts! When you see your newsletter being delivered, please be sure to thank:

Bill Holt, Jane Cops, Sue Gardella, Barbara Johnson, Ron Chesney, Judy White, Clifford Egan, Liz Matousek, Terri Payne, Matt Clay, Tony Lansang, Jan Warren, Kathy Shields, Catherine Powell, Charlie Freschl, Connie Kuronko, Catherine & Jim Melnyk, Nancy Treadwell, Margaret Brown, Marlene Berkman, Janet Dolliver, Ann Jennings, Ellen Diamond, Lisa Peachee, Steve Carter, Sam Titluck, Jason

Roberts, Marge Smith, Erik & Julie Ehlers, Sharon Nelson, Pat Coyle, Audrey Morgan, Ann Raymond, Mike Wong, Joan Weber, Jerry Ossinger, Debbie Full, Rich Coulter, Lisa Lamm, Jane Streich, Sandy Wagner, John Casey, Lois Mitchell, Panya Sawan, Paul Parkus, Jennifer Zotti, Charlene Lafrades.

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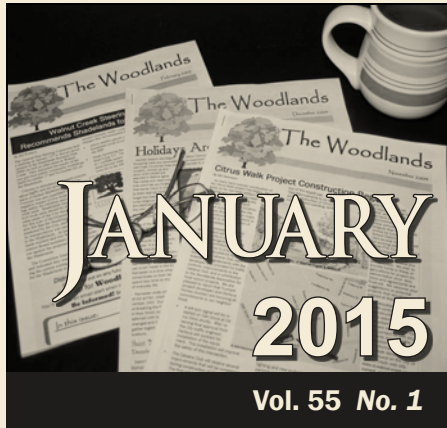
Your messages inform Woodlands residents about the valuable services you offer.

Your support makes The Woodlands newsletter possible.

## December Caption Contest Winner



*"I guess this will have to do until I get the sleigh back from the shop."*



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**Neighborhood Inquiries:**  
[Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com](mailto:Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com)

Woodlands Association  
 P.O. Box 31085  
 Walnut Creek, CA 94598

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 (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](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](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**

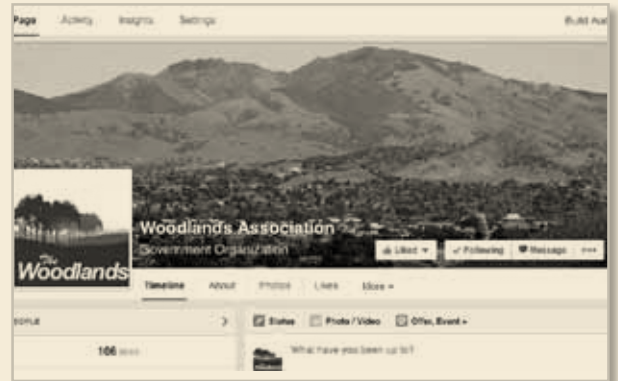
**Canal Maintenance, 925-313-2235**  
 The canal is part of the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Maintained by the Public Works Department

**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](http://www.facebook.com/WoodlandsAssn).



## Woodlands Association Board of Directors

- Adrienne Robillard ~ *President*
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- Erik Ehlers ~ *Secretary*
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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, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings.

# Tips on Not Making a New Year's Resolution

By Bill Gilmyers

I usually don't start thinking about New Year's resolutions until sometime on New Year 's Day, typically a little hung over, feeling fat and reeking of (someone's) vomit. Actually, that's what I would have written circa 2002. Now I tend to wake up, rather refreshed, after going to bed around 9:45, having taken advantage of the "East Coast loophole" and raised a glass at 9 PM sharp. As long as I get to see Seacrest, I don't care what time zone he's in.

This year is a little different as I signed on to write the New Year's resolutions article for the newsletter and had to start thinking about this in early December. (Pro-tip: Newsletter articles are due by the 10th of the previous month. This is doubly true if your wife is the newsletter coordinator). So I did a little research. Did you know that there is a list at USA.gov of the top New Year's resolutions? It's true, go ahead and Google it. I'll wait. See?! Now, I'm as big of a Prius-driving, socialist-paradise-wanting, left-wing pinko as the next beatnik, but even I'd be ok if we skipped putting our tax dollars towards that particular project.

