



## Election Day is Tuesday, November 6th - Kish Rajan Not Running

*By Ed Wohlers*

This is just a reminder that Election Day is Tuesday, November 6th. In the Walnut Creek City Council race, Walnut Creek City Councilman, Kish Rajan announced (Sept. 11th) that he was suspending his campaign for re-election to City Council to take a position as Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development. While his name will still appear on the election ballot he has indicated that he

will not serve if elected and encourages voters to vote for other qualified candidates.

That leaves four candidates remaining for the three openings for City Council – Mayor Bob Simmons, Barry Grove, Loella Haskew and Woodlands resident Justin Wedel. Registered voters should evaluate the candidates and vote on Election Day, November 6th.

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## Halloween in the Neighborhood

*By Adrienne Robillard*

Halloween is coming up on Wednesday, October 31st. Since it's getting dark earlier in the evening now, please be on the lookout for kids in costume who will be trick-or-treating throughout the neighborhood.





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Woodlands Association  
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 Walnut Creek, CA 94598

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## Who to Contact?

The Woodlands Association receives some emails and questions about many issues that are best resolved by contacting the following agencies directly. The following is a reference guide:

<p><b>Walnut Creek Code Enforcement</b>, 925-256-3508 or 925-943-5863                  The Code Enforcement Division of the Community Development Department is responsible for enforcing provisions of the Walnut Creek Municipal Code involving quality of life and neighborhood quality issues.  <a href="http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/cd/nuisance_abatement_n_code_enforcement.asp">http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/cd/nuisance_abatement_n_code_enforcement.asp</a></p>
<p><b>Walnut Creek Police Department</b>, 925-943-5844  <a href="http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/police/default.asp">http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/police/default.asp</a></p>
<p><b>Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District</b> (Pests and Insect Issues), 925-771-6196  <a href="http://www.contracostamosquito.com/programs_services_index.htm">http://www.contracostamosquito.com/programs_services_index.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Contra Costa Water District</b>, 925-688-8000                  Water conservation, information, gardening resources, moneysaving tips.  <a href="http://www.ccwater.com">http://www.ccwater.com</a></p>
<p><b>Allied Waste Services of Contra Costa County</b> (925) 603-1144  <a href="http://www.pleasanthillbayshoredisposal.com">http://www.pleasanthillbayshoredisposal.com</a></p>

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. To the extent that space is available, articles received and ready for print by the 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:woodlandsassn@yahoo.com).

## Woodlands Association Board of Directors

Board email ID's can be found at [www.WoodlandsAssn.org](http://www.WoodlandsAssn.org)

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## Upcoming Board Meetings

**Saturday, November 3rd**  
 at 8:15 am

and  
**Saturday, December 1st**  
 at 8:15 am  
 in Carl's Jr.  
 Conference Room

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings

# Valle Verde Carnival – Everyone is Welcome!

By Amy Vieira

The Valle Verde Carnival is coming up - Sunday, October 28th from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring your family, friends and neighbors for a fun-filled day of games, food, raffles, a haunted house, exciting entertainment, bounce houses, and sweets.

Everyone – including adults - is encouraged to wear a costume this year! There will be a costume parade and contest to kick off the event at 11 a.m. The 5TH Grade Haunted House, a

big fundraiser, will open Friday night October 26th, after dark. Come see the MUR transformed into a Haunted House!

This event is family friendly and delivers fun for all. Various types of food, drinks and snacks will be available all day at the Carnival. The sweet tooth booth will be back this year, guaranteed to be a crowd pleaser! Come and support our students and school!

## Abrupt End to AC Meetings

### Re: Safeway Development Proposal

By Adrienne Robillard

The 10th meeting of the Shadelands Gateway Advisory Committee was held on October 1st at St. Matthew's Church. The turnout was the largest to date. The purpose of the meeting was to reaffirm or revise 11 "Planning Principles" regarding the proposed rezoning of Safeway's 25-acre parcel at Ygnacio Valley Road and Oak Grove road from business to retail. These 11 Planning Principles were illustrated on large boards around the perimeter of the room and the consultant asked attendees to 'take a break' 5 minutes into the meeting to review the boards and illustrations.

