

# The Woodlands

Keeping You Informed For Over 40 Years

February 2014

## “THE ORCHARDS” DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT RELEASED

**Available for Public Review Until February 20th @ 4 p.m.**

by Adrienne Robillard

The Draft Environmental Impact Report for “The Orchards,” Safeway’s proposed development on the 25-acre parcel at Ygnacio Valley Road and Oak Grove Road, was published earlier this month and is available for public review on the city’s website:

[www.walnutcreek.org/citygov/depts/cd/planning/shadelands\\_gateway\\_specific\\_plan.asp](http://www.walnutcreek.org/citygov/depts/cd/planning/shadelands_gateway_specific_plan.asp)

The report addresses in detail: 1) Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, 2) Biological Resources, 3) Cultural Resources, 4) Geotechnical [Geology & Soils], 5) Hazards and Hazardous Materials, 6) Hydrology & Water Quality, 7) Noise, 8) Public Services, 9) Traffic, and 10) Urban Decay.

A hard copy of the DEIR is on file with the Community Development Department at City Hall, 1666 N. Main Street, Second Floor, Walnut Creek, and available for review during regular business hours, Monday -Thursday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Comments may be made in writing to: Ethan Bindernagel, Senior Planner  
City of Walnut Creek, Planning Division  
1666 North Main Street, 2nd Floor  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Or via email to [Bindernagel@walnut-creek.org](mailto:Bindernagel@walnut-creek.org). All written comments on the DEIR must be received prior to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2014.

After all comments have been received, a Final EIR will be prepared, the Planning Commission will consider the information in the EIR and make a recommendation to the City Council, and the City Council will consider certification of the Final EIR and make a decision on the Project at a public hearing, the dates of which are yet to be determined. Separate public notice of those hearings will be provided by the city at a later date. Check the city website (above) and the Woodlands Facebook page for information: [www.facebook.com/WoodlandsAssn](http://www.facebook.com/WoodlandsAssn).



▲ Kristina Lawson

## WALNUT CREEK'S NEW MAYOR: KRISTINA LAWSON

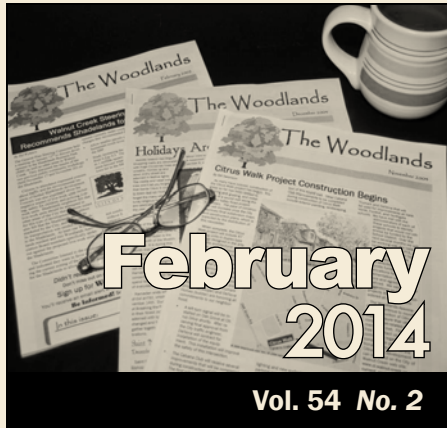
By Adrienne Robillard

Kristina Lawson, who has been a Walnut Creek City Councilmember since November 2010, was recently installed as Mayor for 2013-2014, having been voted in unanimously by the city council.

Prior to her election to the city council, Lawson was a member of the Walnut Creek Planning Commission. Mayor Lawson is a partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, a Real Estate and Land Use practice. Lawson lives in Walnut Creek with her husband, Matt, and their two children.

Serving as Mayor during the city’s Centennial, Lawson acknowledges the challenges that lay ahead, and she looks to the past for insight, stating that Walnut Creek incorporated in 1914 to pave Main Street and solve the problem of cars getting stuck in the mud. The city has grown from 500 residents then to 65,000 residents now. For 100 years the city has been overcoming challenges and welcoming progress: Mayor Lawson expects that same spirit to continue.

Article Continued on pg. 3



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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](http://www.WoodlandsAssn.org)

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Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com

Woodlands Association  
P.O. Box 31085  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

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(925) 256-6444

## 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:

**Walnut Creek Code Enforcement**, 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.  
[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)

**Walnut Creek Police Department**, 925-943-5844  
<http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/police/default.asp>  
**Oversized Vehicle Reporting**, Sandy Mulligan: Parking Lead Services Officer, 925-943-5874

**Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District** (Pests and Insect Issues), 925-771-6196  
[http://www.contracostamosquito.com/programs\\_services\\_index.htm](http://www.contracostamosquito.com/programs_services_index.htm)

**Contra Costa Water District**, 925-688-8000  
Water conservation, information, gardening resources, moneysaving tips.  
<http://www.ccwater.com>

**Allied Waste Services of Contra Costa County**, 925-603-1144  
<http://www.pleasanthillbayshoredisposal.com>  
**Valley Waste Management** (recycling and yard waste service): 925-935-8900

