

The Woodlands



Keeping You Informed For Over 40 Years

January 2014

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SPIRIT!

All around the Woodlands, it's easy to see that our neighborhood loves the holidays. If you haven't taken the time to drive around and see your neighbor's hard work in putting up lights and decorations, we encourage you to do so. Here are two examples that our Vice President, Bill Gilmyers, found while going through the neighborhood.

Keep up the wonderful holiday spirit!





Vol. 54 No. 1

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Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com

Neighborhood Inquiries:
Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com

Woodlands Association
P.O. Box 31085
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:

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

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

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

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.

Woodlands Association Board of Directors

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Upcoming Board Meetings

8 - 9 a.m.
Saturday, January 4th
Saturday, February 1st

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

Woodlands residents
are encouraged to
attend board meetings.

Woodlands Welcome Committee

Would you like to help welcome new neighbors to The Woodlands? The Woodland's board is looking to establish a program to welcome new residents and needs volunteers to help. We are looking for a few people to help set up the committee and then stop by the homes of new arrivals with a special package. If you would like to participate, drop an e-mail to woodlandsassn@yahoo.com with the subject line "WELCOME COMMITTEE".

New to the neighborhood yourself? We'd love to have you get involved!

Recognition of Our Distributors

We would like to thank the following residents for doing the important job of delivering The Woodlands to everyone in the neighborhood:



Bill Holt, Jane Cops, Sue Gardella, Barbara Johnson, Ron Chesney, Judy White, Clifford Egan, Liz Matousek, Terri Payne, Matt Clay, Tony Lansang, Jan Warren, Kathy Shields, Robin Harrison, Charlie Freschl, Connie Kuronko, Nancy Treadwell, Catherine Melnyk, Jim Melnyk, Margaret Brown, Marlene Berkman, Janet Dolliver, Ann Jennings, Ellen Diamond, Lisa Peachee, Steve Carter, Sam Titluck, Jason Roberts, Marge Smith, BJ Kim, Sharon Nelson, Pat Coyle, Audrey Morgan, Ann Raymond, Mike Wong, Joan Weber, Jerry Ossinger, Debbie Full, Rich Coulter, Gloria Lamm, Jane Streich, Sandy Wagner, John Casey, Lois Mitchell, Panya Sawan, Paul Parkus, Jennifer Zotti, Charlene Lafrades.



"Best Neighborhood"

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New Advertising Program for 2014 – *Prepay* Saves Time & Money

- * **Prepay for 12 months of advertising and get one month free!**
- * **Prepay for 6 months of advertising and get one month's ad at 50% off!**

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To take advantage of this offer, please contact Jan Gall at rjgall933@comcast.com or call 415-615-2647. Thank you for your support!

SCHOOL NEWS

Foothill Middle School

Speakers Needed for Career Day

We need speakers for Career Day on March 19. Speakers from all kinds of careers are needed. Engineers, business people, hair stylists, contractors, scientists, chefs and more. Speakers will give a short presentation to students telling them what they do, why they chose their profession, what they like and don't like about their profession, and the kind of educational background and skills needed.

Giving a couple of hours of your time could change a student's life forever. If you are interested in speaking, would like more information, or want to suggest a speaker, please contact either Andrea Kelly Smethurst at 925-932-4955 or aeks@pacbell.net or Holly Hewes at 925-351-6505 or webhew@ca.astound.net.

Strategic Planning Update

Please join us at the January 15 PFA meeting to hear from the Strategic Planning Team and the great improvements in the works at Foothill. The focus of this year Strategic Plan is improving the campus environment. This includes creating an atmosphere that promotes student safety and success. First on the list is improving student seating during lunch. We are also looking for interested volunteers to help our horticulture students improve the landscaping between the wings. All of this is made possible through your Ed Fund donations. On behalf of the entire Foothill Staff, thank you for your continued support.

New Assessments: iReady and California Measurement of Academic Performance and Progress (CalMAPP)

Students have begun the iReady Language Arts assessment this week. This is a new assessment that replaces the quarterly language arts benchmark tests that have been given the past few years. Many MDUSD middle schools are piloting iReady which resembles the Smarter Balance Assessment or CalMAPP which are aligned to the new Common Core Standards.