Mayor Bob Simmons addressed the AC Committee and the attendees at the start of the meeting that the public comment period would come at the start of the meeting, rather than at the end. This was a change both from prior meetings and from the printed agenda for the October 1st meeting, where public comment was scheduled to occur after the review of the planning principles.

Public comment began with 5 students from the Foothill Middle School ECK Club coming forth to express their concerns over possible deterioration of the existing Encina Grande shopping center, where Safeway currently has a store. Other comments included requests for a bowling alley, senior housing, and caution from a downtown developer against 'analysis paralysis.' Several people spoke in favor of the proposal including a Safeway employee. Concerns about traffic remain paramount.

The meeting was 2.5 hours in length, with 30 minutes for public comment fully utilized. The bulk of the meeting focused on the 11-member AC Committee's review of the 11 Planning Principles, part of the process that was to lead

to the AC committee's drafting of a specific plan for review by the City Council when considering Safeway's proposal to rezone its property.

After the 11th principle was reviewed, the Mayor surprisingly announced that this was the final AC Meeting and thanked the AC members for their time. Mayor Pro Tem Kish Rajan also thanked the AC members. Most AC members had not been informed that this was the final meeting in the process, and the committee was not given the opportunity to continue their work which included drafting a Specific Plan for this proposal as originally planned.

The Contra Costa Times ran an October 5th article about the disbanding of the Advisory Committee. The city website states: "There will be no more Advisory Committee Meetings." While the AC Committee is no longer part of the process to review Safeway's proposal, according to the city website, a draft Specific Plan will be open to public comment in 2013.

Next Steps - City staff will be working with the consultant to draft the Specific Plan based on the 11 Planning Principles and the work completed by the AC. This Plan will go to each of the City Commissions for review and there will be an opportunity for public comment. An environmental impact report will also be prepared in connection with this project. Public comment can be submitted for this as well.

Please visit the City of Walnut Creek site for more information: [http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/cd/planning/shadelands\\_gateway\\_specific\\_plan.asp](http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/cd/planning/shadelands_gateway_specific_plan.asp).

# Another Successful Woodlands Garage Sale!

By Ed Wohlers

The annual Woodlands garage sale was held October 7th with more than 70 homes participating. As usual, local realtors David Galindo and Jan Williams from J. Rockcliff Realtors organized the sale. They fielded many calls from participants, drafted the newspaper ad, put out signs with balloons advertising the sale, and printed hundreds of maps for customers. Without their help we couldn't have held such a successful garage sale! We appreciate all their efforts on this annual tradition. Be sure to express your thanks when you see them!

## 2nd Annual Community Service Day a Success

By Justin Wedel

October 6th marked the second annual Community Service Day in Walnut Creek. Once again, the day commenced with a Pancake Breakfast provided by the Lions Club of Walnut Creek. Topping last year, over 1000 volunteers from Walnut Creek and surrounding communities participated in one or more of the 45 volunteer opportunities throughout our City. Opportunities varied from cleaning at Meals on Wheels to ensuring that our trails and parks are clear of garbage.

The successful event included many residents from the Woodlands community who gave between four to six hours of their time to complete assigned tasks. The hard work, dedication, and volunteerism from all participants is yet another reason why this community such a great place to live.

## Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 22nd

By Adrienne Robillard

Did you know that Congress made Thanksgiving Day an official national holiday in 1941? And, along with Illinois, Pennsylvania, and New York, California is counted as one of the top-pumpkin producing states? I tried growing pumpkins in my side yard this summer, but the plant only produced a vine – no pumpkins to bake into pies. The area's many pumpkin patches will make up for my very green, green thumb.

This coming Thursday, November 22nd, we can all look forward to turkey with gravy, mashed

potatoes, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, pumpkin pie, and the variety of dishes that families and friends cook for each other to celebrate thanks.



## Daylight Savings – Turn Back Your Clocks November 4th

By Adrienne Robillard

Daylight Savings is coming up. At 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 4th the clock will be turned back to 1:00 a.m. Please make sure to update your clocks accordingly.

# Advertising

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*Thanks to all who either sold or bought items  
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