I also found a list, from Time magazine, of the top broken New Year's Resolutions from 2012. It's pretty much the same as the 2014 government list, except for this item: "Spend more time with family", which was there in 2012 but gone by 2014. Apparently we've failed at just about everything we set out to do two years ago, and even our families don't want anything to do with us anymore. So it's kind of like being president. (I can make that joke because I drive a Prius, right?)

Of course, there are a few items that always seem to pop up as a resolution for people: lose weight, exercise more, drink less. As your friendly neighborhood advice columnist (for today anyway), I gotta say, oh God no, please don't. The last thing the gym needs is another tourist who signs up for a new membership in January and is back on the couch before

Valentine 's Day. And have you noticed that it's gray and wintery out? This is not the time to go on the wagon; I'd actually recommend that you double your Scotch ration until further notice.

If you must make a resolution, make it about what you want to do, not about what you won't let yourself do. Resolve to have more drinks with friends, not fewer. Eat better, tastier food, not less of it. Don't run in place on a treadmill, go for a walk around the block. Do something nice for a neighbor, like sweeping their walkway or washing their car (and when I say 'a neighbor' I mean 'me').

Sure, 2015 is a new year, but really, why rush headlong into a short-lived attempt at self-improvement? Why rock the boat and screw up a good thing? Don't change horses in mid-stream. Dance with the one that brung-ya. Own your inertia. Just like last year.

## Happy New Year!

By Erik Ehlers

The calendar just turned to a brand new year – welcome to 2015! So if you still write down the date, get used to a new year. However, for most people, January 1 means it's time for resolutions. If you're like most people, you're going to lose weight, save more money, and finally quit watching hours and hours of soulless, unredeeming reality TV. I'm going with nope, nope and nope. Who are you trying to kid? You have a better chance of shooting like Steph Curry than you do of using that pricey new gym membership. 25 hour fitness employees look like cartoon animals with dollar signs when they see you plodding in for a new membership. It's great that the trainer who's selling you can close with one handed pushups, but by Valentine's Day they'll see your backside for the last time in 2015, so why not save some cash and leave ellipticals for the people who darken the gym door the other 10 months of the year?

CONTINUED ON PG 6

## Family Fun Game Night!

Mark your calendar: Valle Verde elementary PTA is excited to announce a family fun game night on Friday, February 20 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the MUR. It will be fun for the entire VV family with games like UNO, Twister, Pictionary, and more... Enjoy some dessert and hot chocolate too!

For questions or to be a part of making this event a success, please email Jill Walson at [jgwalson@yahoo.com](mailto:jgwalson@yahoo.com).

## Holidays in the Woodlands

## Woodlands Swim Team

By Julie Rattaro

It is never too early to be thinking about summer! The Woodlands Swim Team board members have been working hard throughout the off-season to make sure our next season at the pool is better than ever!

The Woodlands Swim Team is proud to announce our new head coach, Sean Horan. As a former member of the Woodlands Swim Team, he brings years of experience with our community and as a coaching professional. We are excited about his new ideas and strategies that will benefit our team.

Also, the Woodlands Swim Team has changed leagues. We are now in the Walnut Creek Swim Conference League. This is exciting news for our team because it means we will be swimming locally.

Team registration will be on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at The Woodlands Cabana Club. More information about sign-ups will be out soon. The team is a great way to meet neighbors and compete in a team sport that involves fun for the entire family!

Dates to remember:

March 8, 2015: Swim Team Sign-ups

April 13, 2015: Swim Team Begins



## January Caption Contest:

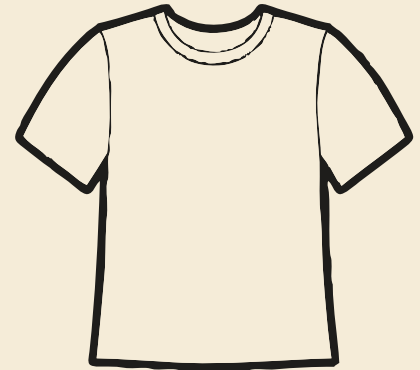
Think you can come up with a funny caption to go with this photo?



Post it on The Woodlands Facebook page or send it to woodlandsassn@yahoo.com by January 12th. Top captions will be published in next month's newsletter and the winner gets a free subscription to The Woodlands newsletter!

## Would You Like to Have...

A Woodlands T-shirt or a Woodlands tote bag? Let us know which one you would enjoy more on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/WoodlandsAssn](http://www.facebook.com/WoodlandsAssn) or by emailing [woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com](mailto:woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com).



