



The Woodlands

March 2005

The Woodlands:

Walnut Creek's First "Disaster Wise Neighborhood"

By Gayle Vassar, Walnut Creek Community Relations Officer

The November pipeline explosion in downtown Walnut Creek was a reminder that emergencies can happen anywhere, at any time. In the event of a major catastrophe, such as an earthquake, experts say that residents are likely to be on their own for the first 72 hours.

To help citizens prepare for such an event, the City of Walnut Creek is launching the "Disaster Wise Neighborhoods" program and is inviting Woodlands residents to be the first to participate with a special presentation at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23 at Valle Verde Elementary School.

"Disaster Wise Neighborhoods" is actually a three-phase program that gives people the know-how to take care of themselves, their families and their neighbors in the event of a disaster. Residents are encouraged to take

part in all three phases, although each stands alone.

Phase One is an hour-long Disaster Preparedness presentation by the Con-

Save The Date!

FREE 1 Hour Disaster Preparedness Presentation
March 23, 2005, 7:00 p.m.
at Valle Verde Elementary
Multi-Use Room

tra Costa Fire Department and the City of Walnut Creek, featuring the Red Cross video "Earthquake! Do Something!," hands-on lessons in turning off utilities, information on creating Disaster Survival Kits and details on Community Emergency Response Team training.

The Disaster Preparedness Presenta-

tion will be from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 23 at Valle Verde Elementary School, 3275 Peachwillow Lane.

Phase Two is the 20-hour "Community Emergency Response Team" training. Through CERT, you will learn how to extinguish small fires, perform light search and rescue, treat life-threatening conditions, and create a Neighborhood CERT team.

Finally, Phase Three is a citywide Emergency Preparedness Fair, to be held Sept. 11 at Civic Park. Look for more information on this informative event as it draws nearer!

For further information, or to register for a CERT class, call Community Relations Officer Gayle Vassar at 943-5899 ext. 189.

More information about CERT can be found on the City website, www.walnut-creek.org/community.

Announcing The "Official" Woodlands Website!

Visit us on the web at:

www.WoodlandsAssn.org

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Woodlands Youth

School Budget Cutbacks

As we have all likely recognized by now, school costs are exceeding revenues in the district and needless to say costs that exceed revenues must be cut somewhere. Mount Diablo Unified School District is still assessing where to cut back based on local and state funding shortfalls. The actual cutback target is about \$4 million across the district for the following school year. The district must have its plan in place by the end of March 2005. At the most recent board meetings, neighbors, teachers and students alike were clearly being heard.

The February 8th school district board meeting had an incredible standing-room-only turnout and resulted in the district taking both Northgate's upper level foreign language courses and 5th grade music at Valle Verde off the district's cut list. Valle Verde's fourth grade music program is still under consideration.

At this newsletter deadline, items still included on the cut list are librarians, nurses and even one

of the shared psychologists in the district. It is clear that having your voices heard by the actual decision makers on the board continues to be extremely important and makes a real difference in their priorities.

The Woodlands Association board urges all our Woodlands neighbors to understand the proposed cuts as outlined on the school district website. See www.mdusd.k12.ca.us and you will find this subject on their front

page along with the scheduled open board meetings. Please make yourselves heard. Attend the board meetings and also write the school district board executives.

Their eMail IDs include:
Richard W. Allen - President
rwallen@ca.astound.net
Linda K. Mayo - Vice President
mayolk@aol.com

A special thanks to Noah Zaves & Natalie McKenna from Northgate for their input.

By J Tilley

High School Exit Exam Becomes a Reality

You probably all recall that we passed a state law in 1999 that all public high school students must pass an exit exam to graduate with a diploma. It has now become a reality for all our students that are scheduled to graduate after this year. The requirement was waived for the class of 2005 but the school district has just sent a letter out to high school and middle school

parents that the exit exam will not be waived for students graduating from Northgate after 2005.

The high school exit exam covers both English-language arts and Mathematics. The English part includes California standards through grade ten and the Mathematics part includes California standards through grade seven plus Algebra I. Of course students

planning to enter college or university will need to meet additional requirements.

Students will normally take the High School Exit Exam in the spring of their tenth grade year. If a student does not pass any of the individual parts of the exam, they will have up to five opportunities to retake those parts not passed earlier. Parents and guardians

should review the standards required for English and Mathematics. To help your student achieve these standards... Encourage reading and review your student's writing skills... Always expect homework to be completed... Enroll in Algebra by the eighth grade... Actively review your student's progress with their teachers... and the like.

Do visit the California High School Exit Examination site at www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/ where you will find testing dates, frequently asked questions and general administrative information.

New Middle School After-School Program

The Creek, A Middle School Youth Center will be opening at Foothill Middle School in September 2005. This will be the first time that middle school afterschool care will be

available in the local community. The Creek will be open to all youth in grades 6th -8th in the surrounding area. The Creek will begin early registration **March 10th -March 31st.**

For more information and program application go to www.thecreekyouthcenter.org.

Valle Verde



BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION

Clip and save for
VALLE VERDE ELEMENTARY
Drop off at the school office.