Students are currently being assessed during their regular Core class in the computer lab. They work at their own pace and questions are built based on their responses. This online common assessment provides immediate data to support classroom instruction and learning design. If you are interested in more information about iReady, CalMapp and the Common Core Standards please join us at the January 15 PFA meeting.

Boy's Basketball Registration

Boys' basketball registrations are now being accepted for the winter 2014 season. The competitive program will have a 7th grade team and an 8th grade team. Tryouts for the competitive team are on Tuesday, January 7 and Wednesday, January 8. Players must attend both days and their registration forms must be completed prior to tryouts. Payment should not be turned in until after the teams have been selected. The competitive teams practice or have games on Mondays through Thursdays. The season begins on January 9 and ends the week of March 10th. The intramural program is open to all grades and begins on

Tuesday, January 21st. The intramural program runs Tuesdays through Thursdays from 3:30 - 4:30. This program is 6 weeks long and ends on February 27th.

If interested or if you have questions please contact Matt John, Athletic Director Foothill After School Sports, City of Walnut Creek Recreation at mjohn@walnutcreekrec.org or (925)-256-3539.

Valle Verde Elementary

PEP

Attention Parents! Valle Verde needs PEP instructors! The Parent Education Program is a great program that encourages parents to connect with children at Valle Verde. You will have the opportunity to teach confident building skills like drug and alcohol resistance, and communication between peers. Kids love PEP and you will love it too! The initial training will include seven short three hour classes over a seven week period. A small commitment for such an impacting role. If you're interested please contact Alfonso Munoz or Heidi Brown. Alfonso Munoz ffalfonso@sbcglobal.net (925) 367-4095; Heidi 239-682-7418

Upcoming Events in January

- 6 Return to School from Winter Recess
- 7 Student Council Meeting
- 7 PTA Meeting
- 7 School Site Council Meeting
- 10 Geography Bee
- 16 PTA Fundraiser at Rubio's Mexican Grill
- 20 Martin Luther King Day-No School
- 21 Spelling Bee
- 27 Teacher In Service Day-No School for Students

INTRADISTRICT TRANSFERS

The Mt. Diablo Unified School District is currently accepting Intradistrict Transfers (transfers within the Mt. Diablo Unified School District). Applications are available on the web site, www.mdusd.org, at your child's school of attendance and at the District Office in Student Services, Wing D, 1936 Carlotta Drive, Concord, CA 94519.

Please visit the district web site at www.mdusd.org for complete information on the different types of transfers. Completed applications for grades 1-12 must be submitted between October 1, 2013 and January 15, 2014 for the following school year. No applications will be accepted after the January 15, 2014 deadline. For incoming Kindergarteners, Intradistrict Transfer applications may be requested on or after the student is registered at his/her school of residence on kindergarten registration day, February 4, 2014. These applications should be submitted no later than February 28, 2014.

Five Tips to Prevent Car Break-ins:

By Joel Hilton <http://car-audio-review.toptenreviews.com/five-tips-to-prevent-car-break-ins.html>



1. Keep Things Out of Sight

If you have any valuables, such as an iPod, purse or video camera, store it under the seat or in the glove compartment. Most of the time, thieves are just looking for a quick buck and if they see something they like, they'll smash and grab. You'll also want to put anything that looks like it could contain something valuable, such as a box or briefcase, in the trunk to prevent car break-ins. If the box on your front seat says "Apple Computer, Inc." on it, it doesn't matter what's inside – it looks valuable. Sometimes keeping your car clean will do more than just impress your friends.

2. Get a Detachable Stereo Face

A car thief won't steal a stereo that he can't use. Purchasing a car audio receiver with a detachable front panel will make your stereo useless to any would-be crook. That is, of course, presuming you actually detach the face of the head unit and take it with you. Even if you don't want to carry the face plate with you, detach the front panel and hide it away to prevent car break-ins. Criminals want things quick and easy, so a missing face plate may make them move on to the next car.

