

The Woodlands

Keeping You Informed For 50 Years

August 2016

The Woodlands' 4th of July Parade and Celebration

by Erik Ehlers

The Woodlands 4th of July celebration was an explosion of red, white and blue hued fun for young and old alike. Highlights from the annual parade through the neighborhood included a salute to the Warriors dubbed the "Woodlands Warriors" and a troupe of Valle Verde Vikings waving to onlookers, with classic cars kicking-off the parade. Of course, it wouldn't be a Woodlands parade without a gaggle of children on bikes, the youngest of whom could be seen in the latter stages of the route walking hand in hand or in the arms of their parents, with two wheelers slung over their elders' shoulders.

The heat was not in full summer force, fortunately, but it was warm enough that a dip in the Cabana Club pools offered a refreshing respite from the day. Crowds enjoyed sack races, boat races and water balloon tosses while munching on hamburgers and hot dogs slathered in the finest condiments. If there was a belly flop contest, this writer missed it, but perhaps a new tradition will be born for future anniversaries of liberty's anniversary. By mid-afternoon there was another parade, this time led by parents whose tired offspring were being taken home for naps, though the smart money would be bet on many parents also enjoying a snooze filled siesta.



The festivities offered another example of the Woodlands' unique neighborhood character. Every yard in the subdivision was festooned with a small flag, courtesy of leading local realtor Marc Graves. The Woodlands' patriotic wingding is unique, drawing visitors from miles around to enjoy the uncommon spectacle of a tiny neighborhood's collective wonderful self-delusion that of course there's a giant hullabaloo to celebrate the nation's birth, and it is of course quite necessary to our collective sense of happiness and well-being.

Now we can all plan for next year's floats and consider the strange concept that a country's birthday, much like our own, can disappointingly fall on a Tuesday. Perhaps the upside is that many will enjoy a four or five day weekend.



Thanks to Adrienne Robillard

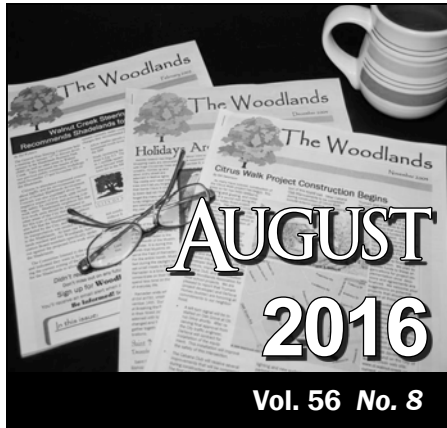
By the Woodlands Association Board

On July 2 the Woodlands Association board met to discuss a range of issues of interest to our neighborhood. It was a pretty typical meeting, except for one thing: it marked the last meeting as President for Adrienne Robillard, whose term ends at the end of the July. After over 5 years serving in a variety of roles, Adrienne is moving on to lead a range of community activities, including Co-chair of the Fall Carnival at Valle Verde and as manager for Cherise Khaund's MDUSD school board campaign.

During her time on the Board Adrienne has been an active and tireless supporter of our community. If you've read the newsletter in the past five years, it was edited, proofed and, in many cases written by Adrienne. Adrienne joined the board in 2011 as the Newsletter Coordinator, before becoming Vice President in 2012. When the incumbent President moved out of Walnut Creek and stepped down in 2013, Adrienne stepped in to take on that job which she has held ever since.

In addition to the newsletter, Adrienne has led numerous neighborhood improvement initiatives, including the improvements to Valle Verde Park in 2014, with enhanced landscaping and a barbecue grill. Adrienne is always on point to make sure our neighborhood has a local project as part of Walnut Creek's community service day, and is a major supporter of Valle Verde Elementary school, volunteering there as well.

The Woodlands Association Board would like to extend our great appreciation for Adrienne's hard work and leadership, and wish her the best of luck in the future.



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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

School's Back in Session!

**Drive 25 in the Woodlands
and Look for
Children Playing.**



Woodlands Association Board of Directors

- Adrienne Robillard ~ *President*
- Bill Gilmyers ~ *Vice President*
- Jan Gall ~ *Treasurer*
- Erik Ehlers ~ *Secretary*
- Lori Bhatia ~ *Newsletter Editor*
- Todd McNeill ~ *Webmaster*

Jennifer Zotti ~ *Newsletter Distribution Manager*
Members at Large ~ *Jared Asch*
Interns: Ryan Park & Alissa Johnson

Upcoming Board Meetings

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, August 6th
Saturday, September 3rd

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

Woodlands residents
are encouraged to
attend board meetings.

