

The Woodlands



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January 2008

~ The Lakewood District, Walnut Creek ~

By Catherine Accardi

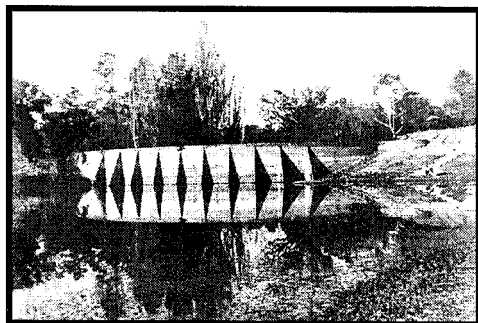
The boundaries of the Lakewood District in Walnut Creek are approximately the area of Marshall Drive to the north, Walnut Boulevard on the south, Shell Ridge Open Space on the east, and Ygnacio Valley Boulevard on the west.

This area abounds in history. The earliest known residents of the Lakewood area were the Bolbones Indians. The first recorded owner of Lakewood was Dona Juana Sanchez de Pacheco. Ygnacio Sibrian, Dona Juana's grandson, and Dona Juana were the first permanent residents of the area. Ygnacio's home was an adobe hacienda, built in 1836, and located at what is now 1056 Hacienda Drive. Nearby Ygnacio Valley Boulevard bears his name.



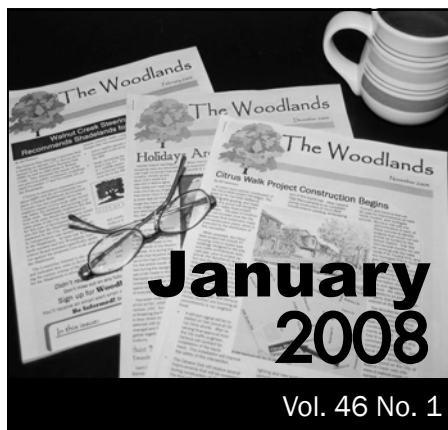
Several years later, he took out a "homestead" on what is now Indian Valley and Lakewood. Ygnacio sold his home, in 1860, to William Rice, who bought 1,516 acres for \$15,000. The Rice home is pictured on the left. This house was built in 1886 at 1056 Hacienda Drive.

In later years, the house looked as pictured on the right. Mr. Rice, and his family, lived here and farmed the land until 1908 when the parcel was sold to neighbor Robert Noble Burgess for \$75,000.



Robert Burgess built the Lakewood dam, pictured on the left, in 1909. The vegetation, including magnolias and buckeyes, were planted which gives Lakewood its character to this day. The trees, selected for their various shades of green, were chosen from a list recommended by the University of California.

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Proposed Development of the Safeway Property in Shadelands

The City of Walnut Creek Planning Commission is beginning their review of a proposed major development in the Shadelands Business Park. Triad Partners, of Irvine, has proposed a 5-building medical office complex on the vacant 11.85 acre site at the corner of Oak Grove and Ygnacio that would provide 137,000 square feet of new office space. The site would include two and three story buildings in this 'Gateway' (entrance to Walnut Creek) location.

As indicated by information on the City web site, the developer has completed several initial studies regarding trees, environmental impacts, and use permits. The City also has determined that the proposed development is consistent with current zoning requirements, and therefore can be approved by the Planning Commission without action by City Council.

A study session to review the project was scheduled for the December 13 Planning Commission meeting. Because other scheduled issues required more time, this item was postponed to the January 10, 2008 meeting. The Planning Commission meetings are held in Council Chambers at City Hall. Meetings generally begin at 7:00 pm, although the January 10 meeting may be started at 6:00 due to a large agenda. If you plan to go, please check the Contra Costa Times Walnut Creek Journal section on January 10 to get the most recent information on the meeting. Background information on the proposed development is available on the City of Walnut Creek web site. Follow links to the Planning Commission, select the agenda for the December 13 meeting, and follow the links to the attachments, which include some of the background.

At this time, we do not have a lot of details about the proposed project, or the Planning Commission views on it. Because this project would be a major development in the Shadelands and would be considered a 'Gateway' project, it should receive considerable review. Based on initial information, we have lots of questions about how traffic issues will be handled in an area that already fails to provide the design level of service. Other issues that have been raised include the value of the current open space for wildlife and recreation. We do not know how quickly this project will return to the Planning Commission for approval, but encourage everyone with an interest to get involved by attending the Planning Commission study session on January 10. *By Bill Swanson*

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

Upcoming Board Meetings

Saturday, January 5th
and
Saturday, February 2nd

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

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings

School News

Source: Foothill e-Gazette 12/5/07

From the Foothill Library

Grade 8 will meet on Wed. Jan. 9 to talk about *The Schwa Was Here* by Shusterman.

Grade 7 will meet on Wed. Jan. 9 to talk about *Worth* by LaFaye.

Grade 6 will meet on Friday. Jan. 11 to talk about *Worth*.



