

The Woodlands



Keeping You Informed For Over 40 Years

April 2009

Woodlands Board Elections are Coming

As many of you know, the Woodlands Association is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Woodlands through civic activities. The Woodlands Board of Directors is made up of four elected and several appointed positions. As required by the by-laws, the elected positions serve two-year terms. Because of limited membership on the Woodlands Board in the past, many of these positions have been filled by appointment, as allowed by the By-Laws. The July 2009 newsletter will include a ballot that will allow Woodlands residents to vote for Vice President and Treasurer for two-year terms.

The Vice President for the Woodlands Association has assumed several roles over time, as needed. For the foreseeable future, in addition to assuming the duties of the President as necessary, the Vice President will focus primarily on external issues that have the potential to affect the Woodlands. This may involve participation in meetings by the City of Walnut Creek and the Mount Diablo Unified School District when items of interest to the Woodlands are addressed. It also could include coordination with other entities, such as developers or interest groups.

The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining financial records of transactions, preparing summary reports on account status, and preparing annual filings. A background in general accounting is helpful, but not required for this position. As stated in previous articles, both of these positions require about 1 to 2 hours per month in addition to attendance at monthly board meetings.

All residents of the Woodlands over the age 18 are eligible for elected or appointed positions on the Woodlands Boards. Interested candidates should prepare brief (up to 200 words) statements of interest to the Woodlands Board for consideration. Statements of interest for eligible candidates will be printed in the June 2008 newsletter. All submissions should be sent to the Woodlands Board at woodlandsassn@yahoo no later than May 2, 2009

Get Involved in Our Community

In addition to candidates for elected positions, the Woodlands Association is seeking board members to help support general needs. As many of you know, we are an all-volunteer organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Woodlands through civic activities. All Woodlands residents over the age of 18 are eligible to serve on the Board. Currently, we are seeking individuals with interests in communications, advertising, website, and preparing the crime report. If you or someone you know is interested in helping, please contact us at woodlandsassn@yahoo.



Want to Write Something?

As mentioned in the March newsletter, the Woodlands newsletter provides a community service by keeping neighborhood residents informed about issues and events of interest. We encouraged Woodlands residents to submit articles for the newsletter and were pleased to receive several last month including one on neighbor communication, child safety around dogs, bluebird boxes and neighborhood solicitors. This month we have an article on the Cabana Club and glasses for the Lion's Club.

If you would like to contribute an article, please contact us and we will be happy to work with you to help get it edited and published. Our publication guidelines are relatively simple – topics should be of interest to Woodlands residents, the newsletter can not be used as a forum to air issues between individuals, and articles may need to be edited to fit within available space (typical length is 200 words or less). To meet our publication schedule for a monthly newsletter, we have established a closing date of the 10th of each month. To the extent that space is available, articles received and ready for print by the 10th of the month will be published in the next version of the newsletter.

We appreciate your help in making the newsletter as informative, useful, and relevant to Woodlands residents. To submit an article, please write to woodlandsassn@yahoo.com.

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Board email ID's can be found at www.WoodlandsAssn.org

Upcoming Board Meetings

Saturday, April 4th
 at 8:15 am
 and
 Saturday, May 2nd
 at 8:15 am
 in Carl's Jr.
 Conference Room

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings

Extra/Old Glasses - Donate them to the Lion's Club!

A big thank you to all who have faithfully deposited used eye glasses at my home for the Lions Club sight program. You are helping support a worthy cause sponsored by the Lions Club.

We hear the heartwarming stories of gratitude from the volunteers, returning from South and Central America, Mexico and as far away as Sri Lanka, Bosnia and Nepal. There are stories that tell of the gratitude of the recipients. Because of the glasses they have been given the gift of better vision. They are now able to read and to better see the world around them. *Lions use their vision so others may see.* They do this with your help.

If you have a pair of old eye glasses lying in a drawer, we can put them to use. We clean, sort, read and categorize them so they can go with our volunteers to various parts of the globe.

Again, I thank you on behalf of the Lions Club for your many donations. Putting them in the box on my front porch is the first step on a long journey. My address is as follows:

Lion Bill McDonald
3120 Meadow View Lane
Walnut Creek

Member of the Walnut Creek Host Lions Club



NEIGHBORHOOD JEWEL!

By Karen Hokanson

Did you know we have an incredible resource in the Woodlands? A place so special that people drive several miles to visit, and pay for the pleasure? If The Woodlands were a new subdivision, the place wouldn't even exist.

If you guessed the Woodlands Cabana Club, you are right! We are fortunate to not just have a pool, but two separate 25 yard pools and a toddler pool. Additionally, we have a very large grass area and lovely barbecue lanai. Those of you who have used the pool are saying, yeah, yeah, yeah, we know. The reason for this article is to remind you that we cannot take our Cabana Club for granted. It is very special! And it needs to be maintained, which doesn't come cheaply.