Northgate Neighbor Running for MDUSD School Board

A Mt. Diablo School District parent with a third and sixth grader, Cherise Khaund is launching her campaign to run for MDUSD School Board. With a focus on providing educational opportunities for all students across our diverse district, Khaund brings 20 years of education advocacy to the race, including 8 years with Buena Vista Auxiliary of Assistance League of Diablo Valley (BVA). She held many roles at BVA, including Director, helping thousands of struggling elementary school students learn to read in 10 schools across our district. This spring she was instrumental in coordinating Safe Routes to Schools for Valle Verde Elementary, Walnut Acres Elementary and Foothill Middle Schools. She is a parent classroom volunteer, Science Fair coordinator and Girl Scout Leader.



Khaund brings enthusiasm and a strong vision of proactive communication, increased fiscal transparency, and championing innovation to the table. Her top priorities in running for MDUSD School Board are to:

1. Inform and engage teachers, principals and communities before decisions are made affecting them.
2. Make district spending clear and understandable to the public and ensure every dollar is strategically spent to reach our collective goals.
3. Scale innovations that promote 21st century skills, including collaboration, critical thinking, and cultural understanding, so all students gain tools to be effective global citizens.

For more information, please visit: www.cherisekhaund.com/

Of the five MDUSD School Board Members, two are up for re-election this year: Brian Lawrence and

Coming up at Valle Verde Elementary School

2016-2017 REGISTRATION INFORMATION & IMPORTANT DATES

Please mark your calendars for these very important dates, times, and special events.

8/5: Kindergarten Screening & Lemonade Stand

On Friday, August 5th, from 8am to 11am and 2pm to 4pm, we will have a drop in Kindergarten Screening day. If your child is an incoming Kindergartener (and was not in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) last year), please bring your child for the screening. The screening takes about ten minutes and provides information to better place your student. Our PTA will also be hosting a Lemonade Stand to welcome any new families to Valle Verde, answer any questions you may have and give casual tours around the school, including the library, computer lab and our Multi Use Room.

8/15: Drive-Through Registration

On Monday, August 15th, ALL families may pick up a registration packet. Simply drive through the bus circle anytime between 7-10am or 5:30-6:30pm (you don't even have to get out of your car). In your packet, you will find an emergency card for each of your children and some very important school and PTA information, including a "save the date" magnet with key dates, phone numbers and addresses. Please review the emergency contact card carefully to make sure the information is correct. Make corrections in red and sign the back of the sheet.

(Continued on Pg. 5)

SCHOOL NEWS

Valle Verde Elementary School

August 5 - Kindergarten Screening and Lemonade Stand

August 15 - Drive Through Packet Pick Up

August 17 - Walk-Through Registration

August 19 - Incoming TK/Kindergarteners meet the teacher at 9am in classrooms

August 22 - First Day of School



Foothill Middle School

August 15 - Walk-Through
1pm - 7pm

August 16 - Camp Griffin for incoming 6th graders ~ MU
9am - 11:30am

- New 7th and 8th graders to Foothill ~ MU
11:30am - 12:30pm

August 22 - First Day of School

August 31- Back to School Night
7pm



NORTHGATE

Northgate High School

August 11 - Essay Writing Workshop for Seniors ~ Lecture Hall
9am - 12pm

August 15 - Link Crew - Leader Training Session #1
8am - 1pm

- [Tentative] New Student (grades 10-12) Orientation
1pm - 3pm

August 16 - Link Crew - Leader Training Session #2

- [Tentative] Walk-Through Orientation/Registration for Juniors/Seniors
1pm - 5pm

August 17 - Northgate High School Freshman Orientation
8am - 1pm

- [Tentative] Walk-Through Orientation/Registration for Freshman
1pm - 5pm

August 18 - Freshman Parent Information Night
7pm - 8pm

August 22 - First Day of School

August 25 - Senior Parent Night - Little Theatre
7pm - 8pm

August 26 - Home Football Game vs Rodriguez High School

(Continued from Pg. 3)

8/17: Walk-Through Registration

On Wednesday, August 17th, ALL families may come to Valle Verde anytime from 10am to 12pm or 5pm to 6:30pm with your registration packet. Please make sure you have the signed emergency card(s). Come through the office. Trade your emergency card for your student(s) class assignment. From there, exit down the office hallway into the Staff lounge and pick up additional school information. As you exit into the quad, PTA will have several booths set up. You will be able to purchase a yearbook, talk to our cafeteria manager, purchase spirit wear, explore volunteer opportunities, and learn about our onsite daycare and more.