## Advertise With Us!

To Advertise in the Woodlands Newsletter, Contact [Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com](mailto:Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com) or visit [www.woodlandsassn.org/advertise](http://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

**January 10, 2015**

### Submission Guidelines

- Please submit your ad in the actual size/dimensions listed.
- Please email a digital file of your ad to [woodlandsassn@yahoo.com](mailto: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/](http://www.woodlandsassn.org/advertise/) or make checks payable to "Woodlands Association" and mail to: PO Box 31085, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

PG 3 CONTINUED

While you're at it, have you ever considered that you could both lose pounds and save green simply by cutting back on what you order when you stop for your daily double Salchow triple mocha? That thing has more calories and sugar than your typical SUV sized sundae? For just \$5 for a cup of coffee, it is no surprise a national coffee chain can offer all of its employees full benefits. So you want another insider money tip? Try skipping the lottery, return Redbox rentals the day after you get them, since after all, you aren't getting any extra enjoyment from 27 Jump Street or Taken 5: The Taking having it sit in your DVD player for a week. You tell yourself it's only a buck a day, but after two weeks you might as well have bought the stupid disc you'll never watch again.

Speaking of watching horrible things, how much longer before every single city has localized reality TV? Can't wait to see what's happening with the Real Housecats of the Woodlands. Or maybe we can try a Lord of the Flies style Big Brother showcase where fifteen high schoolers share a house and have everything taped. Somehow, they'd still need to take selfies. The sequel writes itself – teen moms of Northgate High. Ok, so maybe we skip that franchise. Maybe we can have a show where the conversations from the Woodlands Next Door app are acted out on the small screen. Riveting conversations about slightly used mulch and potential burglars who seem to loiter around recycling containers. First world problems doesn't really begin to describe the depth of our suburban anguish and despair. How long before someone suggests we hire private security patrols, perhaps check to make sure peoples' papers are in order? Ok, I'd probably watch that. How many ways could people describe suspicious characters without labeling the way the person looks to avoid being labeled a racial profiler?

So if you can't shape up, fatten your wallet or even fall asleep to the tv, what should you do with yourself in 2015? Futurists seem to think the next big thing is probably squirrel farming (I bet our turkey overlords would appreciate some tasty squirrels, despite not being officially carnivores) or perhaps you could begin designing your splendid, ornate and creative float for the Woodlands' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary float for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Or just go back to sleep, it will be spring soon enough.

## 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](http://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 11/8/14 - 12/5/14

- 11/08/14 1:41:19 Ygnacio Valley Rd. / Oak Grove Rd.  
Subjects throwing water balloons at passing vehicles, eastbound Ygnacio just past Oak Grove. Dispo: GOA/unable to locate. Susp. Circumstance.
- 11/14/14 8:49:47 Ygnacio Valley Rd. / Oak Grove Rd.  
At pine creek. 09:00 hours. Homeless encampment clean up. Dispo: Philip Hughes collected his belongings. Grew on scene. Service to Citizen.
- 11/15/14 16:30:39 Citrus Ave. / Sugarberry Ln.  
16-year-old on a white and red motorcycle speeding and doing wheelies in the area. Last seen northbound Citrus. Dispo: all quiet on arrival. GOA. Unable to locate. Service to Citizen.
- 11/18/14 18:46:27 500 Bl Banyan Cr.  
Theft unlocked vehicle parked in open garage. Green Honda Accord. Loss: yellow purse and contents, laptop, iPhone. Occurred 10 minutes ago. No suspicious info. Dispo: purse/wallet stolen from car in attached garage while residents inside. Loss: cash, credit cards, cdl, HP laptop. Burglary.
- 11/20/14 7:09:22 Ygnacio Valley Rd. / Oak Grove Rd.  
Head-on collision westbound. Dispo: minor injury complaint of pain. Accident Minor Injury.
- 11/20/14 14:00:04 3400 Bl Sugarberry Ln.  
Wet tennis shoes marks in the garage, look like they are fresh shoe marks. Dispo: burglary to the home through the side door with personal items taken. Burglary.
- 11/21/14 10:39:02 600 Bl Candleberry Rd.  
Reports residence was egg'd overnight & vehicle was egg'd. Dispo: reporting party just wanted police department to be aware of the incident. No damage. Service to Citizen.
- 11/22/14 14:12:28 Citrus Avenue / Sugarberry Ln.  
A child was seen speeding up and down the street, on a mc poss dirt bike, red bike, subject was wearing a red helmet red sweater. Last seen 5 ago. Dispo: Reporting party called back advising that the subject was no longer in the area and will call back if seen again. Miscellaneous traffic.
- 11/23/14 16:55:37 3200 Bl. Peachwillow Ln.  
A black male adult jumped the fence, coming out of the school grounds. Dispo: nothing seen at school. Service to citizen.
- 11/29/14 11:16:39 Rock Oak Ct. / Perada Dr.  
Vehicle revved the engine at the reporting party, ongoing issue of reckless driving in the area. A woman with dark brown hair, 17 years old. Was last seen 10 ago towards Bayberry. \*\*Reporting party wants a 21 and area check\*\*. Dispo: advice given to both parties. Reckless driving.
- 12/05/14 1:13:36 3500 Bl. Sugarberry Ln.  
Reporting party reported someone building Christmas decor with hammer and nails - just started. Also happened last night for about an hour. Dispo: spoke with homeowner and she agreed to not make any more noise while putting up Christmas decorations on her house. Noise complaint.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Foothill Middle School

