

The Woodlands

Keeping You Informed For Over 40 Years

December 2006

Foothill Middle School Wins Mt. Diablo League Championships

Our New Wrestling Program is Scoring Big Points

Just over eighteen months ago our head wrestling coach at Northgate, Carlos Sumalong, along with some key Woodlands parents and boosters formed the Walnut Creek Wrestling Club. As we wrote in two earlier newsletter articles, their intent was to give more students exposure to the basics of the sport earlier in their middle and elementary school years... both to give the youth skills at a much earlier age and also to provide a sorely needed feeder system for our Northgate Wrestling Team. As a result, the *Foothill Middle School Wrestling Team* was created and chartered by the new Walnut Creek Wrestling Club.

This has worked beyond all of our expectations and our Foothill team has proven so in winning the **Mt. Diablo League Championships**. Woodlands youth that medaled in the championship event included a 1st place by **Jimmy Sharpe** in his weight class and a 2nd place by **Jordan Landry** in his weight class. The Foothill



Above & Below: Woodlands resident and first place winner in the 108 lb weight class, Jimmy Sharpe.



team garnered 14 medals and six Foothill students won first place in their respective weight classes in the competition.

We are encouraging more Woodlands students of middle school age and also students that will soon be moving in to Foothill from Valle Verde to join the new team. Most training and practice is held at the Foothill Middle School Multi-Use Room. There are no required tryouts or cuts. Students are paired up by weight and ability. Clearly walk-ins and beginners are really encouraged. For timing and details contact Carlos at 639 7163 or carlos@vqfitpros.com. We will publish more on schedules in future newsletters as well.

Please join the Woodlands Association in congratulating Carlos and the dedicated parents that have made this dream a reality. And also a big congratulations to our Woodlands students who have done so well in competition this year. The Woodlands is proud to support our students and athletes.

By J Tilley



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Oh, Those Fall Leaves!

The cool winds are blowing and the trees are showing their beautiful fall colors, which can only mean one thing: lots of leaves to pickup and dispose of. According to the city, each homeowner is responsible for collection and disposal of all leaves that fall on their property. Homeowners should not blow leaves into the street. The green waste container is ideal for leaf disposal. If too many leaves fall for the green waste container consider bagging and saving leaves, then disposing of a couple of bags per week. Mulching is another great option for getting rid of abundant fall leaves. Blowing your leaves into the street and letting the street sweeper pick them up may sound like an easy way to escape the tedium and drudgery of the annual fall ritual, but beware, you could be causing your neighbors and the city undue problems, as well as creating a mildly dangerous environmental situation. Leaf piles in the street of more than two or three inches high will cause street sweepers to clog and malfunction, so the operators are instructed to go around them. So leaves blown into the street stay there until fall winds and rain kick in, creating messes that other neighbors have to clean up. If someone else doesn't clean them up, the leaves generally end up down gradient of the property that created them – blocking a storm drain. Each year the city spends countless hours during storm events cleaning out storm drains blocked with leaves. And what if they don't clog the storm drain? Well, they end up wherever the storm drain leads, which is usually a surface water such as a lake or river. Here they can create something called Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), which creates an oxygen deficient environment in the water and can kill fish and other wildlife. So collect and dispose of those leaves – it creates a nicer neighborhood, less work for neighbors and the city, and helps to protect wildlife!

By John Gregory

Annual Woodlands Garage Sale Thank You

Twenty-five years of the annual Woodlands garage sale activity and it is bigger than ever. Again this year the big neighborhood sale was organized and run by our good friends from Intero Real Estate Services, David Galindo and Jan Williams. From taking hundreds of telephone calls, then handling all the signage, and printing thousands of maps and also door to door delivery of seller packets...they did it once again. We appreciate all their volunteered effort in the Woodlands.

With much thanks,

The board and residents of the Woodlands



Woodlands Association

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

Upcoming Board Meetings

December 2, 2006
January 6, 2007

8:15am in Carl's Jr. Conference Room

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings

Doggone Owners!