8/19: Kinders Meet your Teacher

On August 19th, incoming TK/Kindergarteners can come and meet their teacher at 9am in the C-pod classrooms. What an exciting time! Our teachers are looking forward to meeting all of their wonderful students!

8/22: First Day of School & Coffee Social

Monday, August 22nd is the first day of school. After you settle your child into class, stop by the PTA sponsored Coffee Social in the MUR. Have a treat, catch up with old friends and meet new families. We will be on the regular Monday schedule for the first day of school.

8/25: Ice-Cream Social

On Thursday, August 25th from 5:30pm to 7:00pm, the PTA is sponsoring a (free) ice-cream social behind the MUR. Bring the entire family and enjoy a treat. The kids will have fun re-connecting with friends, and so will parents!

At Valle Verde, it takes Every Viking to Sail Our Ship!

We look forward to a wonderful year!
-Valle Verde Office Team and PTA

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/departments-services/public-safety/police/online-crime-reporting/walnut-creek-online-reporting

Police Calls from 06/12/2015 - 07/02/2016

06/12/16 02:36:20 Peachwillow Ln. / Oak Grove Rd.
Reporting party heard a crash and hears a lot of shouting. Believes it's kids and they may be dui by how they are talking. Dispo: Stephen 1/22/96 and Grant 2/19/96 (friends) got in a collision. Quintero and others left prior to pd 97 hit and run.

06/11/16 12:59:02 Citrus Cir. / Citrus Ave.
11-81 black Nissan Sentra vs. Nissan PK. Dispo: As reported. Accident minor injury.

06/16/16 14:31:04 500 Rock Oak Rd.
20' RV been there for a week. Dispo: per I3 vehicle is not a motorized RV and therefore is not citable; however, RV has been tagged. Parking complaint.

06/17/16 11:17:35 0 Bayberry Dr.
Two dirt bikes in open space. Ongoing issue. Dispo: Info given to open space rangers. Suspicious circumstance.

06/18/16 11:16:20 Rock Oak Rd. / Perada Dr.
Three subjects in open space smoking from bong. Near area that is burnt from small fire this morning. Dispo: Gone on arrival. Service to citizen.

06/20/16 22:29:35 3000 Citrus Cir.
Four subjects associated with three vehicles making a lot of noise. Reporting party lives behind the business. Dispo: Unable to locate / gone on arrive. Noise complaint

06/22/16 15:51:48 Peachwillow Ln. / Banyan Cir.
Large tree branch in the roadway covering more than half of the street. No one injured. Dispo: City crew called out miscellaneous traffic.

06/23/16 23:55:59 3400 Citrus Ave
Reporting party woke up and found her bedroom door open and she usually closes it. Reporting Party lives with her caretaker who she advised didn't open the door. Reporting party didn't see or hear anything unusual in her room, but would like an officer to check it out. Dispo: Searched the backyard for any signs of suspicious activity with negative results. Advice given security check.

07/02/16 14:06:54 300 Peppertree Rd.
Damage to molding around ped door to garage. Possible burglary attempt. Occurred between 07/01/16 10:00 PM - 07/02/16 3:00 PM. Dispo: Inside of garage ped door damaged (wood splintered). Estimated damaged \$200. Suspicious Circumstance.

Grilled Corn Salad with Green Beans, Tomatoes & Hazelnuts

By Colleen O'Donnell

This salad should be the spokesperson for late summer- fresh corn, green beans and ripe tomatoes marry together with a light dressing. Great with grilled meats and other dishes- this is sure to become a favorite. I love grilled corn and green beans (use a mesh basket when grilling the beans)—and you don't have to turn on the stove- but if you prefer to steam that works perfectly as well. A little goat cheese or feta would be a great addition!