### Parent Patrol Update

As you may have heard from your child, there is a new ball cart available during lunch time. Parent Patrol is helping supervise this with lots of positive feedback from the parents. The parents are interacting and observing more than ever with the students! If you haven't yet signed up for Parent Patrol, please do. It's a subtle way to see what's going on with your child, who their friends are, how they are interacting, etc and it really helps our children and campus supervisors. How to sign up: Go to [foothillpfa.com](http://foothillpfa.com) At left of page, click on **Parent Patrol**, then click on **How To Sign Up**

### 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](http://www.thecreekyouthcenter.org). For questions call Donna Perham or Tricia Carella at 934-3324, or email [teenyouthcenter@gmail.com](mailto:teenyouthcenter@gmail.com)

## 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!

### Northgate Boosters Crab Feed

It's time for the Northgate Athletic Boosters 2015 Crab Feed held on Saturday, January 24, 2015 from 6:00-11:00 pm at Centre Concord! Tickets are \$65 each or \$600 for a table of 10. As usual, this will be an event to remember. Call your friends, order your tickets, and get ready for good wine and food, fabulous auction items, dancing and great adult company. Please know that this event sold out last year, so get your ticket order in as soon as possible. Visit the Northgate High School website for ticket form (click on the "Supporters" menu and select "Bronco Boosters").

### Teacher Appreciation Committee: Volunteers Needed!

The Teacher Appreciation Committee is looking for volunteers to donate food for the teacher appreciation luncheons that are held throughout the year. We will send out an email with food items that are requested before each event and you can choose what donations you would like to provide. Typically, the food can either be dropped off at school the morning of the lunch or at a designated house the evening before the event. Typical food requests include salads, soups, pastas, desserts, bread, etc. This is a great way to show your appreciation for our wonderful Northgate teachers. Please sign up to help by sending an email to [mesunbury@yahoo.com](mailto:mesunbury@yahoo.com) with your name and phone number and we will add you to the volunteer list.

Thank you, Deidre Rubcich, Melissa Sunbury & Cindy Lentz

# ADVERTISING

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### Classified Advertising:

#### Age In Peace At Home

With a little help from friends, age at peace in your home. To learn more, Woodlands seniors are invited to attend a meeting of the Walnut Creek Village Movement.


Thursday, January 15th  
2-3:30 p.m.

Please call 925-956-1990 for location and information




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*"I sell houses for the most money in the shortest time with the least problems!"*

I truly enjoy the time I spend in the area. I live, work, and play in the very communities that I serve, this is a wonderful incentive to make my communities the very best they can be! I pray we all have the best year ever.