3. Keep Your Car Secure

This seems like a no-brainer, but many people don't lock their car when they're "just running into the store" or "they'll only be a minute." A minute is all the time it takes

to break into someone's car. Lock your doors to prevent car break-ins. Don't make the thief's job any easier by handing him an open door. Also, make sure to keep your windows rolled up. Your car may get hot, but at least it won't get emptied.

4. Park it in a Public Location

That sweet, little-known spot in the alley in the back may always be open, but it is also quite private – which is perfect for any criminal. Park your car in a high-traffic area where it will be seen by a bunch of people. If you are parking somewhere at night, park your vehicle near a light or in view of a security camera to prevent car break-ins. Once again, criminals want quick and easy jobs, so they don't want a lot of publicity or visibility.

5. Get an Alarm

Most of the time when people think of alarms, they think of the one that accidentally goes off in the parking lot and the owner isn't there to turn it off. Yes, that is annoying, but next time this happens, take notice that there are no car thieves around that noisy car. They want to keep a low profile. These types of criminals will avoid cars if they can see that it is alarmed. Some companies even manufacturer inexpensive products that only make it look like your car has an alarm, which also will help prevent car break-ins.

Advertise With Us!

To Advertise in the Woodlands Newsletter,
Contact Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com
or 415-615-2647

Advertising Rates & Sizes

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

Full Page – 10 x 7.5 - \$90/month

1/2 Page – 5 x 7.5 - \$50/month

1/4 Page – 5 x 3.5 - \$30/month

1/4 Page on back cover - \$50/month

1/8 Page – 2.5 x 3.5 - \$20/month

Want Ads - line ad with 30 words or less:

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

NEW Advertising Deadline
Please submit all ads and
payments for the next issue by
January 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. We accept PDF and Microsoft Word documents ONLY.
- Payment is due when you submit your ad. Please pay via 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. 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 11/12/13 to 12/11/13

11/12/13 17:37:55 2200 Bl Oak Grove Rd. 10 month old locked in gry infinite Q45 not in distress in front of beverages and more. Dispo: assistance provided on lock out with child in car. Service to Citizen.

11/15/13 18:22:55 3400 Bl Sugarberry Ln. Req to speak to OFC re: rude solicitor who ignored his no soliciting signs and went to his side yard when he was asked to leave, WMA, 20's, drk clothing carrying backpack. Dispo: spoke to subject, advised to observe no soliciting signs. N/A.

11/18/13 04:07:37 100 Bl Rock Oak Ct. People trying to break in. Dispo: [Suspect] was arrested for attempt burglary. Transported to MDF. Attempt Burglary.

11/18/13 09:50:19 200 Bl Rock Oak Rd. Theft of chain saw from shed last night.. Dispo: theft of McCulloch chain saw and pruning shears from storage shed in rear yard. Occurred past night. May be related 13-35824. Burglary.

11/18/13 11:00:27 2000 Bl Banbury Rd. Reports fraudulent activity re: forged checks. Dispo: suspect forged several checks belonging to a deceased person. Forgery.

11/19/13 08:29:29 200 Bl Rock Oak Rd Cold 484 report from unlocked shed, taken was landscaping equipment. Dispo: POE: unlocked shed in rear yard. Loss: pruning shears. Appears related to 13-35824. Burglary.

11/19/13 09:06:25 Rock Oak Ct/Perada Dr. 5 min ago, 3 HMA'S w/backpacks walking along the canal trail, keep walking away from each other and meeting back up. Last seen exiting the trail by this intersection. DISPO: area check negative. Susp. Circumstance.

11/19/13 14:15:07 100 Bl Rock Oak Ct. Reports finding chainsaw in the bushes, poss associated with 459 that occ'd yesterday. DISPO: chainsaw and lug nut found on front lawn. Nobody was home. Booked into evid. Found Property.

