

The Woodlands



Keeping You Informed For Over 40 Years

February 2010

The Woodlands Website: Looking Better Than Ever!

By Brian Rower – Many thanks for all your hard work! - Woodlands Association

To ring in the new decade, the Woodlands Association has put a new face on our website! The website has a great new look and has been reorganized to help you find things faster. If you're looking for something specific, the site now has a handy search bar. If you haven't visited the Woodlands website in a while, I invite you to take a look.

Was there a recipe in last month's newsletter that you wanted to try out, but you accidentally recycled your newsletter? You're in luck! The monthly newsletters are easily accessible from our website. We have newsletters dating back to 1972, as well as each month's current newsletter, posted as soon as it becomes available.

Curious about the history of the Woodlands area? The Woodlands website is home to a rich collection of the community's history. For example, if you browse on over to the web page and click the "History" link, you'll find pictures of the original McKay Homes' brochure for The Woodlands. If you move down to the Photo Albums link, you'll find a listing of photo albums from the Fourth of July parade as early as 1978. We also have posted news articles that have been published about the Woodlands and its residents, as well as much more.

Looking to do some remodeling or repairs around your house? The website has a collection of home improvement tips, like where to find the user's manual for your dish washer that you need to fix, how to replace your kitchen cabinets, and how to replace that old carpet with wood flooring.

The website provides great access to information and links about local attractions and entertainment from all over the bay area. The website is also a great tool for individuals and families looking to move to the area. We offer links to job sites, local organizations, school and school districts, youth centers, sports leagues, and transportation recourses.

Wanting to get more involved with the Woodlands Association? Find the date and time for the next board meeting on our home page and come join us, or click the "Contact Us" link to view the list of board members and how to contact them.

So, if you haven't already, head over to WoodlandsAssn.org and check out our newly remodeled web site. And if you have any comments or recommendations please let me know at brower@woodlandsassn.org



Free Tax Help Available

AARP Tax-Aide, sponsored by the Family Economic Security Partnership and the Earn It! Keep It! Save It! will be offering free tax preparation services for those who earned less than \$52,000 in 2009. Their efforts are focused on senior citizens. Dates and times vary, so please call to make an appointment. The services will be offered starting in early February at the following Walnut Creek locations:

- Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr., 925-943-5851.
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Ave., 925-979-5013.
- Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., 925-405-6278.

Be sure to bring all your tax records including Form W-2's, 1099's, your prior year tax return (call the number above for specific documents needed).

Want to Write Something?

The Woodlands newsletter provides a community service by keeping neighborhood residents informed about issues and events of interest. We encourage Woodlands residents to submit articles for the newsletter and we regularly receive articles that are published in the newsletter.

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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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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Newsletter printed by
Minuteman Press
 (925) 256-6444

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

Upcoming Board Meetings

Saturday, February 6th
 at 8:15 am
 and
Saturday, March 6th
 at 8:15 am
 in Carl's Jr.
 Conference Room

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings

Chinese Lunar New Year: The Year of the Tiger

By Jessica Williams – I am writing from a Malaysian perspective and I am a Tiger!

It's "Gong Xi Fa Cai" time as people of Chinese descent usher in the year of the Tiger, according to the Lunar Calendar. On the Western calendar, the start of Chinese New Year falls on **Sunday, February 14, 2010**. This year, (Lunar Year 4707), the date has special significance since it also happens to fall on Valentine's Day, making it a doubly auspicious day to celebrate in the West.

Preparation for New Year's Day always starts weeks earlier with traditional spring cleaning. The house is given a new coat of paint, hedges trimmed, lawn mowed, and so forth. The pantry is well stocked with staples to ensure a bountiful year and an abundance of meals. The ingredients used are symbolic of good health, longevity, good luck, harmony, etc.

The eve of the New Year holds a special significance for the Chinese as reunion dinners are held. It is a time to foster family relationships and renew family ties when all members return for the dinner no matter where they are. It is also a time for merry making with food and wine flowing generously. For many, it is a time for recollection of the past year's achievements and plans for the year ahead.

