

The Woodlands



Keeping You Informed For 50 Years

January 2016

Shadelands Rezoning and Updates

What Does This Mean for The Woodlands?

By Bill Gilmyers

Beyond the Orchards development and the updates to the Encina Grand Shopping Center, there's also change underway at the Woodlands' other neighbor to the west: The Shadelands Business Park. From improved transit options to proposed changes to the zoning of the site, this is an area that offers potential for change and transformation.

To make the site more accessible to employees who commute, since early 2015 County Connection Bus Route 7 has been offering complimentary service Monday through Friday from Pleasant Hill BART to the Shadelands and back, featuring bike racks and free WiFi. The bus runs every 15 minutes and takes about 15 minutes to reach BART. There's a Park and Ride lot off of Mitchell Drive just west of Oak Grove Rd.

As noted in the November Woodlands newsletter, an association of property owners from the Shadelands has formed the Shadelands Property and Business Improvement District (PBID) to advocate for changing the zoning rules for the 240-acre business park to provide for a wider variety of businesses at the Shadelands, including coffee shops, veterinarians, restaurants, a small hotel or cultural center.

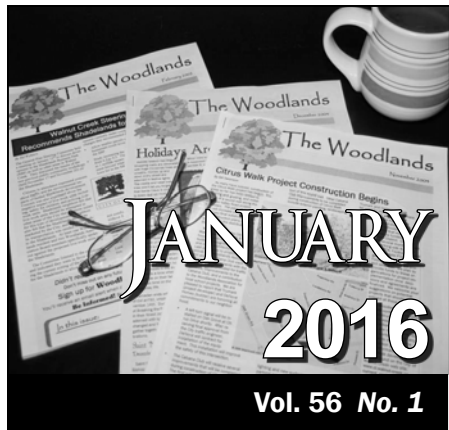
The Shadelands PBID has reached out to the Woodlands Association and requested the neighborhood's support for the potential changes. While we would like to learn more about the opportunity for new, walkable amenities near our homes, we recognize that there are significant changes underway already. We're continuing to monitor the proposals closely, but would like to hear what you think. Do new options for food, culture and other services appeal to you? Or would these be outweighed by concerns around traffic, congestion and the ability of this area to adjust to yet more change?

Make your voice heard by dropping us a line at woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com, like the Woodlands Association on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WoodlandsAssn/ or attend one of our monthly Board meetings, the first Saturday of the month at 8 AM at Denica's in Citrus Marketplace.

Thank You to Our Distributors!

The Woodlands newsletter would not arrive on your doorstep each month without the dedication of resident volunteers who deliver from 6-38 copies to our homes. This system is managed monthly by Jennifer Zotti, the Woodlands' Newsletter Distribution Manager, who receives the entire count of newsletters from the printer. She then divides the newsletters and delivers them to Charlie Freschl and Marge McDowell, who deliver the bundles to each block captain.

Thank you to these exceptional residents and the block captains for volunteering their time to make sure the Woodlands newsletter arrives at our homes: Sue Stewart, Jane Cops, Sue Gardella, Barbara Johnson, Ron Chesney, Judy White, Clifford Egan, Liz Matousek, Terri Payne, Matt Clay, Tony Lansang, Jan Warren, Kathy Shields, Diane Hoffstedder, Charlie Freschl, Connie Kuronko, Kat Sellis, Nancy Treadwell, Dave Wong, Margaret Brown, Marlene Berkman, Janet Dolliver, Ann Jennings, Ellen Diamond, Lisa Peachee, Steve Carter, Sam Titluck, Jason Roberts, Marge Smith, Julie Ehlers, Patty McDowell, Pat Coyle, Sharon Nelson, 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, and Charlene Lafrades.



In This Issue...