Too busy?

Call Nancy Schott 935-8349 or
Liz Williams 935-1135 to pick them up.

Foothill

**5th Grade
Parents Night**

For all incoming students!

March 8, 2005

7 p.m. in the multiuse room

Northgate

Hey Seniors!!

*Don't forget these
important dates...*

March 10-11

Senior Fashion Show

7pm Little Theatre

March 18 Senior Banquet

Community News

Notes From The Woodlands...

We want to thank you for all your great comments and healthy feedback over the past six months. You can probably tell that all our board members have been quite busy with all the projects and issues that impact the quality of life in the Woodlands.

One item of good news is that we are opening our Woodlands Association website with the delivery of this newsletter. This website is opening on the 40th anniversary year of our Woodlands Association. Hard to believe that our homes are all about 40 years old now.

Now that we have this new website, we really want to fill in some of the history of the Woodlands from our many neighbors that have been here all along. Just about every block has a neighbor or two that have been here since the Woodlands was originally developed.

Please, please send us stories, old Woodlands newsletters and any bits of history that we can save and illustrate on our new website. Just as important, we are looking for some great photographs of people and scenes in the Woodlands from the past 40 years. I'm sure there are photos in your albums from the parades,

the block parties, Halloween, the Cabana Club, the swim team and the like. Even pictures of the old lumber yard where Nob Hill now stands...

As this year progresses, the board will continue to stay close to developments with our school budget constraints as they impact Northgate, Foothill and Valle Verde. Also we will keep you posted on how our own Woodlands Association Fund continues to supplement key capital investment projects that were never part of our school district plans. We'll certainly continue to keep close to the Shadelands Business Park plans as they are laid down by the Walnut Creek General Plan Steering Committee. Just as important, we will continue to encourage each of you to make your voices heard with the decision makers at both the city and at our school district.

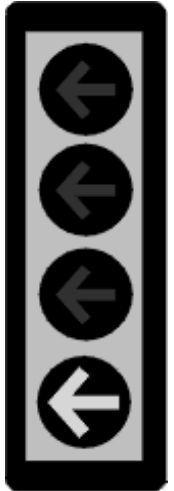
As I wrote in my first note to you back in October, our board continues to seek your ideas and opinions on what is important to you to help guide what we do. We continue to look forward to making a difference.

Sincerely,

James Tilley, President

Citrus Protected Turn Signal Coming Soon

As you may have read in the November 2004 issue of the Woodlands Newsletter, The Woodlands Association entered into agreements with the builder and developer of the Citrus Walk Project. One of those agreements was that the builder (DeNova Homes) and developer (Trumark) would install a protected left turn signal on Oak Grove at Citrus Drive. We are happy to inform you that the installation is scheduled to take place the first part of March 2005. Be on the lookout for this new safety measure!



Reminder

The Cabana Club will open May 7, 2005

**Swim Team Sign-Ups are
Saturday, March 12, 2005 8:30 am at the club**

Update on Citrus Walk Development

DeNova homes is expecting to substantially complete the first phase of the Citrus Walk development at the end of March. The first phase will complete 27 homes (of the 47). They expect to open a sales office for the development in April (pending weather conditions). Pricing for the homes has not been released at this time.

Woodlands Board of Directors

James Tilley, President
Bruce Katz, Vice President
Bill Swanson, Vice President
Betty Maire, Secretary/Treasurer
Ed Wohlers, Special Projects
Steve Elster, Special Projects
Shawn Rizzo, Editor

Next Board Meetings:
March 5, 2005 @ 9:15am
April 2, 2005 @ 9:15am
Carl's Junior Conference Room



Board Member Profile:

Bill Swanson

My wife, Barbara, and I moved to the Woodlands in late 1996 and took on a renovation project that is still underway. We have no children and enjoy the quality of the neighborhood. In my career as a water resources engineer, I am often involved in controversial development and natural resources management issues. A few years ago, I was asked to join the Woodlands Association Board to assist in our strategy regarding the Citrus Walk Project and to press for an outcome that would be mutually beneficial to the Woodlands, the developer, and the City. I believe we accomplished that objective and look forward to the completion of the Cabana Club improvements, traffic controls, and providing funds to the schools that serve our neighborhood. I am proud to serve on a board with dedicated individuals who are equally committed to cooperative but tenacious positions that can assure the quality of our neighborhood is preserved and enhanced.