**Canal Maintenance**, 925-313-2235  
The canal is part of the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Maintained by the Public Works Department

**Graffiti Reporting: City of Walnut Creek**, 925-943-5854

## Did You Know: Valentine’s Day Greeting Card Trivia



- Approximately 145 million valentines are sent in the U.S. each year, according to estimates by the U.S. Greeting Card Association. That’s second only to Christmas with 1.6 billion units, and is followed by Mother’s Day with 133 million units.
- Women purchase approximately 85 percent of all valentines.
- Over 50 percent of all Valentine’s Day cards are purchased in the six days prior to the holiday, making Valentine’s Day a procrastinator’s delight.
- Teachers will receive the most Valentine’s Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.
- In addition to the U.S., Valentine’s Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom, France, Australia, Denmark and Italy.

--Pulled from [www.sheknows.com](http://www.sheknows.com)

## Woodlands Association Board of Directors

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Marc Graves ~ *Advisory Board*

Kay Ready ~ *Newsletter Distribution Manager*

## Upcoming Board Meetings

**8 - 9 a.m.**  
**Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

at Denica’s,  
2280 Oak Grove Road,  
Walnut Creek  
(in Citrus Marketplace)

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings.

Walnut Creek's New Mayor: Kristina Lawson: Continued

One of her two goals is to have the city council work together to solve the city's problems. Lawson is planning 5 council policy meetings during the year, with each 2-hour session focusing on a different topic, including demographics, urban agriculture, traffic and driving habits, and how Walnut Creek can be a regional leader.

Secondly, Lawson will be spending a day each month working alongside city workers to better understand what city workers do and how they keep the city running. In December she rode in a street sweeper for 90 minutes of the sweeper's route, toured the city's building maintenance

department where a staff of six manages more than 100 city buildings, visited the conference room where city employees coordinate responses to emergencies, and met employees in the parks department before stopping at the traffic operations center across the street.

For more information, or to contact Mayor Lawson, please visit the City website at: [www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/city\\_council/kristina\\_lawson.asp](http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/city_council/kristina_lawson.asp). To schedule a meeting with a Mayor Lawson or a City Council Member, call (925) 256-3504. You may also email comments to the Mayor and City Council at: [mayor@walnut-creek.org](mailto:mayor@walnut-creek.org).

## CONFIRMATION THAT SAFEWAY WILL CAUSE ECONOMIC BLIGHT IN THE WOODLANDS

By Steve Elster, Woodlands Resident

"Safeway's proposed shopping center in the Shadelands is expected to lead to the closure of the Nob Hill grocery store in the Citrus Marketplace shopping center, which would also leave the shopping center without an anchor." That bleak outcome is according to ALH Economics' Urban Decay Analysis of Safeway's proposed shopping center. (Available at <http://www.walnut-creek.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=8282>). Safeway's proposed 55,000 square foot supermarket in the Shadelands and Whole Foods' 37,500 square foot replacement of Safeway in the Encina Grande shopping center will "more than double the increment of existing grocery store space [in our neighborhood]. ALH Economics believes this is "more grocery store space than can be supported at this market location." The Urban Decay Analysis goes on to state: "One prospective candidate for [loss of] sales high enough to prompt store closures is the Nob Hill grocery store in nearby Citrus Marketplace. This store was identified as a prospective candidate for closure following the opening of just [Safeway's] Project. The likelihood of store closure appears even greater if the Whole Foods store opens in the redeveloped Encina Grande shopping center."

When Citrus Marketplace loses Nob Hill, undercutting the viability of the center's other tenants, we can look across the street to see the urban

decay that may ultimately result at this entrance to the Woodlands. In 2010, the graffiti-ridden site at 2153 Oak Grove (the former location of the HMS Endeavor restaurant at the northwest corner of Oak Grove and Shadelands) had apparently become a shelter for transients who may have inadvertently set fire to the vacant building at the site. (See [http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_16788268](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_16788268)). Three years later, the property is still vacant and rundown. Thanks to Safeway's proposal, a vacant Nob Hill and a deteriorating Citrus Marketplace may become a similar nuisance at the gateway to our neighborhood.