Shadelands Rezoning	1
Thank You!	1
Woodlands Board.	2
Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge	3
School Zone and Crosswalk	3
School News	4
In the Year 2016	5
Woodlands Police Calls	5
Woodlands Internships	6
Advertiser Contents	7

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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>
To report a suspicious circumstance, call 925-935-6400

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

Contra Costa County Animal Control, 925-335-8300

After business hours, contact the Walnut Creek Police through Dispatch Center at 925-935-6400.
<http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=59>

Street Maintenance: 925-943-5854



New Year's Resolution #1: Join the Woodlands Board!

There is a lot coming up for the Woodlands in 2016 – from the opening of the Whole Foods at the remodeled Encina Grande shopping center to the opening of The Orchards, bringing us new restaurants, retail and a park – to the proposed relaxed rezoning of The Shadelands Business Park and Viamonte, the senior living community bringing us new neighbors. 2016 is a great year to get involved with the Woodlands Association neighborhood board and be part of shaping the future of this area of Walnut Creek.

Tailor your participation to meet your schedule. We meet the first Saturday of the month for an hour at Denica's to plan out the next month's print newsletter, started over 50 years ago by original Woodlands residents. Interested? Email us at woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com or come by our monthly board meeting on Saturday, January 2nd, at 8 a.m. at Denica's. Whether you're new to the area, a seasoned resident, or a high school or college student looking to meet new neighbors and contribute to the community, we look forward to meeting you!

Woodlands Association Board of Directors

- Adrienne Robillard ~ *President*
- Bill Gilmyers ~ *Vice President*
- Jan Gall ~ *Treasurer*
- Erik Ehlers ~ *Secretary*
- OPEN ~ *Newsletter Editor*
- James Goudy ~ *Webmaster*

Jennifer Zotti ~ *Newsletter Distribution Manager*
Interns: Danielle Arauzo & Talia Arauzo

Upcoming Board Meetings

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, January 2nd
Saturday, February 6th

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

Woodlands residents
are encouraged to
attend board meetings.

Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Proposal

Solutions for Safe Crossing at Street Level Discussed

By Adrienne Robillard

In two separate December meetings, the Woodlands Association met with city officials to discuss the pedestrian and bicycle bridge proposed over Ygnacio Valley Road at Oak Grove Road to provide safe crossing. In the first meeting Walnut Acres' PFC President, Cherise Khaund, joined Woodlands Association President, Adrienne Robillard, to discuss the bridge with Bob Simmons, then Mayor of Walnut Creek, and Ethan Bindernagel, Interim Economic Development Manager. In the second meeting the Woodlands Association and Woodlands neighbor Jill Walson met with Cindy Silva, City Council Member.

As anticipated both Mr. Simmons and Ms. Silva brought up the numerous issues with a pedestrian and bicycle bridge across Ygnacio Valley Road and Oak Grove Road. The Iron Horse Trail bridge over Treat Boulevard, completed in 2010, is similar to what would be required at Oak Grove. That bridge is part of a two-County trail that has 1 million users per year. With that bridge, there was no need to purchase private property (right of way) because the access ramps could be integrated into the trail right of way. Its location and potential high-level of use made it a good candidate for funding, which came from local transportation funds and housing funds.

Considerations for an overcrossing of Ygnacio Valley Road (factors that affect feasibility, cost, and likelihood of being successful at securing grant funds) include but are not limited to:

- A bridge must meet ADA requirements and include a ramp; with correct grade a ramp requires 20 feet of run for every 1 foot of rise. Width of ramp would be a minimum of 10 feet.
- The ramp would be in addition to, not instead of, sidewalk, requiring about 25 feet of ROW for sidewalk, ramp, curb, etc.
- Span would either be on the east side of Oak Grove or the ramp structure would need to be even longer to clear the driveways into Encina Grande.