Community Happenings



March 2005



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 VV: 4th Grade Star Writing Test FH: 8th Grade Father/Daughter, Mom/Son Dance	2 VV: 4th Grade Star Make Up Day	3	4	5
			NG: Musical America, 7:00 pm Little Theater			
	7 Foothill meets with VV 5th Graders NG: Winter Sports Awards 7pm	8 FH: 5th Graders Parent Night 7pm	9	10	11	12
			NG: Senior Fashion Show, 7 pm Little Theater			
13	14	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!!!	16	17	18 NG: Senior Banquet	19
					Annual 2nd Hand Sale 10am-2pm Civic Park Community Center	
20	21 NG: Area Band Fest 7:30pm NG Gym	22	23 NG: Area Orches- tra Fest 7:30pm NG Gym	24	25	26 Spring Egg Hunt & Breakfast 10:15am Heather Farm Park
27	28	29	30	31		
Spring Break					Please submit any events you would like to see on April's calen- dar to srizzo@woodlandsassn.org or 465-4464 by March 15th	

Check out the City of Walnut Creek Recreation Division's
Spring '05 Activity Guide:

<http://www.walnut-creek.org/leisure/Default.htm>

Spring Break Dance Team and Cheer Workshop

Monday, March 28 - Thursday, March 31

Is your child planning to try out for your school's dance team or cheer squad? Give them some pointers from a professional dancer and cheerleader during Spring Break! Instructor Naja Gentry, former 49er cheerleader and dancer for Paula Abdul, has put together an intensive 4-day workshop that will teach movement techniques, choreography, secrets to tryouts, leadership and much more. Kids should wear clothes that they can move in (no jeans) and bring lots of water. The class meets from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at San Ramon Community Center. For more information, call (925) 828-9722.

We appreciate your feedback on the newsletter!

Email your comments to feedback@woodlandsassn.org or call 465-4464

Want Ads

Services

Painting Contractor: *Area Specialist* LCG Painting/Removal of acoustical ceilings and retexturing. (Cal Lic #765438) For all your painting needs. Specializing in interiors, exteriors and decks. Quality workmanship. Affordable rates. Satisfaction guaranteed. Many area referrals. Bonded and insured. Call **Larry 933-3766**


Handyman: Quality work. Versatile—almost any standard job or unusual problem. Electrical, plumbing, carpentry, linoleum, tile, windows, and doors. Honest and have references.
Paul 676-6607

All Bay Builders: 25 yrs exp., Lic 644085, Workers Comp, BBB and references. Specializing in addition and remodeling. www.all-bay-builders.com. Email AllBayBuilders@yahoo.com.
John 925-784-4606


3 GOOD PAINTERS: FAST, CLEAN & NEAT. Interior & Exterior. Exceptional prep work. All your painting needs. Acoustic removal, wallpaper removal, drywall repair, texturing. CUSTOM WORK TO REPAINTS. Many References. **Free estimates. 925-935-7593**
Lic. 740315

HOUSE SITTER: References available. Will take care of pets or plants. No fees. I prefer 10 days or more. **Call 925-360-3390**

ZOILA HOUSE CLEANING SERVICES - Zoila Davila: Need Extra Help? Too busy to clean your house? Available references from this area. **Please Call Zoila at 925-709-3059 (home) or 925-642-6399 (cell).**



Piano Lessons: Ages 8 & up.
Your home or mine.
References available from Woodlands.



Mrs. Trudi O. Steinman, Music Instructor
B.A. in Piano, California State University, Hayward 1970

2520 Ryan Road, Apt. 9
Concord, CA 94518 (925) 429-1805

For Sale

(2) Love seat couches \$300.00 pair (excellent condition). (3) Bar stools \$20.00 each, twin size white wicker headboard \$45.00. Must see to appreciate. **Call Barbara 935-8536**

Solid Oak Antique DINING TABLE. 42" Round. Plus three 10" leaves. Pedestal Base. \$300 OBO. **Call Dave 988-0990**

'97 BMW 740 IL—\$12,000. Aspen Silver. 65,800 miles. Electronic Premium Sound System & more. **Call 932-8297**

Need a Loving, Reliable Nanny?

My name is Julie and I am 23 years old. I lived in the Woodlands for six years. **I am looking for a nanny position that is PART TIME during the remainder of this school year, and FULL TIME for the summer.** I have a 5 month old daughter who would be with me. (If you only need summer help, call anyway.) I have had two prior nanny positions, and I have worked in the day care centers of two health clubs. I have **child development units** from college and I am **CPR certified. I have great references, a new car and a good DMV record.** My last job was with the Schmidt family in the Woodlands who were very involved in Valle Verde and the Woodlands Swim Team. I cared for their two children who attended Valle Verde and their baby, so I am capable of caring for your children and my baby together. My duties for the Schmidt's included driving to and from swim practice, out to eat, to the movies, to the park and to other scheduled activities. We also had a lot of fun playtime together at their house! They have recently moved back east however, and I am looking for a position with another loving family. **For more information, please call or email me anytime. Thanks!! 925-788-9256 or juliahite@yahoo.com**



Woodlands Advertising Rates

Personal/Business Want Ads:

Line Ad with a maximum of 30 words.

\$8.00/Month—Woodlands Residents

\$13.00/Month—Non-Woodlands Residents

Business Ads:

Please submit only ONE copy of your ad.

Color paper is only offered for FULL Page Ads.

Full Page, white paper.....\$80.00

Full Page, colored paper.....85.00

1/2 Page.....45.00

1/4 Page.....25.00

1/8 Page.....15.00 Woodlands Residents

1/8 Page.....18.00 Non-Woodlands Residents

All advertising must be submitted by the 15th of each month

Call Shawn Rizzo @ 465-4464 or email srizzo@woodlandsasn.org to place your ad