Keeping Citrus Marketplace from becoming a dying shopping center does not require a complete rejection of Safeway's proposed shopping center—it requires only that Safeway's proposed development not include a supermarket. The City Council can give Safeway almost its entire wish-list of a free rezoning—just take the supermarket out of the proposal so that Safeway's success does not come from cannibalizing business from Nob Hill and devastating the Citrus Marketplace shopping center. Our City Council should not permit Safeway to enrich itself by blighting our neighborhood. If you share our concerns about the impact of Safeway's development, please feel free to email me at [manfromcal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:manfromcal@sbcglobal.net)

Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of Woodlands resident Steve Elster. The Woodlands Association Board has not expressed an opinion rejecting or endorsing any proposal or planned rezoning by Safeway. The Woodlands Association may take a position on a proposal in the future based on hearing from the community and evaluation a more developed proposal.

## Valentine's Day Recipe: Chocolate Truffles

### Chocolate Truffles Recipe

**Total Time:** 1 hr 53 min

**Prep:** 20 min

**Inactive:** 1 hr 30 min

**Cook:** 3 min

**Yield:** 60 truffles

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 pound good bittersweet chocolate such as Lindt
- 1/2 pound good semisweet chocolate such as Ghirardelli
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons Grand Marnier, optional
- 1 tablespoon prepared coffee



- 1/2 teaspoon good vanilla extract
- Confectioners' sugar
- Cocoa powder

### Directions:

Chop the chocolates finely with a sharp knife. Place them in a heat-proof mixing bowl.

Heat the cream in a small saucepan until it just boils. Turn off the heat and allow the cream to sit for 20 seconds. Pour the cream through a fine-meshed sieve into the bowl with chocolate. With a wire whisk, slowly stir the cream and chocolates together until the chocolate is completely melted. Whisk in the Grand Marnier, if using, coffee, and vanilla.

Set aside at room temperature for 1 hour.

With 2 teaspoons, spoon round balls of the chocolate mixture onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Refrigerate for 30 minutes, until firm. Roll each dollop of chocolate in your hands to roughly make a round ball. Roll in confectioners' sugar, cocoa powder, or both. These will keep refrigerated for weeks, but serve at room temperature. Source: Ina Garten, The Food Network

# THIS MONTH AT THE CABANA CLUB

Believe it or not, another swim season is right around the corner and the club is gearing up for another season of fun in the sun. Here are some of the upcoming events:

The Woodlands 5K Family Fun Run & Pancake Breakfast is back by popular demand. The registration form is included, so sign up soon and take advantage of the early bird discount.

No snow for spring break? No problem! The Cabana Club is proud to announce that it will be open for the week of spring break, April 20th-April 28th-- weather permitting. So if you can't ski, go for a swim instead! More details to follow.

## Woodlands 5K Family Fun Run & Pancake Breakfast - Save the Date

The Cabana Club will be hosting a 5k Family Fun Run on April 13th at 9:30 am. The run will begin and end at the Cabana Club and follow a route through the Woodlands. Registration fees are \$15 per individual and \$30 for a family prior to April 1st and \$20 per individual and \$40 per family after the April 1st. Each paid registration includes a pancake breakfast. Please fill out the registration slip and return it to the Cabana Club with a check payable to the Woodlands Cabana Club. For more information, please contact Joanne Wathen at [marketing@woodlandscabanaclub.org](mailto:marketing@woodlandscabanaclub.org)

All proceeds from this event will go toward the purchase of a ping pong table and other club improvements. This event is open to non-members, so bring a friend and show them how cool the Cabana Club is.

## 5k Family Fun Run Registration Form

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Participants: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

The 5K begins at 9:30 am. All participants should arrive at the Cabana Club around 9:00 am. Pancakes will be served to all participants. The Woodlands Cabana Club: 111 Longleaf Dr. Walnut Creek, 94598

## The 2014 Woodlands Cabana Club Social Calendar

**Sunday, April 13th** – Woodlands Cabana Club 5k and Family Fun Run

**Saturday, May 10th** – Opening Day BBQ

**Thursday, June 26th** – Movie Night

**Friday, July 4th** – 4th of July Parade and BBQ

**Sunday, Sept. 28th** – Closing Day

**Sunday, Oct.** – TBD Chili Challenge

# SCHOOL NEWS

## FOOTHILL MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTHLY BOARD MEETING:

February's Foothill PFA meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19 at 7 p.m. in the library.

## VALLE VERDE ELEMENTARY KINDERGARTEN PACKETS:

Kindergarten packets will be available for pick up in the main office on January 15, 2014. If you have an incoming Valle Verde kindergartener for Fall 2014, please pick up your packet, complete and return the forms. Additional information is available on Mt. Diablo Unified School District's website.:

<http://www.mdusd.org>.