While these considerations are understood, the immediate interest of the Woodlands Association is the establishment of as safe a crossing as currently possible across Ygnacio Valley Road at both Oak Grove Road and Via Monte on the street level. The City has communicated that scheduled improvements to both intersections will be in place by the time The Orchards open in the fall of 2016:

“Pedestrian and bicycle Improvements at Oak Grove Road and Ygnacio Valley Road:

Within the scope of work and as a condition of occupancy for the Orchards, the developer will basically rebuild Oak Grove Road and the intersection at Ygnacio Valley Road. The improvements include a separated sidewalk on the west side of Oak Grove Road, a dedicated southbound bike lane with bicycle detection, improved and “calmed down” southbound right turn pocket. The crosswalks will be visible and well signed but not yellow. The state manual includes strict standards on what is yellow vs. white and this intersection does not qualify for yellow. The signalized intersection will be totally rebuilt and a new southbound left turn will be installed. This combined with Oak Grove Road improvements and the addition of a median island (represent an investment of) over \$1.5 million dollars.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Onsite and Offsite: The project includes a trail-like sidewalk around the perimeter of the project and along Shadelands Drive, Via Monte, Ygnacio Road and Oak Grove Road. The project is also adding two mid-block crosswalks along Shadelands Drive and along Via Monte. The crosswalks will improve the pedestrian connectivity and help calm the vehicular speeds.

Pedestrian Improvements on Via Monte and Ygnacio Valley Road: The project will clean up the northeast corner of the intersection by providing a better pedestrian connection. Not much could be done for the design of the intersection since all the essential features (Crosswalks, push buttons, pedestrian signal heads, etc.) are available now. After the opening of the shopping center staff will make observations and may make operational adjustments to make it more convenient for pedestrians.

The above improvements are under construction with expected completion in the Fall of 2016.”

City Traffic Engineer Rafat Raie will be collecting traffic data with his team after The Orchards opens and Encina Grande is fully functional, determining any next steps after review of data.

School Zone and Crosswalk Improvements Planned

The Woodlands Will See Enhancements In 2016

By Adrienne Robillard

The City of Walnut Creek has been quick to respond to the Woodlands Association and concerned residents about school safety and speeding in the neighborhood. Traffic Engineer Simin Timuri met with the Woodlands Association the week of Thanksgiving to walk the neighborhood and discuss solutions. From the Walnut Creek Police Department, Officer Mike Adams has provided active presence to document speeding. We don't have exact timing but have heard from the city that the following will be taking place in 2016:

(Cont. on Pg. 6)

SCHOOL NEWS

Valle Verde Elementary School

VOLUNTEER UPDATE: We have filled most of the open positions but are still looking for a few more. For more information, email vvptaprez@gmail.com.

1. PEP (Parent Education Program) volunteers: Still looking for parents interested in getting into classrooms to help teach our children valuable life lessons. Teach them to make good decisions when it comes to peer pressure, prevent bullying and so much more. Want to learn more? Email ffalsonso@sbcglobal.net.
2. Room Parent Coordinator: Still looking for a room parent coordinator. Not much to do this year, but this position will need to gather the new room parent list in early Fall next school year.
3. Library Coordinator: Still looking for someone to help organize volunteers from each classroom to help check books in & out during library times. Not much to do now, but will need help in the Fall.

BOX TOPS: Keep on collecting. 500 Box Tops will earn a popcorn party for the class. Each Box Top we collect earns \$0.10 for the school. This is a fun fundraiser that really brings out the competitive side in our kids (and teachers), while raising over \$2,000 annually.

Foothill Middle School

No School:

January 18 - MLK, Jr. Day

January 22 - Teacher In-Service Day

Site Council Meeting (2:30pm Library) - January 19

End of First Quarter - January 21

Minimum Day:

January 25 - 12:30 Dismissal

Northgate High School

Summer Science Internship Program

The Arthritis Foundation will be accepting applications for their 2016 Summer Science Internship Program until Feb. 20th. Twelve lucky students will be placed in labs at UCSF and Stanford to get hands on experience in the fields of rheumatology and immunology. Come to the College and Career Center office for more information.

ACT/SAT Practice Test Juniors

Do you know which college admission test is best for you? Find out by taking the Practice ACT/SAT test on Sat. Jan 9th from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Northgate. The cost is \$10. Sign up in the College & Career Center. Deadline to register is Wed. Jan. 6th .