As with any physical structure, time and wear and tear take their toll. While the membership dues cover much of the day-to-day costs, we are currently facing some large capital improvements that must be taken care of. Some of these costs are over and above our normal budget. As a result, we will be holding some fun fund raisers this summer, which we hope will become annual events.

The first fundraiser will be the First Annual Woodlands Cabana Club Pancake Breakfast. We invite you to come support your club, visit with friends, swim (the pools will be heated and ready to go!), and enjoy yummy food! You needn't be a member to come. Even if you aren't currently a member, having the property in our neighborhood is highly attractive and adds value to all our homes. If you are a new neighbor, we would love to meet you; you will have the opportunity to experience the Cabana Club first hand. For more details, please see the ad in this edition of the Woodlands Newsletter. To volunteer to help or ask questions, please call Karen Hokanson at 939-2345.

Update on MDUSD Cuts; What's Next?

By Joe Casey

By the time you read this, administrators in the Mt. Diablo school district will have started to implement the collective \$8.4 million in spending cuts from its 2009-10 budget voted on in February. Have a budding musician in the 4th grade? Most likely you'll be looking elsewhere for instruction. If your student-athlete complains that there's talk of their sport being cut, chances are it's because the entire general fund for high school sports has been eliminated from the district budget. And the hits keep coming:

- Elimination of funding for secondary librarians
- Termination of three Instructional Media Assistants at elementary schools
- Elimination of grounds keeping and custodial staffs throughout the district
- Reduction in funding of Art, Music, and Physical Education supplies
- Reduction of Special Education assistants
- Two school Psychologist positions eliminated

Almost fifty activities and programs that support education, after-school, personnel, and administrative functions were impacted by cuts. Future layoffs of teachers and staff are in the works as the board continues to work through financing challenges.

For many worried parents and educators, the only near-term option to save many of the programs and staff cuts is the upcoming Special State Election on May 19. The MDUSD has approved an education funding measure in the form of a \$99 per year parcel tax for the May 19th ballot.

All funds from the parcel tax would be used in our K-12 local schools to support student achievement and a strong academic foundation for our children. There will be independent oversight of the funds, none of the money could be used for central office administrators and the measure would expire after five years and could not be renewed without voter approval. There is also an exemption for seniors. For additional information, please go to the following website: www.protectourlocalschools.org

Free Tax Help Available

AARP-Tax-Aide will be offering free tax preparation assistance to low and middle income taxpayers of all ages beginning in February and ending April 9th at the following Walnut Creek locations:

- Thursdays beginning Feb. 5th from 9am-2pm at Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr. For an appointment, please call 925-943-5851.
- Mondays&Tuesdays beginning Feb. 9th from 9am-3pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Ave. For an appointment, please call 925-938-3387 (press#1).

Be sure to bring all your tax records including W-2's 1099's, social security numbers of people to be listed on your return, your prior year tax return, as well as any other income or deduction support needed for your return.

School News

Foothill Middle School

Source: Foothill E-Gazette 2/18/09, 3/4/09

Parent Patrol

Hi again from your friends Robin and Mary Jo who are coordinating our Parent patrol at FHM this year. We have had good success with scheduling coverage and mostly everyone is able to keep their commitments. We appreciate this as does our school staff and children.

We do still have some days that need parents so please contact us to see what is available for you. The hours are 11:05 to 12:40 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and 11:25 to 12:50 on Wednesday.

The best way to reach us is via e-mail

Robin Bach - robina2z@msn.com

Mary Jo Bernardo - home: 925-933-3531; maryjobernardo@aol.com

Multi-Cultural Day

We are excited to announce that we will have our first Multi Cultural Day on April 23rd! We are planning to have a morning assembly with students dressed in native costumes, sharing native dances or traditions. We are also planning to have the same assembly in the evening for families as well as a pot luck dinner to share cultural food.

We have eight teachers coordinating the project but we would love to have some parent volunteers to help us. If you are interested in helping out in any manner please e-mail Ms. Iglesias at iglesiasn@mdusd.k12.ca.us or Patty Cochran in the office at cochramp@mdusd.k12.ca.us.

We are looking forward to an exciting day to celebrate our diversity at Foothill.

Patty Cochran
Office Manager
Foothill Middle School
939-8600 ext. 5701

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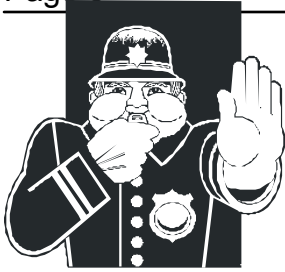
\$40 per person

RSVP TO: Gail Markham by March 15 gailmarkham@sbcglobal.net

Odyssey of the Mind Winners

The Odyssey of the Mind team from Foothill was AWESOME at the regional tournament on Saturday, February 28! The team of Gabi Coloma, Calvin Kirkpatrick, Jade Lee, Sasha Smirnov, and Kimia Zahedi place first in the balsa wood problem. They built a balsa wood structure which only weighed as much as 3 nickels and it supported supported 280 pounds! That's like an ant holding up and elephant! The Foothill team now advances to the State competition which is at Heritage High in Brentwood on April 4. Congratulations to the Foothill team on a terrific job!