## SCIENCE FAIR:

Science Fair will be held on February 12, 2014. Parent volunteers are needed to help with judging projects. If you are interested, please contact Debi Massey at 939-5700 or [masseyd@mdusd.org](mailto:masseyd@mdusd.org).

## NORTHGATE HIGH SCHOOL

### CHALLENGE DAY:

Challenge Day is coming to Northgate on Monday, February 24 and Tuesday, February 25, 2014. Challenge Day is a one-day program designed to help students reduce prejudice and break down barriers between cliques. Challenge Day's Website: <http://www.challengeday.org/>.

New participants will be given 1st priority, with returning students eligible to join a lottery to participate. Deadline for permission slips is Monday, February 10, copies were also distributed at summer registration and are also available in the front office.

Parents can also volunteer to help out or choose to make a monetary donation to defray the cost of substitute teachers (\$150 per teacher, per day), morning snacks and lunch.

For additional information, please contact: Bertha Yorke at [bx8@pge.com](mailto:bx8@pge.com) or Chandra Collins at [chandracollins@gmail.com](mailto:chandracollins@gmail.com).

### WINTER PLAY:

Northgate's 2014 winter play will be presented at the Northgate Little Theater from Friday, February 7-Sunday February 9. Friday and Saturday's performances will be from 7-10 and Sunday's matinee will be from 3-6.

# Contra Costa Canal Shut Down For Repairs & Annual Cleaning

By Adrienne Robillard

The Contra Costa Canal was shut down Dec. 2, 2013 for repairs and its annual cleaning, scheduled during the winter months to lessen the impact to customers and the environment. Because of this, portions of the Canal Trail, from Clyde to Martinez, will be closed for cleaning as well.

The annual cleaning begins at the Naval Weapons Station and will proceed along the Canal Loop through Clyde, Concord, Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill and Martinez. Trail users will need to detour around the construction sites.

The canal is expected to be repaired and back in service by the beginning of the annual irrigation season in April. For more information and updates as the project progresses, please contact Oliver Symonds, Public Information Specialist, Contra Costa Water District, at 925-688-8010 or [osymonds@ccwater.com](mailto:osymonds@ccwater.com), and visit the District's website at [www.cwater.com/waterquality/canalclosure.asp](http://www.cwater.com/waterquality/canalclosure.asp).

# Open Board Position- Advertising Manager

Are you a talented salesperson who is passionate about the Woodlands neighborhood? The Woodlands Association is looking for an Advertising Manager to oversee and execute sales for the neighborhood newsletter. In this volunteer position, the Advertising Manager is responsible for online and offline communication with current advertisers as well as soliciting new advertisers to reach revenue goals, as The Woodlands newsletter is made possible by the continued support of our valued advertisers.

As a member of the Woodlands Association, the Advertising Manager attends monthly board meetings (typically about an hour, on the first Saturday of the month) and has the opportunity to participate in neighborhood projects and advocacy as desired. Typical monthly time commitment is 2-4 hours, plus the meeting, and the board asks for a 2-year commitment from its members.

This is a great opportunity for an energetic resident looking to get involved and make a positive contribution to our neighborhood. If interested, please send an email to [woodlandsassn@yahoo.com](mailto:woodlandsassn@yahoo.com).

## Advertise With Us!

To Advertise in the Woodlands Newsletter, Contact [Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com](mailto:Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com) or visit [www.woodlandsassn.org/advertise](http://www.woodlandsassn.org/advertise)

### Advertising Rates & Sizes

Please note: the actual sizes below allow for binding/bleed space. Size = height x width in inches

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Want Ads - line ad with 30 words or less:

\$5 Woodlands Residents, \$13 Non-Residents

**NEW Advertising Deadline**  
Please submit all ads and  
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**February 10, 2014**

### Submission Guidelines

- Please submit your ad in the actual size/dimensions listed.
- Please email a digital file of your ad to [woodlandsassn@yahoo.com](mailto:woodlandsassn@yahoo.com). We accept PDF and Microsoft Word documents ONLY.
- Payment is due when you submit your ad. Please pay via [www.woodlandsassn.org/advertise/](http://www.woodlandsassn.org/advertise/) or make checks payable to "Woodlands Association" and mail to: PO Box 31085, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

# WOODLANDS POLICE CALLS

The following information is taken from the Police Daily Bulletin as posted for public viewing on the Walnut Creek Police Department's website. The entire Walnut Creek police daily bulletin can be viewed at: [www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/police/bulletin.asp](http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/police/bulletin.asp). Some issues of the Woodlands Newsletter may include only a portion of the monthly police activity in our neighborhood, as available print-space varies from issue to issue.