Grad Night Registration- Now Online Check out our Grad Night Webpage for all of the necessary information. Be sure to register by February 13 in order to get the lowest price. Please note: Our next Grad Night meeting is Wednesday, January 13 at 7:00 pm in the Northgate Library. All parents are invited to attend.

2016 Crab Feed

Saturday, January 23, 2016 6-11pm, Centre Concord

Buy your tickets now for the 2016 Crab Feed! As usual, this will be an event to remember. Call your friends, order your tickets, and get ready for a delicious crab dinner, fine wine, fabulous auction items, dancing and great adult company. Tickets are \$65 each and \$600 for a table of 10. Buy your tickets early as this event sells out each year. Ticket prices will increase to \$70 as of January 4, 2016.

We also need your help with Basket and/or Live Auction items. If you have Gift Cards you will not use...If you know someone who is a chef, owns a restaurant or LOVES to cook...If you have a jeweler in the family....If you have or know someone who has a timeshare or vacation home...If you have fine wine...if you enjoy throwing parties in your lovely home...ANY of these ideas or any other thoughts...Please contact: Holly Hewes

Northgate Education Fund

Please support continued excellence at Northgate. High quality schools are a primary reason most of our families choose to live in the Northgate area, and we ask that you support the Education Fund in order to maintain and enhance the excellence at Northgate High School. The Northgate Education Fund is the PFC's primary source of funds to bridge the gap between public funding and the true cost of the full educational experience we want for our students. The Education Fund is the PFC's primary fundraiser for the school year. Every student benefits from your Education Fund donation and 100% goes back into the school.

The encouraged donation for 2015-16 is \$350 or more per student. With a donation of \$350 or more you will be part of Northgate's Education Fund Donor Circle:

- Bronco Level \$350 to \$624
- Crimson Level \$625 to \$1,249
- Gold Level \$250 to \$2,499
- Honor Society \$2,500 or more
- Donor Circle donors will receive special acknowledgement in PFC Publications and a window decal.

Your donation funds Technology purchases, the College and Career center, licensed on-site support counselors, on-site computer technician, extra class periods, teacher training and development, and more.

In the Year 2016

By Erik Ehlers

As is the custom around these parts, now that we're going to be using a new four digit code to indicate the changing of the calendar, we'd like to interrupt your regularly scheduled resolutions to commit to exercise that will wane in seventeen days to identify areas of your life that you can realistically change.

We all are generally about thirty-seven minutes behind as we start each and every morning, so as we push kids out of the back doors of our minivans and careen down Peachwillow to try to make the light, we'd like to resolve to avoid adding neighborhood schoolchildren to the endangered species list. As busy as life has become, while you're sipping your triple double half caf skim vanilla monkeychito, perhaps we could ease off the NAS-CAR practice session and drive the speed limit. I just checked: it's 25 mph. Really. We can aim not to achieve escape velocity until we are out of our own subdivision.

There's another idea that merits consideration for your resolution repository. Instead of checking Snapfacewitter every seventeen seconds, you could actually see what it's like to be involved with the life unfolding right in front of you. Unless you're secretly a CIA asset, whatever pops up on your screen probably isn't that important. If you are, I hope they have a more clandestine and expedient way to reach you. We're all so glued to our phones that the only way you'll know if little Suzy scored a goal at the soccer game that's going on right in front of you is if someone happens to be casting it on the Periscope feed you're viewing. Try putting down the iPhone 17S addiction, unless you're watching my YouTube channel and clicking on the ads. I realized things have changed when I attended the tree lighting at Broadway Plaza this year and a couple of kids said their wish from Santa was 150 million subscribers to their YouTube channel. I figured they should have been more realistic eight year olds and asked St. Nick for world peace and a Tesla that could get you from home to Disneyland without a charging break long enough for one to read the collected works of John Patterson, patron saint of airport bookstores everywhere.