11/21/13 17:17:16 Citrus Av / Sugarberry Ln. Reckless grn minivan with fire dept sticker on it. Speeding through neighborhood and was very aggressive with RP. Subj said he is looking for his dog. Dispo: contacted driver and counseled regarding driving behavior. Reckless Driving.

12/02/13 07:28:35 Perada Dr/Bayberry Dr. Susp WMA, thin, 5'7, moustache, oversized dirty clothing, baseball hat. Last seen leaving the open space into the neighborhood. Per RP the Subj tried to avoid showing the RP his face.. Dispo: area check negative. Susp. Circumstance.

12/02/13 19:22:14 400 Bl Block Persimmon Rd. Area check for confrontational solicitor w/out permit. WMA 35YO, 6'3/300, BLK top hat, BRO coat, BLK pants, BLK shoes. LS on foot a twrds Citrus 2 ago. Dispo: Contacted solicitor who agreed to stop for night and complete necessary city paperwork before any further solicitation. Service to Citizen.

12/06/13 23:18:02 300 Bl Persimmon Rd. Reports hearing screaming a few mins ago, now sees a male walking back and forth outside RP's house. Wma early 20's wrng dk clothing. Dispo: UTL/GOA. Susp. Circumstance.

12/09/13 14:54:50 Oak Grove Rd / Canal TL. Accident. Dispo: minor injury collision between two bicycles. D2 transported to Kaiser with cuts, chest pains. Bike booked at CY. Accident Minor Injury.

12/10/13 10:59:34 500 Bl Banyan Cr. Reports att 10851 of whi Taurus/occ'd during the night. Per AAA someone attempted to cross wire the veh. Dispo: contacted RP. At this time unable to substantiate a crime. Vehicle will enroute to shop to get looked at. Susp. Circumstance.



Home Improvement Corner – Installing a Motion Detector Lamp

By William Gilmeyers

The days are getting dark earlier and, with at least break-in in the Woodlands in the last month, it's not a bad time to make sure your home is well lit after hours. One of the best ways to do this is to install motion detector lamps in key spots outside your home. Fortunately, there are a lot of different lamps to choose from, and they are fairly easy to install. Here are a few quick tips to think about:

1) Where do I want to put my lamps? Some spots may seem obvious- the walkway to your front door, the side gate to your back yard, etc. All the places you might walk through as you approach your home. Typically you'll want to install your lamps 6-10 feet off the ground, and it is courteous to avoid pointing them directly at a neighbor's window or back yard if it can be avoided.

Remember, also, that one of the key functions of these lights is not just to light your way, but also to "alert" potential intruders that they've been identified. So you may want to point a lamp in a dark corner that you may never walk through; and that you would appreciate no one else walking through either!

2) What kind of lamp? The most reliable and longest lasting lamps will be wired right into your existing electrical. However, installing a hardwired lamp takes more skill and is more time

consuming. Many may prefer to simply hire a qualified electrician for the job. In addition, you are going to be more limited in where you can put a hardwired lamp as well.

3) As an alternative, battery powered LED lamps are available as well. Both indoor (for closets and such) and outdoor lamps are available, and you can install them just about anywhere. These lamps are not as durable and require yet another set of (typically expensive D- size) batteries to replace, but for many, the convenience can't be beat.

4) Regardless of which type of lamp you'll put in, you're going to be drilling a few holes in the side of your house to support the lamp's housing. One tip is to attach a small piece of wood to the house and then install the lamp to that. This will prevent you from having an odd pattern of holes in your house if you ever want to replace the lamp- the odd holes will be in the block of wood instead.

Amazon, of course, has a wide variety of lamps to choose from, starting at under \$10 and moving up in price from there. Search for "Motion Detector Light" in the Patio, Lawn and Garden section to get started. Costco sometimes has good deals as well on a more limited selection. Depending on how many lamps you want to install you'll need an afternoon (or more), but while everyone else is taking down their holiday lights, it's a great time to put up some more of your own!