Salad

- 1/2 cup hazelnuts, toasted & chopped
- 4 ears of corn, shucked
- 1 pound green beans, trimmed
- 1 pound cherry or other small tomatoes, halved
- 3 scallions, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup basil, thinly sliced

Dressing

- 1/4 cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 2 ½-3 tablespoons white wine or champagne vinegar
- Salt and freshly ground pepper



1. Preheat the oven to 350°. Place hazelnuts on baking sheet and roast for about 8-10 minutes until fragrant and golden brown. While still warm but ok to handle—place in kitchen towel and rub together to remove most of the skin (a little remaining is fine)
2. If grilling corn & green beans- prepare grill to medium heat. Brush corn with extra virgin olive oil and sprinkle with salt. Toss trimmed green beans in a large bowl- drizzle with extra virgin olive oil and salt and toss to combine. Grill corn for about 10 minutes, turning them every few minutes until there are some browned areas. The beans will take about 5-8 minutes in the mesh basket—toss once or twice until tender and charred in some places.
If steaming the corn & beans- bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add the ears of corn, turn down heat to medium high and cook until tender, about 3-4 minutes. Remove corn from water. Add green beans to the pot and cook until just tender—about 3 minutes- rinse under cold water to stop the cooking.
3. For both methods- When cool enough to handle, hold the cob perpendicular to your work surface and cut kernels from the corn cob with a very sharp knife (you can do this in a large bowl to catch the kernels. Cut the beans into 1-inch lengths.
4. In a large bowl, whisk the olive oil with the vinegar and season with salt and pepper. Add the tomatoes, scallions, corn, beans and basil, toss to combine. Sprinkle with the hazelnuts and enjoy!

Do you have an over-abundance from your fruit trees? Jams, pies, etc.! Let me know and we can create something and share it in the newsletter! Questions or comments? cookinginthewoodlands@gmail.com

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Questions About Wills, Trusts, and Probate?

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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 - \$99/month
- 1/2 Page – 5 x 7.5 - \$55/month
- 1/4 Page – 5 x 3.5 - \$33/month
- 1/4 Page on back cover - \$55/month
- 1/8 Page – 2.5 x 3.5 - \$22/month
- Classified Ads maximum 30 words:
- \$5 Woodlands Residents, \$15 Non-Residents

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.

NEW Advertising Deadline

Please submit all ads and payments for the next issue by

July 10, 2016



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3 Bedrooms + Office/Bonus Rm. | 2 baths | 1927 SF | .27 Acre

Another exceptional home in The Woodlands. This single-story home is situated on a large, beautifully landscaped lot with well-water for irrigation and a quiet, cul-de-sac location with no rear neighbors. Updated throughout including, a fabulous new kitchen with stainless steel appliances, gas range, quartz counters, abundant cabinets and tile floors, wonderful master suite with large walk-in closet and sharp, expanded master bathroom, Designer touches throughout including, gleaming hardwood floors, hardware, fixtures, lighting, base-moldings, windows and doors. Freshly painted exterior and interior, new roof, and so much more.

Thinking about a move? Make sure to include Steve Hansen in your interviewing process. All my Woodlands sellers are sure glad they did!

Bringing The Woodlands values up one seller at a time. I will expose your home in its most flattering light, so it will not be overlooked or undervalued.

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Woodlands Annual Garage Sale Is Coming! October 2nd

Mark your calendars for the FIRST SUNDAY in October! It is time to make that list of all the items you're no longer using but are too good for the trash. Please view David Galindo and Jan William's advertisement in this newsletter for details and call: 925-945-4575 to register.



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Valle Verde Children's Center

SUMMER PROGRAM

JUNE 13 - AUG. 17 ★ MON - FRI (7 AM - 6 PM)
- WE ARE CLOSED JULY 4 -

10 Weeks of Summer Fun!

- Field Trips
- Swimming
- Special Events
- Arts & Crafts
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10 Reasons You Need a

REAL ESTATE PRO TO SELL YOUR HOME



If you're thinking about selling your home, don't do it alone. Although some sellers may initially try to sell their home themselves, they soon realize they need an experienced professional on their side to help them through the process.

1. UNDERSTAND THE LOCAL MARKET

The internet gives you access to more information now than ever before. An experienced real estate professional, like me, is able to help you understand this information in the context of the local market and interpret what it means to your home sale.

2. PRICE YOUR HOME COMPETITIVELY

When you list your home, you want it to sell quickly and for top dollar. Having professional assistance will help you do both, especially in competitive markets.