Odyssey of the Mind offers kids the opportunity to work on different types of problems ranging from building a vehicle, creating a device to actually do something, building a structure to support weight, and acting out skits. If you or your child might be interested in this incredible program, come to the State tournament and get a preview of just what is involved. You will see things that you would never have thought were possible! For more information on Odyssey of the Mind go to www.odysseyofthemind.com/.



WOODLANDS CRIME REPORT

*Thank you to Judy Jarvis
for compiling this report from the WCPD website*

09-765 01/12/09 08:03:44 Peachwillow Ln / Candleberry Rd Reports Susp Veh: Late Model Cadi @2vgp655/Occ'p By Heavysset Wfa At The Se Corner. Dispo: Located Vehicle Unoccupied. Area Check Negative For Any Evidence Of Criminal Activity. Susp. Circumstance 3 80 Lingua

09-991 01/14/09 17:39:56 300 Bl Conifer Ct Solicitors In The Neighborhood, 1 Bma, 5'8, Thin Build, Drk Colored Polo Shirt, Jeans, 1 Bfa, Heavysset Bro Jacket. Rp States They Were Very Rude. Ls Walking Out Of The Court.. Dispo: Contacted Subjs(Redacted 01) Out Of Wisconsin. Both Had Permits To Sell Magazines. Service To Citizen 3 80 None Assgn.

09-1208 01/17/09 07:18:27 500 Bl Banyan Cr Reporting Car Broken Into In Past Hour, Per Neighbor. 07 Grn Saturn. Poe: Pass Window Smash. Loss: School Bag, Cds, Etc. Dispo: Passenger Window Smash. Occd Between 0600-0700 Hours. Loss: School Bag And Cd's. Burglary 3 80 Olson

09-1536 01/21/09 14:11:36 300 Bl Dogwood Dr Reporting Theft Of Jewelry, Occd Monday 01/19. Rp Suspects House Cleaners That Were There During The Day.. Dispo: Attempting To Contact Suspects (Redacted 01). Investigation Continues. Theft 3 80 None Assgn.

09-1537 01/21/09 14:14:31 3500 Bl Bayberry Dr Req Welfare Check (Redacted 01). Last Saw Him On Saturday, Mail Has Been Piling Up.. Dispo: Checked Residence. No One Home. Todays Paper On Counter In Kitchen. No Signs Of Criminal Activity. Rp Advised. Service To Citizen 3 80 Lingua

09-1709 01/23/09 13:00:39 200 Bl Dogwood Dr Reports A Moving Van Knocked Down Some Power Lines (Or Cable Lines) Moving Van No Longer There. Dispo: Low Hanging Wire Was Hit By A Moving Van. Non Injury Accident 3 80 Olson

09-1755 01/23/09 19:58:31 3200 Bl Peachwillow Ln Janitor Rpts Juvs Nr The Kindergarden Playground Banging On The Sliding Glass Doors. Nfi Rps Phone Disconnected.. Dispo: Contacted Two Juv. (Redacted 01) Transported Them To Grandma's House. Susp. Circumstance 3 80 None Assgn.

09-2129 01/28/09 07:20:37 3500 Bl Bayberry Dr Reporting Theft From Open Garage Door Overnight. Gry Trek Bike And Smaller Red/Blk Bike. Dispo: As Reported. Two Trek Bikes Taken From Open Garage. Occrd Overnight. No Leads. Burglary 3 80 Lingua

09-2387 01/31/09 12:44:17 Citrus Av / Conifer Ct Req Area Check For Wma Wrg Bro Bbcap Tan Jkt Jeans. Acting Suspicious, Was Seen Sitting On The Corner, Then Walking Around The Block. Rp Thinks He's "Out Of Place". Ls 5 Ago.. Dispo: Solicitor(Redacted 01) Was Contacted And Advised That He Can Not Sell Magazines Without A Permit. Service To Citizen 3 80 Olson



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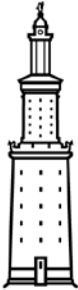
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Please note: the actual sizes below allow for binding/bleed space. Size = height x width in inches

Full Page – 10 x 7.5 - \$80/month

½ Page – 5 x 7.5 - \$45/month

¼ Page – 5 x 3.5 - \$25/month

¼ Page on back cover - \$45/month

1/8 Page – 2.5 x 3.5 - \$15/month

Want Ads - line ad with 30 words or less:

\$5 Woodlands Residents, \$13 Non-Residents

Next Advertising Deadline

**Please submit all ads and
payments for the next issue by**

April 15, 2009

Submission Guidelines

- Please submit your ad in the actual size/dimensions listed above.
- Ad should be formatted with any artwork you want included at the time of submittal.
- If your ad needs layout/design or artwork, there is an additional \$10 design fee.
- We love DIGITAL FILES! If you can provide a digital file of your ad, please email it to Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com. We accept PDF, Microsoft Publisher, and MS Word documents.
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