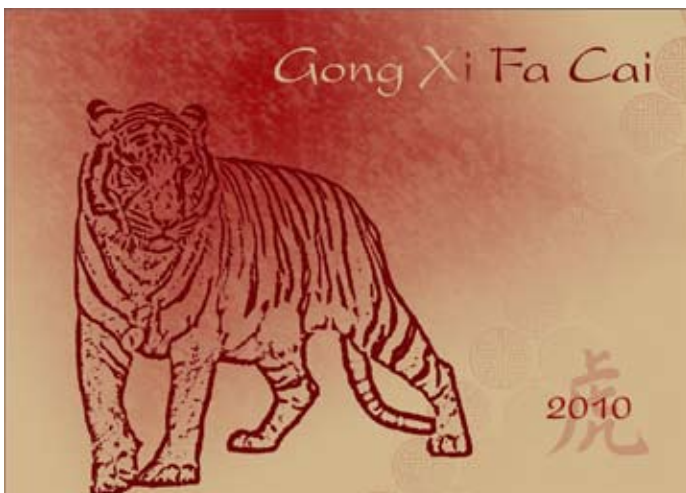
In the past, Chinese New Year celebrations were noisy affairs. Firecrackers were burned during the eve of Chinese New Year to frighten off bad spirits throughout the fifteen days of celebrations.

Three important items are a familiar sight: the 'Nien Ko' (a sticky brownish colored glutinous cake), 'Kum' (mandarin oranges, its Chinese word sounds like "gold"), and 'Fatt Ko' (a steamed flour cake, its name synonymous with 'prosperity').

Children are supposed to greet their parents with "Gong Xi Fa Cai", meaning "Congratulations And May Prosperity Be Yours", in the morning. 'Ang Pows' (red packets containing money) are given to children and to those who are still single as a gift of prosperity and well wishes for the coming year.

Taboos are always observed during the first day of the New Year. The floor must not be swept as it is believed the broom will sweep away the good luck and fortune of the New Year. Clothes are also not washed on the first day. Black should not be worn as it is a color associated with mourning. In speech, one should avoid cursing or uttering words such as death or bad luck.

In Malaysia, as in the practice on all festive occasions, 'open houses' are held by those who celebrate Chinese New Year. Friends, colleagues, and relatives are welcomed to join in the festivities. There is always an array of sweetmeats, brightly colored sweets/candy, "kuachi" melon seeds dyed red to symbolize "joy, happiness, truth, and sincerity", candied melon for growth and good health, etc., - all presented in a "Tray of Togetherness", to ensure the New Year starts off sweetly! "*Gong Xi Fa Cai*"



Birth Years: 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 (per Western calendar)

Like the tiger, you are one of the most caring and thoughtful signs in the Chinese zodiac.

Traits: Short-tempered, Suspicious, Adventurous, Sensitive, Emotional, Risk-taking.

Compatible With: Horses, Dogs. **Avoid:** Monkeys

Famous Tigers: Sun Yat Sen, Queen Elizabeth II, Isadora Duncan, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Marilyn Monroe, Marco Polo, Beatrix Potter, Karl Marx, Emily Bronte, Ludwig van Beethoven.

Safety in the Neighborhood

By Ed Wohlers

With the winter rains upon us, we thought it would be a good idea to remind people of several tips to maintain safety in the neighborhood. Remember to:

- Slow down. It takes longer for your car to stop on wet streets.
- Watch for pedestrians and bicyclists especially when approaching cross walks
- Short absences:
 - Make your home look occupied. Leave some lights or a radio on while your out (even for a short time).
- Prolonged absences:
 - Be sure to tell your neighbors when you leave for extended periods of time so that they can be especially vigilant of any suspicious activity.
 - Stop your newspapers and mail while you're gone. The postal service will hold your mail while you're gone or have one of your neighbors collect it until you return.
 - Ask a neighbor or friend to take out/bring in your trash cans on pick up days.
 - Schedule a vacation house check with the WC Volunteer Police Services Unit. This is a free service offered to residents of Walnut Creek. To schedule a house check, call 925-256-3525, or schedule it online at http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/police/vacation_house_checks.asp
- Protect your house by using good lighting and locking doors, gates, windows and garages.
- Don't hide a key outside. Criminals know all the hiding places.
- Consider getting a dog. Even a small dog can be a deterrent to a burglar.

Finally, consider setting up a neighborhood watch with your neighbors. If you see any suspected criminal activity, you can contact the Walnut Creek Police Department at 925-935-6400 or 911 in an emergency.

Boogie, Blues and Jazz Concert

The Second Friday Concert Series at Walnut Avenue United Methodist Church continues to be a great success. On January 8th, the local bluegrass group OMGG performed to a standing room only crowd.