## Police Calls from 12/12/13 to 1/7/14

12/13/13 15:09:19 3500 Bl Perada Dr. 21 req re: 653m. Dispo: advice given regarding how to deal with telemarketers. Service to citizen.

12/14/13 20:56:01 3600 Bl Sugarberry Ln. Female req pd for 15 year old son who is refusing to listen to mom. Dispo: advice given. Verbal only. Service to Citizen.

12/15/13 20:12:09 Ygnacio Valley Rd. / Oak Grove Rd. 11-25 broken pallets in #2 lane E/B YGN half way up the hill. Dispo: cardboard boxes removed from roadway. Miscellaneous Traffic.

12/25/13 17:04:18 Ygnacio Valley Rd. / Oak Grove Rd. E/B walking on shoulder, elderly HMA beige jacket, whi hair, concerned because there is no sidewalk and he is close to traffic. Dispo: found him and drove him to Concord. Service to Citizen.

12/27/13 18:26:59 Ygnacio Valley Rd. / Oak Grove Rd. W/B ygn, subj threw a bottle at officer doing traffic stop in the area. Dispo: utl/goaSusp. Circumstance.

12/29/13 20:41:58 2200 Bl Oak Grove Rd. Reckls sil Nissan Titan now parked IFO Bevmo. Dispo: bolo'd over the air. Reckless Driving.

12/30/13 12:39:43 500 Bl Candleberry Rd. Reports 20002 occ'd 2 weeks ago - Suspect is gardener for this address, who won't return RP's calls. \*\*10-21, rp and vic veh in Reno\*\*. Dispo: 82 prop damage. Advice given. Civil Matter.

12/31/13 12:13:52 3500 Bl Citrus Av. Reports theft of Christmas decorations. Loss: 12 lighted candy canes 3 ft tall. Dispo: as reported. Four have wood stakes. No suspect information. Theft.

12/31/13 22:49:38 Peachwillow Ln. / Citrus Av. Reports hearing a car crash. Not sure what was hit. Dispo: vehicle struck curb at Persimmon and Peachwillow. No damage to anything but involved vehicle. Utl/GOA. Miscellaneous Traffic.

01/01/14 00:09:56 3000 Bl Peachwillow Ln. 10-1 caller saying dog in her garage, unk whose dog. All people waiting in car. Dispo: animal control responded and took possession of the dog. Animal Complaint.

01/01/14 06:39:51 Ygnacio Valley Rd / Oak Grove Rd. E/B Ygnacio, veh drove off road down hill, no veh desc, occ'd 2 ago. Dispo: 2000 black Audi solo vehicle left roadway and damaged city owned vegetation. Non Injury Accident.

01/02/14 11:51:50 3000 Bl Citrus Cr. 10851, whi 13 Nissan, occ'd btwn Tues and this morning, glass all over pl and contents of van in pl. Dispo: whi Nissan ca/2mkt stolen during past night. Van contents recovered at Kaiser nearby in bushes. Auto Theft.

01/04/14 12:39:55 2200 Bl Oak Grove Rd. Reporting accident with minor injury but declining medical. Dispo: as reported report taken. Accident Minor Injury.

01/04/14 12:52:09 Ygnacio Valley Rd. / Oak Grove Rd. Left turn signal for W/B lanes to Oak Grove Rd. not cycling properly. RP says he has sat through 4 cycles. Dispo: signal light cycling fine per x12. Service to Citizen.

01/04/14 21:56:33 600 Bl Sitka Dr. 459R via downstairs garage door. Loss: jewelry. Occ'd since 1600hrs. Dispo: an unknown suspect entered the house 1600-2130 hrs via an unlocked side door. Burglary.

01/05/14 18:10:53 Ygnacio Valley Rd. / Oak Grove Rd. Broken down blk BMW blocking the merging lane. E/B on YV at Oak Grove Rd. Dispo: veh moved off the side. Miscellaneous Traffic.

01/07/14 06:23:02 Oak Grove Rd. /Ygnacio Valley Rd. West of Oak Grove whi SUV blocking. Dispo: utl GOA. Miscellaneous Traffic.