Holiday Recipe: Super Bowl Texas Red Chili

Super Bowl Texas Red Chili

Prep 45 mins · Cook 45 mins
Makes 8 to 10 servings
Difficulty: Easy

Ingredients:

- 3 dried guajillo chiles*
- 2 dried ancho chiles*
- 2 pounds 85% lean ground beef
- 6 slices thick cut smoked bacon, cut into 1/2-inch pieces (8 ounces)
- 3 large Vidalia onions, or other sweet onions, chopped
- 2 green sweet peppers, chopped
- 2 serrano peppers, finely chopped*
- 8 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons chili powder



- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 28 ounce can diced tomatoes
- 1 cup water
- 2 teaspoons lime juice or cider vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Cheddar cheese wedges and sliced green onions (optional)

Directions:

- 1.** In a large skillet, cook chiles over medium heat for 3 to 4 minutes, turning occasionally, until lightly toasted. Cool at least 1 minute. Remove and discard stems and seeds. Transfer chiles to a large bowl; cover with boiling water. Let stand 20 minutes.
- 2.** Drain, reserving 1/3 cup of the soaking liquid. In a blender, puree chiles and reserved liquid; set aside.
- 3.** In a 5- to 6-quart Dutch oven, cook beef over medium-high heat about 8 minutes, until beginning to brown. Drain off fat. Transfer beef to a bowl.
- 4.** In the same pan cook bacon for 5 to 6 minutes, stirring occasionally, until browned.
- 5.** Stir in onions, green peppers, serrano peppers and garlic, cook for 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until tender.
- 6.** Add pureed chiles; cook for 3 minutes, stirring often.
- 7.** Add the chili powder and cumin; cook and stir for 1 minute.
- 8.** Add the reserved beef, diced tomatoes and water.
- 9.** Bring chili to boiling. Reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer, covered, about 30 minutes, until thickened
- 10.** Remove from heat; stir in vinegar and salt.

Top each serving with cheddar cheese and green onions.

Source Bhg.com

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*Welcome
Woodlands Residents to
2014
Happy New Year!*



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Upstairs you will find the spacious master suite. Enjoy the updated bathroom with granite counters, double sinks and separate shower room. Down the hall are 3 additional bedrooms and the hall bathroom, also beautifully updated with a shower over the tub. You will appreciate the double-paned windows, fresh paint, and large backyard with covered deck for entertaining. House is on a dead-end, quiet street with no through traffic, just steps from the bike path and fantastic hiking trails in Lime Ridge Open Space. Walk to Valle Verde Elementary school, shopping, dining and services. Top Rated Northgate H.S.



Who do you know that wants to be our neighbor? Call with questions!

Dayna Wilson – Realtor, Woodlands Resident

925-788-6582

Dayna@Day-RealEstate.com

BRE # 01781285

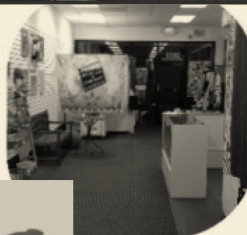
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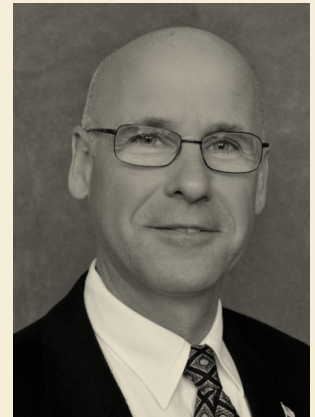
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Bruce Lesser 925-788-6020

RE/MAX Accord Real Estate / Realtor – DRE#00852237
1630 N. Main Street, Suite 361, Walnut Creek, CA. 94596
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 **Brendan
MORAN**

Brendan Moran
Broker | Owner
Executive Brokers Real Estate Group

925.212.7770
brendan@bmoranrealty.com
bmoranrealty.com

My name is Brendan Moran. I live in the Woodlands with my growing family. I'm also an independent real estate broker.

I created a website called WoodlandsWalnutCreek.com to help families learn more about our great neighborhood.

So if you know anyone who wants to live here, or you're thinking about selling, give me a call.

See you around the neighborhood!

CalBRE#1893322



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