Yes, it's that time of year again. Time for our annual reminder to everyone here in the Woodlands that yes, it is a good idea to keep your dog leashed at all times. As a long time dog owner and self proclaimed 'dog person' I know that we like to think of our dogs as people. They have personalities. They seem to know what we are saying. We hate to see them suffer. But in the end they are animals, unpredictable and ruled by instinct. Letting a dog off his leash, especially one that doesn't obey voice commands, is dangerous for the dog and those it encounters. In the last six months, I have seen off leash dogs here in The Woodlands aggressively approach people, attack other on leash dogs, almost be hit by cars and relieve themselves on peoples private property (okay, in at least one case it was my property.)

And, by the way, it also happens to be illegal. County regulation states that, "No person owning, possessing, harboring or controlling any animal shall allow such animal to

be at large, (b) As used in this section 'at Large' means an animal which either: (1) In the case of dogs, not under effective restraint by a leash". Basically the law says you must keep your dog leashed! With all of the reasons to keep a dog on leash it is no wonder that it reflects so poorly on the owner when a dog is off leash. So remember, keep those dogs leashed up at all times!

In Walnut Creek your only option for allowing a dog to run off leash is San Miguel Park, and only during certain hours. For more information on off-leash areas in Walnut Creek, responsible dog ownership, and/or to sign a petition for Walnut Creek to create more off leash dog areas please see the Walnut Creek Dog Owners Group

(WCDog) at www.wcdog.org or the Contra Costa Animal Services Department at: www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/animal/.

By John Gregory



Photo: My dog 'Kona' with friend.

Northgate Pride Update

Please join us in ushering in a new era in Northgate performances:

The new Little Theatre is OPEN! Northgate Pride is pleased to announce the Grand Opening of the new Little Theatre! The theatre is aptly named after Jack De Rieux, a much beloved drama teacher for many years at Northgate. It has been a long-awaited and much anticipated opening and everyone is invited to celebrate! There will be a community-wide Open House event on November 28th from 3:30p.m to 5:30p.m. Please plan to come out, experience the wonder that the new theatre creates for all our performing arts students and our entire Northgate community.

Now, let's get that Track and Field done! The successful completion of the Little Theatre is truly a testament to the dedication of volunteers from Northgate Pride, Northgate High School and the Mt. Diablo School District Board. Without key parent funding, this project could not have come to life. **Now we are in the process of funding another key effort for Northgate High School---the renovation of the Sports Complex to create a new track and playing field for our athletes.** Timing is critical as we have a \$300K grant from the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation that will disappear if we don't raise the \$1M needed from our community---**won't you help?** If every family sends \$500, we can do this for our children. *Let's all come together NOW and help to build a better Northgate!*

Please mail your contributions to NCPF, P.O. Box 1652, Walnut Creek CA 94598

www.northgatepride.org

Woodlands Crime Report

There has been extensive vandalism and damage on and around the barrier between Citrus Marketplace (behind Nob Hill Foods) and the Valle Verde Park next to Valle Verde school. This vandalism has included destroying part of the wall separating the park from the shopping center, starting fires, dumping trash, applying graffiti, damaging ground lighting and the like. One of the attractions to this area is because it cannot be seen from the street and it also offers a short cut to the shopping area by students when the fencing is breached. Youngsters from around the Woodlands have been spotted loitering there frequently. This is not a case of youth coming in from other areas or developments.

Neighbors who are most impacted by the vandalism had contacted the Woodlands Association in September, as well as the shopping center representatives and the police to assess what could be done. The center owners replaced parts of the fencing with relatively weak ornamental material which was immediately destroyed again. Fortunately several neighborhood youth were caught in the act of destroying the fencing by our police and have been arrested and then turned over to their parents.

The neighbors met with the city several times along with two Woodlands Association board members. Included were the center owner representatives, the parks department, city compliance officer, Lou Doty, and Victoria Walker from city planning. So far the barrier has been rebuilt with much stronger materials and the parks department is beginning to strip out some of the low vegetation and trees on the park side so that it is much more visible from the street. The ground lighting on the Nob Hill side is being renewed as well. Hopefully this will begin to resolve itself with the actions taken to date.