February 12th, the concert series features Sam Rudin on piano. As described by a concert flyer from Anna's Jazz Island in Berkeley: "Sam plays with the rhythmic intensity of an entire band, romping through the whole range of 20th century American music. He can evoke the spirit of Fats Waller, Oscar Peterson, Mose Alison and Jerry Lee Lewis, sometimes all at the same time."

Lee Hildebrand of *East Bay Express* describes Sam as "A master of musical Americana...his scope is near limitless... enormous talent."

We are very lucky to have Sam Rudin at our 2nd Friday Concert Series here in Walnut Creek. Don't miss the opportunity to hear this musical genius!

The 2nd Friday Concert Series
Friday, February 12
7:30 PM
Walnut Avenue United Methodist Church
260 Walnut Avenue, Walnut Creek 94598

\$10/person; (no more than) \$25/family
Tickets sold at the door
Free Parking! Free childcare!

School News

Foothill News

Source: e-Gazette January 6, 2010

PARENT PATROL UPDATE

Thanks to all the parents who have committed their time to lunch supervision. Parent presence in the quad is a necessary asset for both the VP and campus supervisors and makes a difference in student lunch time safety. To maintain this safety, we could use more parents for the sub list in case a scheduled parent has a conflict arise or their child is sick. If you have the flexibility to be an on call sub, contact Anne O'Donoghue at adonoghue@astound.net or Faye Mettler gmettler@astound.net and we will add your name to the contact list.

Anne O'Donoghue and Faye Mettler, Parent Patrol co-chairs

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Use the **eScrip Online Mall** to shop at over 1,000 of your favorite online merchants and earn up to 16% for Foothill. It's as easy as 1-2-3

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While you are at the **Online Mall**, **Download "AutoEARN"** to earn contributions every time you shop without having to visit the Online Mall first! Any questions, please give me a call or send me an e-mail. Lynn Branson, eScrip Coordinator 939-7073 or Foothill_MS_Escrip@yahoo.com

Valle Verde Elementary

Source: e-Voice January 2010

WANTED: YARD SUPERVISORS

Valle Verde students are in need of supervision during lunchtime. Can anyone help?

- Flexible schedules, 1-2 days per week
- Mom friendly hours, 11:30-1:00 pm
- Earn extra money - \$11.26 per hour
- Touch base with your child mid day!
- Get to know your school better!
- Get to know your children better.
- Provide a much needed service to Valle Verde & be a valued member of the Valle Verde Staff

If this sounds like the opportunity you have been waiting for please make an appointment to interview with Carolyn Kreuzscher. Openings are available now! Come into the office for a packet.

THE SCIENCE FAIR IS COMING, THE SCIENCE FAIR IS COMING: 2/23

It's almost time for Vikings to put on their lab coats and start experimenting. Please note the following:

1. The Science Fair is mandatory for grades 4 & 5, but optional for grades K-3
2. Free project boards are available in the office.
3. An informational meeting is scheduled for January 11 at 7 pm in the MUR.
4. Proposals for 4th and 5th grade projects are due January 13.
5. Projects are due in class on February 17 (for 4th and 5th graders).
6. Science Fair is in the MUR on February 23 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.



KINDERGARTEN PRE-REGISTRATION: 2/2



Kindergarten Pre-Registration will begin Tuesday, February 2, 2010 between 9 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Registration packets are available from the office. For the first time, per our District's guidelines, registration will be on a first come, first serve basis. We will be handing out numbers beginning at 8:00am, to avoid long lines.

In order to enroll your child in kindergarten, these are the requirements:

Your child **needs to be 5 years old** on or before December 2, 2010

Original or certified copy of child's birth certificate: or other **official** documentary proof of child's birth date (*sorry, hospital birth certificates are not acceptable*). If possible, please bring us a copy for our records-It is required that we see the original, which will be returned to you.

Immunization Records- The following immunizations are needed:

- 4 doses of Polio at any age--3 doses ok if 3rd given on/after 4th bday)
- 5 doses of DPT at any age--4 doses ok if 4th given on/after 4th b'day
- 2 doses of MMR-Measles, Mumps and Rubella (BOTH after age 1)
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- 1 dose of Varicella (Chickenpox) or **medical** proof child had the disease

Please note: to pre-register, your child does NOT need to have the complete dosage, but must have them started.