*Happy New Year 2015!*

CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS



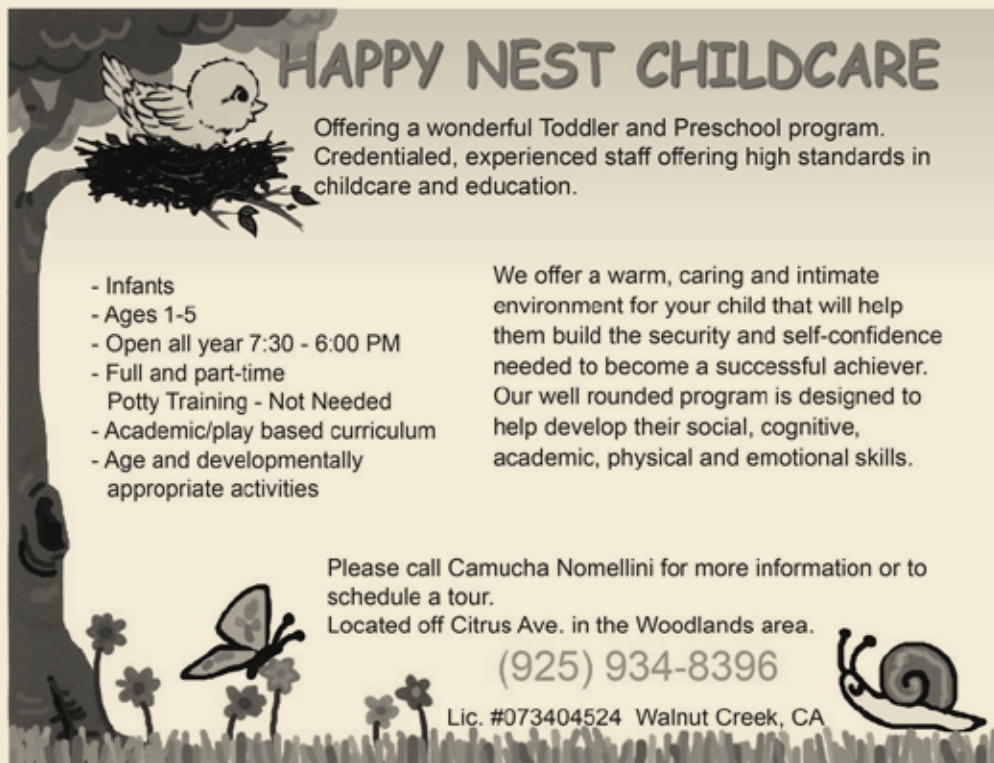
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- ✓ Past Alumni Board President at De La Salle (Class of ‘76)
- ✓ Nearly **three decades** of marketing Walnut Creek real estate
- ✓ “Your Realtor” for Real Estate **Probates, Living Trusts, Short Sales**
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**Bruce Lesser 925-788-6020**

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# YOUR LOCAL HOME REPAIRS

(Formerly Brana Home Repairs)

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Fax: 925-680-8405

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Email: [laure@yourlocalhomerepairs.com](mailto:laure@yourlocalhomerepairs.com)  
[www.yourlocalhomerepairs.com](http://www.yourlocalhomerepairs.com)

## CALL FOR LICENSED CONTRACTOR OR HANDYMAN

### TERMITE WORK

- All necessary work to obtain a clearance

### ELECTRICAL

- Bathroom and Kitchen Fans
  - Wiring
- Fixture Replacement

### PLUMBING

- Repair or Replacement of Broken Pipes
  - Repair of Leaking Pipes
  - New Installations
- Repair Replacement of Washer, Faucets, Commodes, Wax Rings – Water Heaters

### PAINTING

- Exterior – Interior
- Spot Painting After Repairs
- Wall & Ceiling Texturing

### GUTTER WORK

- Clean out Gutters – Installation of gutter screens


### CARPENTRY & DRYWALL

- Installation of Doors, Locks
- Repair Stucco – Drywall
  - Brickwork
- Odds and Ends

### TILE WORK

- New Tile Installation
- Seal and Grout Existing Tile


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Contact [walnutcreekchorus@gmail.com](mailto:walnutcreekchorus@gmail.com)



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Walnut Creek Magazine’s “Best Of 2013”

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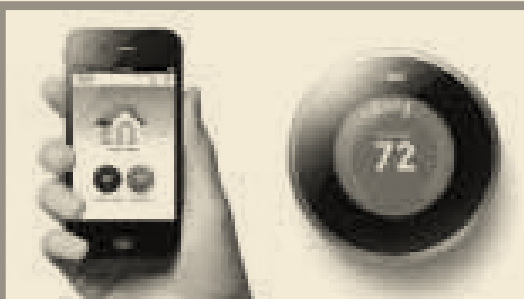
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Walnut Creek, CA 94598

To:

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