The board and neighbors thought the general readership in the Woodlands should know about this situation.

The following incidents that also took place in our neighborhood were pulled directly from the Walnut Creek Police Department Public Log:

11/01/06 01:11:09 PERADA DR / BAYBERRY DR REPORTS GROUPS OF 4 TEENAGERS THROWING PUMPKINS IN NEIGHBORHOOD. SENT HOME.

11/03/06 21:34:12 3200 BL PEACHWILLOW LN REPORTING GROUP OF JUVENILES IN PARKING LOT. W/AT LEAST 1 CAR, PARKED ON PEACHWILLOW. REPORTER THINKS THEY ARE DRINKING, SAW THEM TAKING SOMETHING OUT OF THE CAR TRUNK...JUVENILES CONTACTED ON PLAY-

GROUND, THEY WERE TOLD TO GO HOME.

11/04/06 13:57:32 300 BL ROCK OAK RD 911 HANGUP....DETERMINED VERBAL DISTURBANCE WITHIN FAMILY NO CRIME, CEASED VOLUNTARILY

11/06/06 09:11:31 BANYAN CR LN REPORTS WHITE TOYOTA VAN PARKED IN RED ZONE ON BANYAN CR REPORTER REQ ANON/REFUSED ID

11/06/06 14:27:10 ROCK OAK REQUESTS OFC ADVICE RE: POSSIBLE IDENTITY THEFT. REFERRED BY HER BANK ...SUBJECT BELIEVED A COUNTY PROGRAM WAS USING HER ID ILLEGALLY. ADVICE WAS GIVEN.

11/07/06 23:20:58 OAK GROVE RD / PEACHWILLOW LN REPORTS 2 RECKLESS DRIVERS. VEHs WERE RACING UP AND DOWN OAK GROVE BTWN PEACHWILLOW AND TREAT BL....GONE ON ARRIVAL, CONCORD PD INVESTIGATED SEVERAL VEHICLES AT OAK GROVE PLAZA

11/10/06 13:41:05 3200 BL PEACHWILLOW LN NEAR THE CHILDREN CENTER - STATES RAGS WERE ON FIRE WHICH SHE HAS PUT OUT - RP IN PURPLE SHIRT AND JEANS AND WILL WAIT BY STRUCTURE FOR OFFICER. CFD IS RESPONDING TO MAKE SURE FIRE IS OUT....FIRE REPORTED AT VALLE VERDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. DET. RAGS WERE SET ON FIRE

11/13/06 22:38:55 500 BL BANYAN CR REPORTS 2 SUBJ ON A POCKETBIKE DRIVING THRU THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR THE PAST 15 MIN....AREA CHECK NEGATIVE

Have A Safe & Happy
Holiday Season!

Want Ads

Services

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HAULING COMPANY: Woodlands resident eager to aid neighbors' waste problems! We haul and/or perform additional services such as demolition, garage/shed clean-out, tree trimming, and much more! **CALL US TODAY! (925)934-3743** or visit www.dumploadsonus.com

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YOUR WANT AD
TODAY!**

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(MARC)**

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Original Glass Christmas/Holiday Ornaments Available from Woodlands Artisan. Contact Tom Mahon for appointment to view selection, or have made to order: (925) 200-5165; tmahon3@earthlink.net.

Found

FOUND Bicycle. Please call Cindy to claim 932-5324.

Youth Services

VIOLIN LESSONS: I can give violin lessons to beginners on weekends. I have been playing violin for 10 years and I am a member of the Northgate High School Orchestra. I also played in various orchestra groups in Berkeley and Walnut Creek. Please call Andrew Lee 934-8868

ATTENTION WOODLANDS YOUTH: Do you offer lawn care, babysitting, Christmas light hanging or other services? You can place a want ad in the Woodlands Newsletter for FREE! This offer is only available to youth who currently reside in the Woodlands. Call Marc Graves at 932-1574 or email your ad to madmacsdad@aol.com



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