3. OPTIMIZE ONLINE MARKETING STRATEGIES

Buyers are savvier than ever. To find the right buyer, we have to go where they are. We'll do more than put a sign in your yard to attract buyers; we'll utilize the latest online marketing tools to show your home at its best and entice buyers to learn more.

4. TARGET THE RIGHT BUYERS

A marketing strategy means nothing if you're not targeting the right buyers. The first few weeks a house is on the market are vital. The longer a home remains on the market, the more likely a seller will have to reduce their listing price and/or offer incentives, such as a home warranty policy or assistance with closing costs, to attract buyers.* A real estate pro has the experience and connections to find the right buyers for your home.

5. GET MORE MONEY FOR YOUR HOME

All sellers want their homes purchased at the listed price, if not more. Studies show that enlisting the aid of an agent to sell your home will net you more money than trying to sell it yourself. According to the National Association of REALTORS® 2015 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers, the average for sale by owner (FSBO) sold for \$210,000 compared to an agent-assisted home sale, which sold for \$249,000.

6. NEGOTIATE IN YOUR BEST INTEREST

Buyers are looking for a deal on a home, and they'll hire an experienced agent to negotiate the sale for them. Having a real estate pro on your side will even the playing field and help you negotiate the terms of the sale with your best interest in mind.

7. SPOT POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

Every real estate transaction is different. While we hope the transaction goes smoothly, setbacks and other hiccups often occur, and at the most inconvenient time. Sellers who have listed their homes themselves may not have the experience and know-how to deal with these issues as they arise; however, a real estate pro can tap into their experiences to handle potential problems, such as issues with a home inspection or problems with a title, and mitigate their impact.

8. OFFER TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME'S VALUE AND MAKE IT MORE ATTRACTIVE TO BUYERS

Sellers typically update their homes before they list. While some simply paint each room a neutral color and do a thorough cleaning, others may do a kitchen or bathroom remodel to boost their home's value and/or help it sell faster in a competitive market. What should you do to boost your home's value and give it the competitive edge in our market? Ask me!

9. TAP INTO A NETWORK OF AGENTS

I work alongside other local real estate professionals, and have a database of thousands who may have clients looking for a home just like yours. Marketing your home to other agents is another way to help us find a qualified buyer.

*Source: NAR 2015 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers

10. TAP INTO A RICH NETWORK OF SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

Real estate professionals work with a variety of service and trades-people, including contractors, landscapers, movers and more. There is an average of 26 services involved in a real estate transaction in the 30 days before and after it has closed; however, you may need to tap into these services long after the ink has dried. From a plumber to a gardener, a real estate pro can refer you to a reputable tradesperson in your local area.

If you've been thinking of selling your home, give me a call! We'll discuss your home's value, answer any questions you have and give you the scoop on our local market.



TISH KANAT

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Call today to learn why home sellers and buyers choose the Dayna Wilson Real Estate Team when moving their families!

What is my home worth?

What will I need to do to sell my home? Can I sell "as-is?"

What do I do with all this "stuff"?

Is it possible to sell my home and purchase another moving only once?

How do I coordinate all these details?

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Woodlands Annual Garage Sale

Sunday, October 2, 2016

A map of the neighborhood, identifying the locations of those who are participating in the garage sale is created to aid buyers to find your homes. Maps will be provided to the participants to hand out to buyers. To get on the map you need to register. You may still participate without registering.

Starting on Thursday, September 1st

call 945 - 4575 To Register

Please do not call prior to this date

Registration Ends Sunday,

September 25th

When you call, please leave (1) your name, (2) home phone number, (3) address, & (4) a brief description of the items for sale.

You will receive a call back to confirm the information within a few days.

Garage sale hours are advertised as 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

You can open and close your garage whenever you wish.

**Because of the details involved in setting up this event,
Please Call No Later Than 6:00 p.m., Sunday, September 25th**