So now that you have stopped rushing and are attentive to the world around you, it is time to think about exercise. That resolution you're contemplating about running a hundred miles in January seems a bit much. Instead, perhaps consider a move towards a more paleo diet, because after the age of seven the appeal of carbs really wanes, particularly as our waistlines wax, getting enough sleep (five hours is not enough), and these days if the Fallons and Kimmels of the world do anything clever, you can watch it on YouTube in the bright morning light, limiting your zombie-like devotion to late night television. Put these all together and 2016 may be the year when your resolutions last longer than your current roll of paper towels.

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. 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. The entire Walnut Creek police daily bulletin can be viewed at:

www.walnut-creek.org/departmentservices/public-safety/police/online-crime-reporting/walnut-creek-online-reporting

Police Calls from 11/01/15 - 12/05/15

11/04/15 05:48:432100 BI Oak Grove Rd.

2013 white ford focus via window smash. Loss: backpack, laptop, power tools. Dispo: occurred 11/3 18:00-05:45. Loss: HP laptop. Point of entry: window smash. Burglary.

11/06/15 19:35:282200 BI Oak Grove Rd.

Hit and run. Subject back into a parked vehicle, silver SUV. Driver white female early 40's med length. Now pulled over. Dispo: arrested for DUI after minor collision accident in parking lot. Driving Under the Influence.

11/09/15 18:40:503600 BI Sugarberry Ln.

Requested area check for 2 suspicious subjects going door to door. Unknown if solicitors. Asian male adult 30's beanie, dark jacket, dark pants. Black male adult 30's, orange vest, dark colored shirt, jeans. Reporting party could not articulate what was suspicious. Reporting party upset because her vehicles were burglarized last week. Dispo: unable to locate/gone on arrival. Susp. Circumstance.

11/13/15 11:13:27Ygnacio Valley Rd. / Oak Grove Rd.

Approximately 1/2 mi eof, unknown if male or female , possibly transient , brown jacket , yelling/screaming on with side of roadway, reporting party asking for officer to well check. Dispo: courtesy transport to Walnut Creek Bart. Welfare Check.

11/13/15 20:16:392200 BI Oak Grove Rd.

Silver BMW 5 series and a silver 4d lexus speeding in the plot and using other vehicles as cones. Dispo: unable to locate, gone on arrival. Reckless Driving.

11/20/15 16:41:212200 BI Oak Grove Rd.

Black male adult, 5'10, white shirt, lighter blue jacket & pants, wearing a hat, glasses, approaching customers in the parking lot, mumbling. Dispo: unable to locate. Susp. Circumstance.

11/27/15 11:44:11Peachwillow Ln. / Peppertree Rd.

Black male adult with dreadlocks wearing a navy hoodie and gray pants standing in the middle of Peachwillow. Reporting party had to drive around him. Subject is acting strange and the reporting party believes the subj may be a crazy person on the loose. Dispo: advised to move on. Susp. Circumstance.

School Zone and Crosswalks (cont from pg. 1)

1. The two crosswalks on Citrus Ave. at Dogwood Dr. will be enhanced with high visibility yellow thermoplastic lines across the crosswalk. Advance warning school crossing signs will be installed on Citrus Avenue to warn motorists of school crossing.
2. The existing crosswalk on Dogwood Dr. at Nutmeg Ln. will be improved to include high visibility lines across the crosswalk and advance warning school crossing signs installed on Dogwood Dr.
3. A speed display electronic sign, similar to the one on Valley Vista Road, will be installed in advance of the existing school crosswalk on Peachwillow Ln. approach. Motorists will be warned to slow down after they turn onto Peachwillow Ln. from Oak Grove Rd.
4. The existing crosswalk on Peachwillow Ln. at Wintergreen Ln. will be enhanced to high visibility crosswalk similar to the ones proposed for Citrus at Dogwood. Existing advance warning signs will be reviewed and updated as needed.

Making Candleberry and Peachwillow a 4-way stop is not being considered at this time, as stop signs have been shown to actually lead drivers to accelerate after stopping and are not an effective traffic calming measure. The city will evaluate the effectiveness of the planned improvements once they are in place and then decide what further improvements should be considered.