Many 7th and 8th grade English teachers are giving extra credit for reading the Book Club selection and attending the meeting. Students should check with their teachers about this possibility.

Save books those books that have been read and sitting around for a Book Exchange in March.

The **Young Author's Showcase** was established to encourage children to write, illustrate and bind their own books. Selected books will be exhibited and medals awarded at the Celebration GALA at Ygnacio Valley High School on May 14, 2008. All entries are due to the Library by April 2, 2008. Memories of special events, people, pets and trips taken can often be saved when written and bound into a book. This can be a wonderful project over the holidays. The 8th grades had a very nice author visit and book signing with author, Scott Westerfeld, who wrote the science fiction *Uglies* series.

The **California Writers Association** sponsors a writing contest open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in Contra Costa County. Winning manuscripts from each grade level will be chosen for short stories and poems. First prize of \$100. \$50 for second prize and \$25 for third prize will be awarded. The Betty Tenney Essay Award of \$100 will be given to the best essay in each of grades 6, 7, and 8. Prizes will be presented to winners at an evening banquet on May 18th, at the Pleasant Hill Community Center where a published children's author will speak. Deadline for submission is 4/01/2008. Download the entry form at <http://mtdiablownriters.org/youngWritersForm.pdf> or pick it up at the library.

Sports Activities



Keep up to date with Griffin Sports by visiting the

sports page on the Foothill PFA website at <http://www.mdusd.k12.ca.us/foothill/staff/pfa/Sports.htm>.

Foothill Sports Signup forms can be picked up in the Sports office after school in the Foothill Gym open 2:30-6:00 Monday through Friday (opens 1:30 on Wednesdays) or contact Donald Scully III (256-3539) or call the Sports Hotline at 925-943-5899 x7586.

Interested in a Girls basketball Camp in your neighborhood? Want to meet Northgate's Varsity players and coaches? Northgate Girls Basketball program is proud to present "Play Hard Academy" for Jr. Hoopers grades 3rd - 8th. Improve your basketball skills while meeting the Northgate coaching staff and varsity players. Sign up NOW @ <http://www.leaguelineup.com/calstars/files/Play%20Hard%20Academy.pdf>!

Calendar

Winter Break is from December 21-January 7th!

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Foothill Career Day

Career Day will be held on Tuesday, April 8th, 2008.



Students will have the opportunity to hear speakers from a variety of different professions. More details will be forthcoming.

If you are interested in being a volunteer or a speaker for Career Day, or know of someone who will like to participate, please contact any of the co-chairs listed below:

Gladys Moore ; Carolyn Dossa ; or Petra Chequer .

Gate

The San Francisco Chronicle had an article about the organization that the 7th grade GATE students will be working with on Wednesday, January 9, 2008 from 1:30 - 5:00PM in the Delta on the SS Brown Lee.

Educational nonprofit uses oil spill in science lessons.

The San Francisco Chronicle (11/17, Tucker) reported that California's Marine Science Institute, an educational nonprofit that has spent thirty years sailing students into San Francisco Bay "for hands-on science sessions," has made a November 7 oil spill in the bay "and its potential impact on the bay's ecosystem" into "part of the lesson plan." The Institute guides students through gathering data on the species of wildlife found in the bay, which it then provides to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "to help federal officials analyze the effects of the fuel." Teacher Renee Demirdjian of San Francisco's Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory High School said that a recent trip into the bay with her class "showed students that collecting scientific baseline data -- a typical and sometimes boring classroom assignment -- really does matter in the real world."

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The clubhouse, called the Guesthouse, was designed by the famous Berkeley architect, Julia Morgan. It was built near the dam at the north end of the lake. A housekeeper was on duty to make meals. There were accommodations for guests. Swimming and fishing were available on the lake, which was kept stocked with fish. The Guesthouse is now a private residence at 35 Pino Crest. The first houses and were constructed with water repellent adobe brick made in Lakewood.



After WWII, Burgess subdivided his walnut grove in the lowlands into two tracts: Lakewood Village in 1940, and Homestead Ranch in 1945. In the 1950's, the Lakewood community grew from a few houses to 250 homes. In the 1950's, Mr. Burgess sold most of his properties.

The Lakewood properties are now maintained by a 52 member/owner Lakewood Association. Fishing and boating are still the main recreational activities for owners. The lake is still stocked with fish. A barbeque area and a sandy beach have been added.

Pictured on the right is the former Burgess house at 1066 Hacienda Street as it stands today. Originally constructed in 1886, it was renovated in 1987, and has seven rooms on two floors. The house is said to have nine basements, the result of additions through the years. For a time, the house was known as The Mansion Inn at Lakewood, and was opened as a bed and breakfast inn. The Inn has since closed. The house is now a private residence.



Sources: **A Brief History of Lakewood** by Turalu Reed Brady.
Walnut Creek, Arroyo De Las Nueces by George Emanuels
Photographs: Walnut Creek Historical Society

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MARC

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- 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
January 15, 2008

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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