Children must obtain a health examination, signed by a physician. **This physical is required to enter 1st grade**, and children without it will be excluded from school. Physicals are valid for 18 months, so if they are dated at least 6 months before entering Kindergarten (March, 2010 or after), they will be valid for 1st grade the following year. We provide you with a form, but any doctor's physical form is acceptable. Due to time requirements, children may be pre-registered without such evidence which can be presented at school prior to the start of school.

Proof of address. Three (3) documents are now required, such as: Current valid vehicle registration, recent tax returns, current voter registration receipt, communication from a government agency, property tax bill, rental or lease agreement, affidavit of residence, payroll stubs or check, current CA driver's license, valid passport, current CA ID card. One of the documents **must** be a photo ID.



Bronco Baseball Academy

2010 Summer Camps Schedule and Application

2010 Summer Camps

- Spring Training Camp:** April 4 - 6, 2010 (In grades 3 - 7)
 - o 9:00 - 12:00pm at Northgate High School (\$75)
- Beginner Camp:** Monday, June 14, 2010 (Entering Grades 1 - 3)
 - o 2:00 - 5:00pm at Northgate High School (\$30)
- Advanced Camp:** June 15 - 18, 2010 (Entering Grades 7 - 9)
 - o 9:00 - 12:30pm at Northgate High School (\$120)
- Day Camp #1:** June 21 - 25, 2010 (Entering Grades 3 - 7)
 - o 9:00 - 12:00pm at Northgate High School (\$120)
- Day Camp #2:** June 27 - July 2, 2010 (Entering Grades 3 - 7)
 - o 9:00 - 12:00pm at Northgate High School (\$120)
- Day Camps #1 and #2:** Sign up for *both* summer Day Camps and get the second Day Camp half off! (\$180 - a \$60 discount!)

TUITION: Checks made payable to BRONCO BASEBALL.

Bronco Baseball Academy (BBA) was established in 2001 by Northgate High School's baseball coach, Jon Campopiano, and provides week long summer day camps and weekend skill camps during the school year. BBA camps are a great opportunity for boys and girls in grades 1 - 9 to learn to play better baseball and softball from their future high school coaches.

Players will have fun playing with their peers, develop the skills needed for success, and become more prepared for their upcoming leagues, games, and tournaments. The camps are designed to be fun, competitive, and focused on fundamentals like pitching, catching, fielding, throwing, hitting, and base running.

The camps are open to players of all skill levels and the high instructor-to-player ratio guarantees that every player - whether a beginner or future All-Star - will receive the attention they require. Players will be grouped by age, size, and ability to assure maximum competition, development, and enjoyment.

Player Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Parent Name _____

Parent E-mail Address (for confirmation) _____

Home Phone _____ Emergency Phone _____

Grade and School in September 2010 _____ Current Age _____

I hereby give my consent for my child to participate in all activities at the Bronco Baseball Academy camps at Northgate High School. I declare that my child is in good physical condition. I hereby give the staff of the Bronco Baseball Academy permission to render such medical and hospital care as, in their judgment, may seem advisable for my child. I hereby state that we have adequate medical coverage and will not hold the staff of the Bronco Baseball Academy liable for any injuries incurred during the camps.

Insurance Company _____ Insurance Policy Number _____

Allergies or Medical Notes _____

Parent Signature _____

Send full payment (made payable to BRONCO BASEBALL) and this completed application to:

Northgate High School
Bronco Baseball Academy
c/o Jon Campopiano
425 Castle Rock Road
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Or register online at:
www.BroncoBaseballAcademy.com

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References Please Call **Paul Fleck 676-6607**

MONEY MANAGEMENT FOR TEENAGERS

- Individual and small group instruction available
- Enrollment now open
- Taught by Richard Gross, MBA, CMFC, CFP
- E-mail rggross@astound.net or call 925-876-0492 for more information.

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mark.bucklew.b8ub@statefarm.com
Bus: 510-724-5432



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Contact Marc Graves 925-336-6272 or Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com

Advertising Rates & Sizes

MARC

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

February 15, 2010

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.
- If you only have a paper copy of your ad, please mail it and the payment to:
Woodlands Association, PO Box 31085, Walnut Creek, CA 94598
- Payment is due when you submit your ad. Please make checks payable to “Woodlands Association” and mail to:
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