The city is also working with WCPD on the speeding issue on Perada Drive to see what can be done to reduce the speed through enforcement. The same approach is being taken to evaluate speeding on Citrus Avenue.

**The Woodlands Internship
Accepting Applications Now!**

Gain Project Management & Community Service Experience

The Woodlands Association is now accepting applications from high school and college students for our 2016-2017 community service internship. The intern/s must be able to work independently and on deadline. Gain experience using blog software (WordPress), with social media (Twitter, Facebook, NextDoor) and with print publishing.

This internship will provide an opportunity to work firsthand on this monthly print publication - with a 50-year history - and collaborate with the Woodlands Board to promote neighborhood & community events through social media, including the woodlandsassn.org website, Facebook page, and email list. There may also be opportunities to get involved/meet with local government, learn the basics of marketing and advertising. Interns must be able to contribute 5 hours/month with a one-year commitment, from July 2016 – June 2017.

If you are interested, please email: woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com to introduce yourself. Thank you!

Advertise With Us!

To Advertise in the Woodlands Newsletter, Contact woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com or visit www.woodlandsassn.org/advertise

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, 2016

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.

ADVERTISING

Advertiser Contents

ALOHA TUTORING.....	10
AQUARIUS POOL & SPA SERVICE.....	10
BELFAST PLUMBING.....	15
BLADES OF GLORY.....	18
BRUCE LESSER - REALTOR.....	17
DAYNA WILSON - REALTOR.....	9
GOLDEN PALM LANDSCAPE.....	11
HAPPY NEST CHILDCARE.....	15
HOUSE DOCTOR - VICTOR LOPEZ.....	17
KEVIN GREEN - LAWN SERVICE.....	18
KYLE M. JOHNSTON - ESTATE ATTORNEY... ..	11
MACY MOVERS.....	13
MARC GRAVES - REALTOR.....	14,20
MASTER ELECTRIC.....	7
MELANIE AND RAY KOZAK - REALTORS ..	11
MINUTEMAN PRESS.....	20
PLAYPAL PET CARE.....	7
RE POWER.....	7
RENEE WAGNER - REALTOR.....	10,20
STEVE HANSEN - REALTOR.....	12
VALLE VERDE CHILDREN'S CENTER.....	10
WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER AD RATES... ..	10
WRITING COACH.....	10
YOUR LOCAL HOME REPAIRS.....	16

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(URL is case sensitive)



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Woodlands Newsletter Advertising Rates



Effective February 1, 2016

The Woodlands Association Board has found it necessary to slightly increase advertising rates for the Woodlands Newsletter to cover increased expenses.

This will be the first increase in 5 years. The Woodlands has experienced an upswing in home sales during the past few years drawing more advertisers from outside our neighborhood increasing both publishing and distributing costs. PayPal has also been added as another payment option with additional costs. The following monthly rates will take effect February 1, 2016*:

- Full Page – 10 x 7.5 - \$99
- ½ Page – 5 x 7.5 - \$55
- ¼ Page – 5 x 3.5 - \$33
- ¼ Page on back cover - \$25
- 1/8 Page – 2.5 x 3.5 - \$22
- Classified Ads Maximum 30 words:
- Residents \$5
- Non Residents \$15

*If you have prepaid or are planning to prepay before February 1, 2016, the current rates will apply.

Writing Coach - Sessions Available

Learn how to successfully write high school and college-level essays, make revisions, craft and compose clear and concise arguments. I'm an experienced instructor with over 10 years of teaching writing and working 1:1 with students in the ASA program at UC Berkeley, Berkeley City College and the College of Alameda. I offer a straightforward approach to essay writing that eliminates frustration and gives young writers the skills and confidence needed to write great essays on any topic. Woodlands resident, MFA in Creative Writing.

Contact: penandpaper1992@gmail.com

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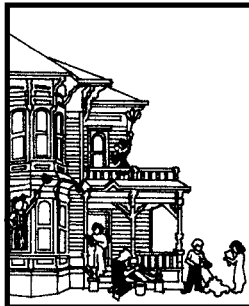
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