01/07/14 10:57:47 2200 Bl Oak Grove Rd. 3 subj walking around taking lic plate from veh. Dispo: cited for 11357(b) hs/ 26708(a) CVC. Narcotics.

# ADVERTISING

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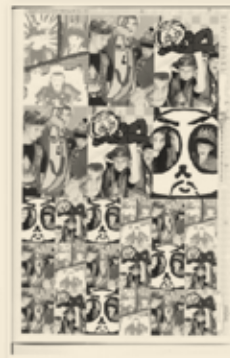
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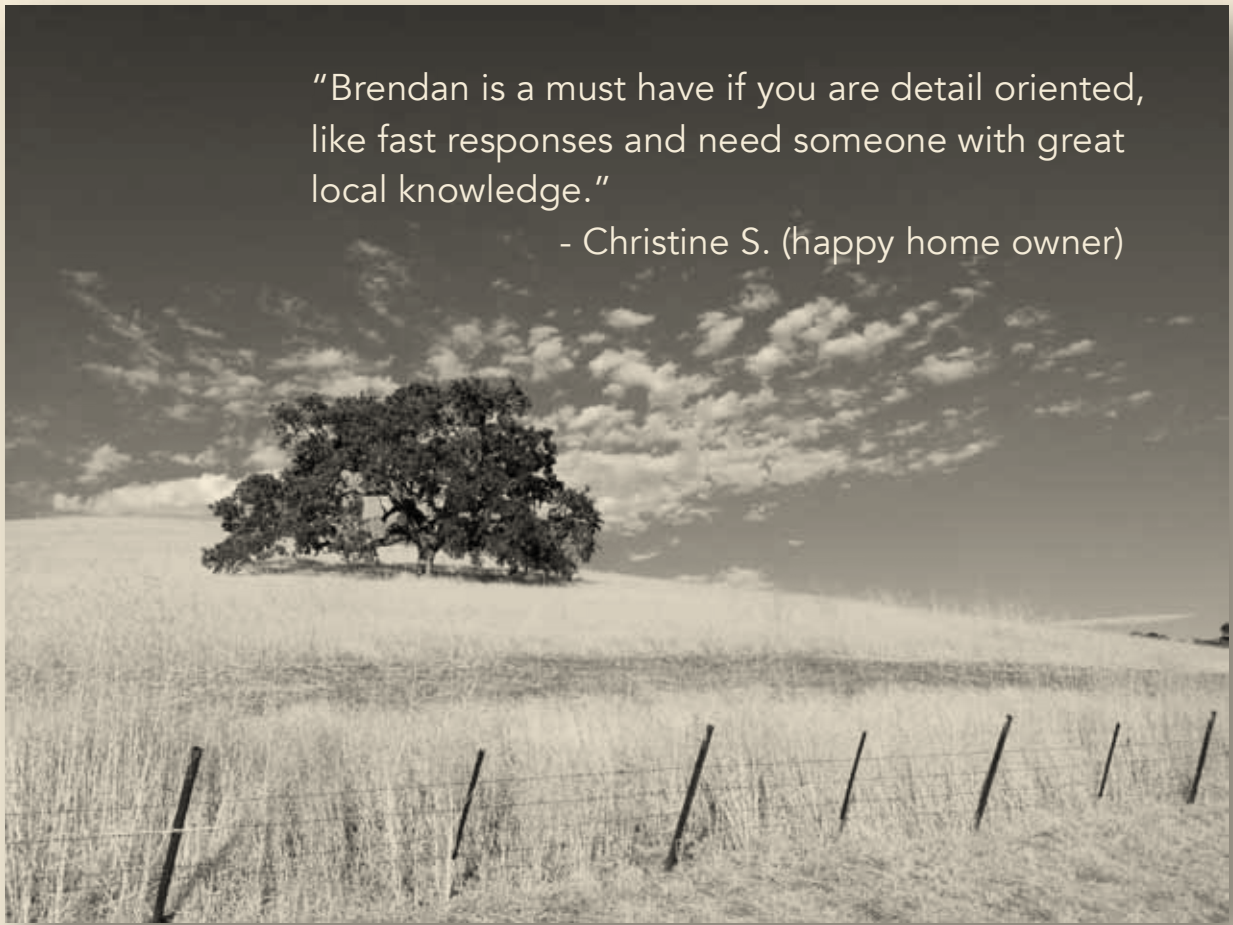
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