***David Galindo CRS
Jan Williams GRI, CRS***

J. Rockcliff Realtors

*1700 North Main Street
Walnut Creek, Ca 94596
(925) 945-4575*

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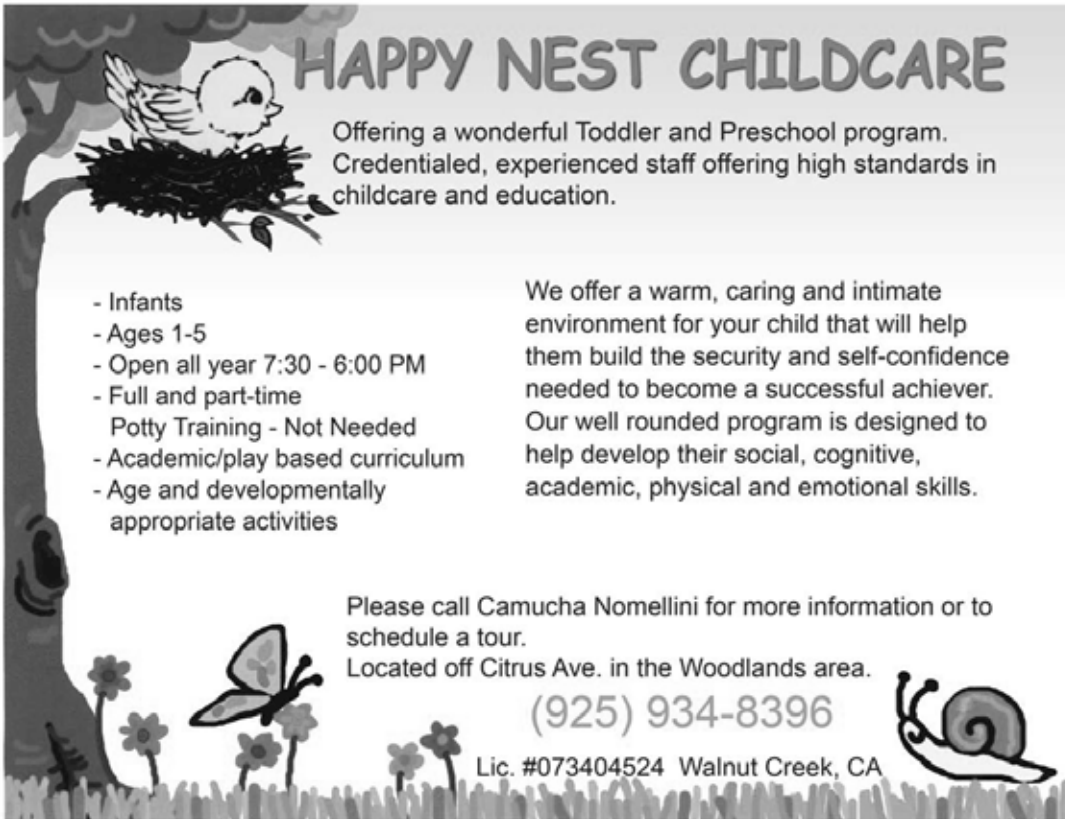
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This is not intended to solicit currently listed properties.

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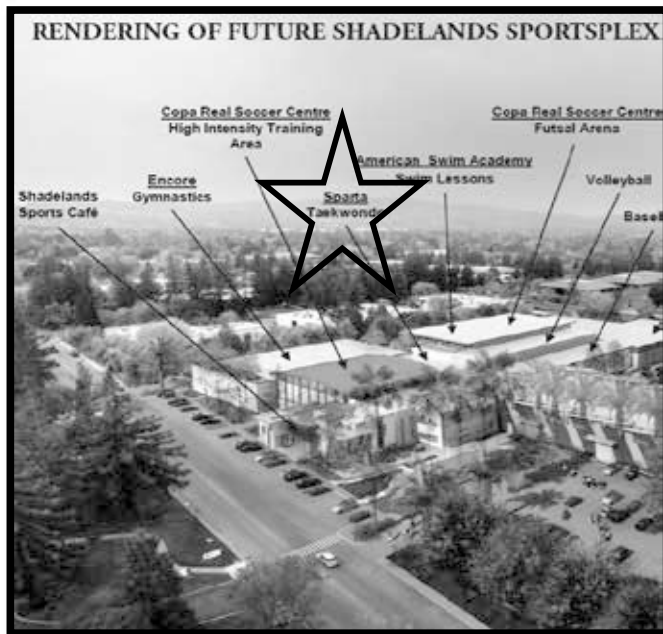
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For more information, contact Maria Uy at (925) 938-5300 or muy@spartatkd.com

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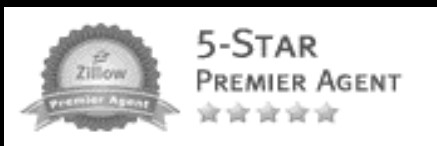
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